



# Guatemala

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5065<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

*"WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY"*

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## **Statement by the representative of Guatemala before the Security Council on the question of Women and Peace and Security**

Mr. President,

For the Guatemalan delegation the debate on the report concerning the full implementation of resolution 1325 on women and peace and security is a matter of high importance.

It should be observed, in the first place, that our country has been able to count on a United Nations Verification Mission, MINUGUA, which is mentioned in the Secretary-General's report S/2004/814 as one of the peace operations in which three women serve as deputy special representatives.

Moreover, regard being had to the Secretary-General's recommendations in favour of the participation of women in peace keeping operations, we take pride in the fact that we are making a contribution. Indeed it is precisely today that a unit of 70 Guatemalan military police officers in which five women participate is departing for Haiti to join the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

MINUGUA has lent support in the negotiating process that led to the conclusion of the Peace Agreements in 1996, which call for profound transformations in our society, an agenda that the Government of Guatemala has taken over as a minimum. MINUGUA has been of considerable assistance in improving the prevailing situation and it is now for us, Guatemalans, to continue building a more just society, one that will overcome the exclusion, marginalization and discrimination that have affected not only our indigenous peoples in general but also, and in particular, women.

Last September MINUGUA inaugurated on these premises a display of photographs entitled Guatemala: Images of Peace, which, in addition to giving a visual account of its activities, also illustrated the daunting challenges that we still have to face and overcome, poverty and the need to achieve a proper balance between the genders, which are two of the fundamental elements of resolution 1325, which is now under consideration.

Mr. President,

Given its painful experiences and being a country that emerged from an armed that impoverished it during 36 years, Guatemala is convinced of the need to enhance the presence of women in decision-making processes and the value of their contribution to peace and security. A woman who is educated and free from subjugation is the best guarantee of the achievement of sustainable development and peaceful and harmonious social coexistence.

We urge the Security Council to establish and promote strategies and programmes for preventing gender-based violence. We also support arrangements for the protection of victims and witnesses that are capable of promoting the filing of charges in connection with offences of these types. In this regard the public prosecutor's office in Guatemala

has a department charged with attending to victims, whose role is to provide support and humanitarian assistance, so as to care in an integral and urgent way for those in need of its aid, thereby neutralizing the negative effects of crime.

We concur with the Secretary-General that the dissemination and interchange of information are indispensable for creating an awareness of the contents of resolution 1325. We congratulate UNIFEM for the web site offering a centralized data base and the United Nations Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, INSTRAW for work carried out in order to collect and centralize information on gender related aspects of conflicts and peace, as well as the inter-agency task force.

We believe that there should be greater coordination between Member States, United Nations entities and the agents of civil society for the purpose of achieving a systematic incorporation of the gender perspective and of resolution 1325 in the prevention of conflicts, the planning of peace-keeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction, which cannot be successful in the absence of full participation by women.

Thank you.