

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

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Octavio Errázuriz, Permanent Representation of Chile to the United Nations

Chile associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security and the statement that will be made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network. The year 2010 is a year for taking stock of progress in the human rights of women and in gender equality. We are commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and its Platform for Action, as well as the tenth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. In our hemisphere, the Organization of American States is marking the Inter-American Year of Women, under that banner “Women and power: towards a world of equality”.

My Government attaches great importance to this issue and to the difficult situation created by modern conflicts, in which women and children are most affected by the degradation of their living conditions and fundamental rights. We are therefore particularly grateful to you, Sir, for having convened this debate at an opportune moment for evaluating progress and dealing with pending issues. Among those is the implementation of this important instrument, which Chile has always supported together with its complementary resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). In our view, this implementation will be effective only if we undertake to ensure that this decade is focused on action and accountability in the areas of prevention, participation and protection.

Accordingly, we welcome the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) and its annex containing indicators for a preliminary road map, which we will have to carefully improve after consultations with Member States and on the basis of information they provide. In this connection, we believe that the questionnaire-based consultations conducted by the United Nations Development Fund for Women — part of UN Women — represent an important innovation in the matter of accountability. Our country is in a position to issue a national report on this matter next year, on the understanding that our country’s commitment will strengthen support for the report.

Women’s participation in peace negotiations has been limited to less than 10 per cent. We therefore strongly advocate the inclusion of women in the negotiation processes and the compilation of reliable statistics on the subject, in line with the indicators proposed by the Secretary-General, as well as women’s organizational processes and the training of women as negotiators using, inter alia, mechanisms available in the system and cooperation initiatives for the training of women in this area. We also emphasize the need for greater gender mainstreaming in the system, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/12, entitled “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system”, which Chile facilitated. This should be accompanied by a mainstreaming of resolution 1325 (2000) nationally and internationally.

As stated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile at the ministerial event entitled “A 1325 Call to Action”, held here at Headquarters in September, Chile’s ongoing foreign policy commitment to peacekeeping operations has resulted in the introduction into its national policy of the formulation of new approaches such as that in resolution 1325 (2000), emphasizing the participation of women in peace and security efforts. Our commitment is reflected in the adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). It is the only such measure adopted in our region, and it concentrates on three major areas.

First, in the area of foreign affairs, although the Foreign Ministry clearly bears primary responsibility for the implementation of this plan, we are taking the initiative of adopting a cross-cutting approach, incorporating it into our domestic policy. For example, domestically we are adopting gender-sensitive policies in staff recruitment, and externally we have shown our commitment to international humanitarian law through support for the adoption of the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Secondly, concerning the role of our defence institutions, these institutions participated actively through working groups in the drafting of the plan. Most of the commitments made in this area are now being fulfilled. The review of the curricula of the various educational establishments, the compilation of gender-disaggregated statistics and the inclusion of more women in peacekeeping operations are examples of activities included in the plan and that reflect the contribution of the defence sector.

The action plan's third focus is civil society. One of the key aspects of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) was the inclusion of civil society in the public process of launching this initiative — not as a mere spectator or recipient of the final result, but as an active party. Furthermore, the plan resulted in the acceptance of the proposal to create an observatory of mixed membership, made up of public agencies and civil society bodies, with the task of participating in the process of accountability subsequent to the publication of the plan. We therefore believe that an element of vital importance in the implementation process will be the compilation of statistics to measure how well the mechanism is working. In our view, although there are few measurable examples, speedy action must be taken to allow quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the results of women's participation in the processes.

On the subject of regional challenges, we believe that, with over 6,000 men and women of the armed forces of Latin America and the Caribbean currently participating in peacekeeping operations around the world, the time has come to involve the majority of countries of the region in the challenge of implementing this resolution. In this scenario, we see new possibilities for South-South triangular cooperation.

In this the inaugural year of UN Women, led by former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet; five years after the 2005 World Summit; 10 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000); 15 years after Beijing; over 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and 35 years after the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City, Chile reiterates its strong commitment to women's human rights and their full and equal integration into society.