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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Statement by

Ms. Carmen Moreno

Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for
the Advancement of Women

To the United Nations Security Council Open Debate
on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325
“Women, Peace and Security”

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Mr. President,

As this is the first time that INSTRAW addresses the Security Council, let me thank you and through you the Members of the Council for the opportunity to join in recognizing the importance of the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

As the international community is redefining security in the 21st century, women's contributions and gender considerations are now, thanks to Resolution 1325, an integral part of the process and no longer a silent presence.

This year, INSTRAW has launched a profound restructuring. The Executive Board has approved a strategic framework and programme of work for 2005. We are reconstructing our relations with stakeholders and building synergies and alliances within the UN system, especially with DAW and UNIFEM.

INSTRAW considers gender-based violence to be the largest threat to women's security in conflict and post-conflict situations. Therefore, the need to fully implement international humanitarian and human rights law to ensure the protection of women and girls, as established in Resolution 1325, is crucial.

Zero-tolerance to rape, beatings, assault, harassment, sexual violence in times of armed conflict, and to trafficking and abduction into modern slavery, and to the spread of HIV/AIDS through violence, is crucial. Regional and national action plans, legal provisions, and law enforcement capacities must be strengthened. Realizing our collective responsibility and raising the level of political will, cooperation and coordination is essential. INSTRAW has addressed this topic through publishing

“Partners in Change: working with men to end gender-based violence,” available on our new website (www.un-instraw.org).

Further contributing to the implementation of Resolution 1325, INSTRAW is launching areas of research and capacity-building including: gender and security sector reform; and gender and conflict prevention and resolution. We are also undertaking collaborative activities towards the elimination of trafficking of women and girls. Through e-discussions, research and consultations, INSTRAW is identifying the most pressing gaps within these fields and building collaborative projects to address them.

INSTRAW is contributing to the design of a process of capacity-building to facilitate the participation of women and civil society in peace-building activities in Haiti. We are also engaged in the process of elaborating an action plan on the implementation of Resolution 1325 in the Dominican Republic.

INSTRAW highlights the recommendations of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and Kvinna till Kvinna. The call for a focal point and an expert level working group on the integration of Resolution 1325 in the Security Council’s work; the establishment of a UN system-wide action plan; annual reporting; and the need to develop national action plans on the implementation of Resolution 1325, are initiatives that deserve consideration and support.

INSTRAW is certain that the Council will ensure, through these and other initiatives, the full implementation of Resolution 1325. In this effort, INSTRAW will continue to contribute within its mandate and looks forward to cooperating with the Council on these issues.