

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security- 23 October 2007
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HONDURAS

Mr. Romero Martínez (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. Minister, your presence here adds great value to the Council's consideration of this topic, and it also underscores the importance that your country attaches to the subject. We wish to commend you on the important initiative of convening this meeting on women and peace and security.

My country, Honduras, believes as the Security Council affirmed on 7 March 2007, that women play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding (see S/PRST/2007/5). We therefore condemn the harassment, attacks on security, abuse, rape and any other manifestation of violence or oppression to which women may be subject, anywhere in the world.

For this reason, we fully associate ourselves with resolution 1325 (2000). Not only do we associate ourselves with it; we also consider that its implementation should be an ongoing international obligation of States.

We support the increased representation of women at all levels, especially at decision-making levels, in conflict resolution and peace processes. We are certain, as has been indicated here in earlier speeches, that the time has come for action. We continue to hear of and to witness devastating events that once again demonstrate a lack of human sensitivity and the absence of adequate responsibility in terms of compliance with our obligations.

Our country, which is small geographically, not only values respect for the dignity of women; it is also, in keeping with its domestic legislation, trying to mainstream women in all spheres of daily activities. It wishes to see their equitable participation in the decision-making organs and is incorporating them in conjunction with all sectors, in particular civil society, in the struggle to promote the observance of human rights and respect for the rule of law and to combat marginalization and any kind of oppression or discrimination.

The humanitarian responses of the United Nations in any part of the world, as indicated by the report of the Secretary-General, must have inherent in them a common policy of incorporating gender equality programmes. In post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, mechanisms and strategies designed for and specifically aimed at women and girls should be established. For this reason, we appreciate very much the activities that various organizations of the United Nations system are carrying out, incorporating women in their projects. Among these, we would highlight the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which has organized virtual debates on the incorporation of gender issues into the reform of the security sector.

We also welcome the updating of the Action Plan for 2008-2009, and we hope that it will be implemented successfully. Prevention of violence motivated by gender in armed conflicts and response to this violence must be tackled immediately. We all hope that acts of sexual exploitation and abuse will end once and for all and that everywhere in the world the values of women and of girls will be regarded as sacred, as their integrity and dignity should also be.

Consequently, the delegation of Honduras associates itself with the endeavours to achieve consistent and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The value of a human being, the value of a woman, the value of a girl, must be upheld by a collective consciousness of respect worldwide.