

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security- 19 June 2008
Extract Verbatim Transcript/ English S/PV.5916 (Resumption 1)**

ECUADOR

Ms. Espinosa (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you very much, Mr. President, for having organized this debate.

My delegation believes that the United Nations plays an essential role in combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

There can be no question that it is essential to bolster the work of the Organization in this area, as well as to improve its internal coordination to ensure a more effective long-term impact.

Ecuador is fully committed to this effort. We are a State party to all the relevant international instruments and have co-sponsored several General Assembly resolutions on this subject. In its own area of responsibility, the Security Council made a major contribution to this effort by adopting several resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, especially as regards women and children. More specifically, the Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000), several of whose paragraphs specifically refer to the subject of this debate, namely, sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Several elements of the draft resolution to be adopted by the Council today are incorporated in resolution 1325 (2000), including the important role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacekeeping, the issue of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and the elimination of all types of gender-based violence, especially rape and sexual violence.

My delegation believes that, with respect to the need to request a report from the Secretary-General on this issue, such a report should deal with situations that fall under the competency of the Security Council and that are clearly inscribed on its agenda; otherwise, there could be duplication of effort, as certain resolutions of the General Assembly also call for similar reports from the Secretariat on this matter.

Ecuador believes that, despite the major efforts being made by the Council, it is urgent to achieve closer cooperation between the main organs of the United Nations — bearing in mind that the General Assembly is the universal body responsible for providing a normative framework underpinning the decisions of all States on the issue we are debating today. My delegation therefore shares the view of the President of the General Assembly that the subject of sexual violence, including that perpetrated in the course of armed conflict, should continue to be considered by the General Assembly in a systematic and ongoing manner — as was the case during this session with the consensus adoption of Assembly resolution 62/134, on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence in all its aspects, including in armed conflict and similar situations — as

well as in the thematic debates convened by the President of the General Assembly on the issues of human security and human trafficking. The General Assembly also addressed this issue in its annual resolution on all forms of violence against women, which was also adopted by Member States by consensus.

Ensuring an end to impunity and acknowledging that victims have rights are decisive elements in combating all forms of sexual violence against women, including sexual violence as a weapon of war. Ecuador believes in the essential role of the International Criminal Court in combating impunity, as well as in its contribution to peace building processes. The international community should commit itself to ensuring that no one enjoys immunity for such crimes under any circumstances. That should be our commitment to the victims and our contribution to peace and justice.

Like other delegations, we believe that such a sensitive subject as the one before us today, which should be of concern to all countries, including Ecuador, should be considered in a comprehensive and systematic manner by all Member States. Such consideration should not be confined solely to the issue of sexual violence, but should also address all forms of violence against women and girls.

One way to prevent armed conflict and all forms of violence and discrimination they generate is to address poverty and underdevelopment head-on in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, to whose achievement all Member States committed themselves.

Ecuador will continue to cooperate with the international community to ensure that all forms of violence against women and girls, especially sexual violence, are eliminated from every country and region of the world.