

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Mr. Diego Limeres, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

Argentina wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the Minister of International Cooperation of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

At the outset, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on your initiative to convene this open debate. Argentina's participation in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance missions is among the pillars of its foreign policy. For that reason, as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Argentine Republic wishes to underscore its firm commitment to the role of women in peace and security.

Argentina played a dynamic role in the negotiation and adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 1999 and 2000. The resolution brings together two objectives that are part of our national policy with regard to gender and defence: the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, and the inclusion of women in peacekeeping operations.

Resolution 1325 (2000), then, reaffirms the important role that women play in the prevention and solution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, underscoring the importance of women's participating on equal footing with men and of their full participation in all initiatives aimed at maintaining and fostering peace and security.

In that connection we wish to highlight the policies carried out by our Government in the defence sector. In recent years the Ministry of Defence — under the leadership of a woman, Dr. Nilda Garré — has undertaken a profound process of mainstreaming a gender perspective. That began by granting a voice to female members of our armed forces, which allowed us to diagnose their situation and led to reform that included the repeal of discriminatory resolutions in that sector. That process culminated with the National Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the defence sector.

In 2007 Argentina was selected by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to undertake a pilot programme in the region to disseminate the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In that framework, the Argentine Foreign Ministry convened an inter-ministerial group on gender and peacekeeping. In 2008 the Foreign Ministry organized, with the support of DPKO and UNIFEM, the first regional workshop for developing a gender policy in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance. That workshop was a valuable contribution that prompted a debate among the countries of our region and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in public policies in all sectors.

To continue making progress towards the objectives set out in resolution 1325 (2000), we wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm some of the commitments taken on by Argentina. First is the implementation of quantitative and qualitative tools to measure and to know in numerical terms — but also strategically — what the situation is with regard to participation of women in peacekeeping operations. On that point it is worth emphasizing that we are planning to publish in March 2011 the results of the surveys undertaken with the contingent deployed in Haiti. It gathers their experience in gender matters prior to deployment and looks at their experience with the effective implementation of a gender perspective during the mission.

Another point is continuing to develop a data base that gathers statistics on the voluntary participation of women in peacekeeping operations, including the number of women deployed and their roles in the missions, *inter alia*.

Further, we will move forward with programmes of training on issues of gender and human rights for contingents that are soon to be deployed. That will include developing curricula that consider the gender perspective in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, by integrating both women in the contingents and women in the local population.

Finally, in the Argentine National Centre for Joint Training for Peacekeeping Operations, the annual curriculum will include an international seminar on gender and peacekeeping operations, an initiative has no precedent at the international level.

I wish to stress the importance that Argentina affords to the systematization of international information on the matter so as to ensure the effective implementation of this standard, which is a valuable guide for ensuring respect for the human rights of women in conflict situations and makes visible the important contribution of the inclusion of the gender perspective in peacebuilding processes.

To conclude, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to once again commend Ms. Michelle Bachelet on her being named to the helm of the new gender entity, UN Women. We wish her the greatest success in her work, and we are convinced that the problems of women and peace and security will gain visibility and will make firm progress under her leadership.