

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

*Statement by H.E. Ms. Laura Carrera., Head of the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women of Mexico to the United Nations*

I am grateful for the valuable introductory remarks made by the Secretary-General, Michelle Bachelet, Alain Le Roy, Ambassador Hamidon Ali and Thelma Awori. I also thank Mr. Eriya Kategaya, the First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda, for having convened this very important debate.

I should like to convey to Ms. Bachelet the most heartfelt congratulations from the Government of Mexico upon her appointment as head of UN Women. As she carries out her important mandate, she can rest assured that in Mexico she has an ally committed to gender equality. The women of the world and the women of Latin America in particular are very proud of her appointment.

Ten years ago, when it adopted resolution 1325 (2000), the Council acknowledged that women and girls suffered disproportionately from the effects of armed conflicts and were frequently the specific and deliberate victims of various forms of violence. The Security Council took an important step in incorporating the agenda of women and peace and security into its work and in recognizing the importance of the participation of women in all stages of armed conflict, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding.

Women are part of the solution to the structural problems of conflict and one of the driving forces behind reconstruction. However, unless we provide effective tools and mechanisms to ensure their participation, we are perpetuating inequality, maintaining the spiral of violence and delaying the very solution of these conflicts.

The international community has developed a robust legal framework for the protection of women in armed conflicts. The challenge now is to achieve its full implementation, given the lack of respect for the standards of international law by parties to conflicts. My delegation reiterates the importance of having a comprehensive strategy for compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law as an essential component in conflict situations.

The establishment of the International Criminal Court represented an important step forward in the fight against sexual violence and gender-related violence. Mexico is fully convinced that we cannot achieve lasting peace without guaranteeing the delivery of justice, promoting accountability and fighting impunity. We therefore support the decision of the Secretary-General to carry out or support impartial and independent investigations into cases of sexual violence against women in the Republic of Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to mention only a few cases.

The number of women appointed as Special Representatives or to other senior positions has increased since 2000, and gender advisors have been deployed in almost half of the political and peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, we have seen an increase in the participation of women in decisionmaking, as well as in the operational functions in peacekeeping operations.

Despite some progress, much remains to be done for us to meet our responsibility to effectively address the needs of women and to ensure that they do not suffer the effects of violence inherent to armed conflict.

Mexico believes it is crucial that the Security Council adopt a systematic gender approach in its activities and resolutions as a central element for international peace and security and not as something marginal or separate. Incorporating the gender perspective in peacekeeping requires close cooperation and coordination in the following areas: first, clear and consistent decisions; complementary efforts with other political bodies of the United Nations within their respective mandates; support from the various programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations and cooperation with regional organizations; strengthening of the activities of strategic partners such as civil society and humanitarian agencies; and, lastly, timely action by States at the national level.

That is why we welcome the indicators introduced by the Secretary-General in his report, as they can serve as a valuable instrument for planning and decision-making and can be used as a diagnostic tool and road map. The

most important thing is that we be able, in coming years, to assess with certainty that we are heading in the right direction.

The indicators could lay the foundations for a coherent and coordinated approach for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). To achieve this, we need additional efforts in order to ensure its effective implementation and, above all, to change the reality on the ground. The Council must begin by implementing the indicators in its own work and decisions.

The empowerment of women and gender equality are our common responsibility. Every State must take the necessary measures, in the light of its own particular situation. Mexico understands that the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) are also relevant for countries that are not facing a situation of armed conflict. Under a violence-prevention approach, my country has highlighted the need for a discussion on the implementation of that resolution.

Mexico is not a stranger to the phenomenon of violence and its consequences for women and girls. We have sought to adopt a comprehensive approach for the social prevention of violence, together with efforts to strengthen protection measures. While my country faces challenges, the institutions in charge of ensuring security and law enforcement — the federal police and the armed forces — are receiving gender training, and increasing numbers of women are joining this important effort.

Furthermore, as we know that women must take part in all aspects of public life, we have promoted the legislative changes necessary to ensure their equal inclusion in decision-making processes in the areas of public security and the prevention of violence.

My country is pleased with the tireless efforts carried out by civil society as the engine for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as it is a force for change on the ground. We draw the attention of the Security Council to the importance of the gender perspective and to reprehensible acts of gender related and sexual violence against women.

The recent Arria Formula meeting drew our attention to the importance of broadening the involvement of women in peace processes, as well as addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such as women with disabilities.

The scope of resolution 1325 (2000) has not been exhausted, as has often been said in this forum. On the contrary, much remains to be done to ensure the implementation of the four resolutions that have been adopted on the subject. Today we can say that we are on the right track.

Mexico believes that this joint discussion is bringing us closer to the goal of eliminating the effect of conflict on women and ensuring their involvement on an equal footing in all aspects of international peace and security. The decisions that we have adopted to protect women's rights and to ensure their participation will be our best investment in a future of peace and stability. Today we have this opportunity, as well as the responsibility that goes with it towards the women and girls of the world.

I would like to conclude by expressing Mexico's support for the presidential statement that the Council adopted at this meeting.