

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

EL SALVADOR

Mrs. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): El Salvador welcomes the initiative to hold an open Security Council debate on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. That resolution is a cornerstone of the call for full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, together with mainstreaming the gender perspective in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and also in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

The resolution emphasizes the need to increase the role of women in the political participation process and in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution.

El Salvador's post-conflict situation enables us to confirm that women and men experience peace and conflict in different ways and that, therefore, they have different vulnerabilities and needs and require different mechanisms to address their security.

Thus, in the context of armed conflict and in peacebuilding processes, we may wonder whether gender roles and relations differ, since men and women adapt to changes in situations according to circumstances. Resolution 1325 (2000) is thus a landmark which enables us to consider the increasing complexity of conflict situations and the transition from conflict to development in a broad and integral manner and from a gender perspective.

El Salvador recognizes that since resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted, limited progress has been made in implementing it. The results have been mixed, as confirmed by studies carried out by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, particularly the study entitled "Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security". It should be noted that this study helps facilitate the development of national action plans that are realistic and effective in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) through good practices, specific recommendations and a six-step process.

Additionally, as the debate on the gender perspective in the context of armed conflict continues, related problems come to light, such as a lack of prevention and protection, in particular for women and girls, from violence of all kinds, including sexual violence, which unfortunately is, in some cases, used as a weapon of war.

In this connection, my delegation joins other delegations and civil society organizations in requesting the Secretary-General to systematically include full information on acts of sexual violence and gender-based acts against women and girls in all reports on conflict

situations.

El Salvador recognizes the need to broaden the framework of action derived from the promotion of a holistic approach to the issue of the gender perspective in the context of armed conflict and transitional and peacebuilding situations. However, we are aware that in progressing along this path, we are liable sometimes to duplicate the functions of other principal organs of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, both of which have specific mandates to deal with these matters under the Charter.

In that light, further efforts should be made to ensure coordination and cooperation among the principal organs of the United Nations in order to tackle these issues in an holistic manner while avoiding overlaps in the mandates and functions of each organ.

Thus, in El Salvador's view, the special position of the Peacebuilding Commission, deriving from its organic link with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, make it, in a way, the proper forum for promoting and assessing on the ground the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in a broad-based and holistic manner.

In concluding, allow me to restate the political will of the Government of El Salvador to continue making progress in the promotion and implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and in strengthening the political participation of women in decision-making processes which will ensure that women become active players in their own development.