



## United Nations Security Council



**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Mary E. Flores**  
**Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations**  
**at the annual open debate on: “Women, Peace and Security”**  
New York, 13 October 2015

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished guests,

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Presidency of the Security Council and the Government of Spain for organizing this open debate dedicated to Women, Peace and Security.

We also thank the Secretary General for his work on the annual reports on Resolution 1325, as the normative framework, where after 15 years there is a glimmer of progress and achievement, nevertheless, still falling short of many aspired objectives. Today, we must agree upon and make effective the recommendations of UN departments, agencies, funds and programs, as well as national governments and civil society organizations to move steadily forward in outlining the course ahead.

Mr. President,

Honduras believes women are the missing and critical link in our global pact to attain sustainable development through a culture of peace. More than half the world’s population cannot be relegated or marginalized from decisions and events that affect their lives and those of the next generations entrusted to them. Women by moral and human right must exercise their freedom, liberty, and choice in becoming equal participants and partners in issues related to conflict prevention, resolution and recovery. The only means to fully empower women is by women empowering themselves through their full exercise of economic and political rights - which are fundamental to dignity, security and well-being for all.

Women must take action upon their livelihood to secure prosperity for their dependents: children and elders which are the most vulnerable. In the 21st Century, this is only possible by bridging the gaps in gender equality through access to education and technology.

In this endeavor UN Women plays an essential role. Funding must be significantly increased to this entity and all agencies that have a direct impact on women, with an emphasis in convening in renewed, effective and measurable commitments.

Mr. President,

We have witnessed the birth of a transformational Agenda, where the key to its global success requires the synergy in the architecture and framework of the organization and the inclusion as well as the full participation of women across the board.

In our responsibility as framers and drivers of this ambitious Agenda, first and foremost, we must commit to concrete restructuring of this house, named United Nations. An inclusive and holistic reform, where women are at the forefront. This is a calling from within these Chambers and hall to all leaders of capitals, and in particular to the Five Permanent Members of the Security Council - to lead by example (to be true to the Charter and elect a Woman Secretary General, and work towards a agreement in relinquishing their veto power where women must be protected, supported and empowered.

Member States must be encouraged to create an effective and achievable National Action Plan in implementing Resolution 1325, where women must be lead actors and participants in the drafting and its implementation, by taking into account every household and community. By empowering locally, women will impact globally.

Women must be active participants in critical issues such as rule of law, justice, governance, peace negotiations and agreements, nation building as well as contribute to the transformation of the Security Sector.

With escalation and alarming numbers of femicides, sexual and gender based violence, human trafficking, emerging threats of extremism and gender terrorism, there is an impending urgency to counter the devastating effects on all humanity. A special task force inclusive of women's vision and leadership is required, in framing a directed and targeted action plan that can achieve a cultural shift towards more balanced and harmonious societies.

Last and most significant, only through consciousness and recognition of women and their role and impact in culture and heritage and we inherit a culture of peace to the next generations. Women share strong bonds with traditions which trace back to ancient civilizations. The indigenous woman, who is susceptible to social cultural barriers, is wise and knowledgeable and shares the aches and pain of mother earth.

In the collective wisdom inherited, women possess innate abilities as healers, mediators, intermediators and peace makers. With this in acknowledgment let us rediscover in them and through them the enormous wealth women contribute to all global issues, for they are true heroines of peace.

Mr. President and Excellencies, distinguished guests, thank you.