

Mr. Martínez Bonilla (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): El Salvador is pleased to participate in this important high-level debate on women and peace and security as a country which experienced a lengthy and bloody civil war that ended with the signing of the peace agreements that laid a basis for a process of democratization. That is why we acknowledge the important role that is played by women in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as peacebuilding, as highlighted in resolution 1325 (2000).

On the basis of that acknowledgement, as a country we believe that it is a priority to work in order to achieve greater participation by women in the various peacekeeping operations. El Salvador is making efforts to be able to enhance the participation of women in the six peacekeeping missions in which we are participating, in accordance with what is stipulated in resolution 1325 (2000) and other subsequent Security Council resolutions.

Given the importance that my country places in compliance with this resolution, I am pleased to inform Council members that El Salvador has made efforts at the Government level, with the support of friendly countries and international organizations, to set up our national committee for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. The members of the committee were sworn in on 12 November 2014, and the committee incorporates in its structure 17 Government organizations, the public ministry, academia and civil society. Its main objective is to propose policies and standards that ensure compliance with the resolutions and to ensure that we enhance the representation of women at all levels of the decision-making processes of national institutions and mechanisms, as well as national, regional and international institutions for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

In 2014, the mechanism to promote women as members of the national committee presented a draft document entitled “The Memory of the Fireflies”, which was carried out with the support of women survivors and family members of the victims of the massacres that took place in December 1981. That project carried out an anthropological investigation to compile the testimonies of women and to provide psycho-social assistance in safe spaces where they were able to talk about their experiences.

That gave rise to the publication of a book and video entitled “The Memory of the Fireflies”, with which we aim to reshape the knowledge of what happened during the massacres from the point of view of their actual life experience and also to preserve oral memory. With that, we aim to promote the reparation process, taking on not only the civilian compensation aspect but also making the experiences of those women more visible.

Furthermore, in August 2015, El Salvador organized the first regional workshop on training for resolution 1325 (2000), with member countries of the Central American Integration System. The aim was to promote the development of national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in other countries of the region. The workshop was inaugurated and closed by President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, and the President of El Salvador, Mr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén. Currently, our country is at the forefront of formulating a road map that will make it possible to ensure the follow-up to resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions.

El Salvador expresses its support for all initiatives that would ensure the participation of women in the various peacekeeping contingents, in line with resolution 1325 (2000) and other subsequent resolutions of the Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the important work done by Spain as President of the Security Council. Similarly, I would like to thank UN-Women for its support and its attendant technical, political and financial support for our efforts in our national committee. At the same time, I would like to call for that support to continue.

We hope that as people become familiar with our experience, other countries in the region will be encouraged to work more thoroughly when it comes to the area of peace and security, especially from the inclusion perspective that is set out in resolution 1325 (2000).