

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. Mariela Noles Cotito, a student in our MA in Latin American & Caribbean Studies program and our MLA with a Concentration in Africana Studies Program, and teaching assistant for SIGS was part of a National Delegation, on behalf of her country of origin: Peru.

The sessions, which are attended by representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world, had as this year's priority theme: *The Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work*. Conversely, the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls were reviewed.

With a legal background and having worked with the government of Peru in different capacities, as well as the Afrodescendants Movement in her country, and the region, Ms. Noles Cotito was able to offer a particular perspective to this year's CSW sessions on behalf of the Black women of Latin America. Indeed, she participated in sessions regarding the empowerment of Indigenous women, the adequacy of the international legal framework for the protection of women's rights, intersectionality and diversity, and the engagement of men in the eradication of violence against women.

This is an incredible honor, and it is a tremendous source of pride for SIGS, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the University of South Florida.

Attached some photos from the session:

1. Peruvian Delegation (from Left to right): The Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ms. Ana Maria Romero-Lozada Lauezzari; Deputy Minister of Women, Ms. Russela Antonieta Zapata Zapata; Ms. Mariela Noles Cotito; and Director-General of Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ms. Margarita Diaz Picasso
3. Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Antonio Guterres, delivering opening remarks
4. Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, delivering her opening remarks



