



# MÉXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CLAUDE HELLER  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE AGENDA ITEM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
DEBATE "WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY"**

**OCTOBER 29, 2008**

**(check against delivery)**

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“WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY”.**

Mr. President,

Mexico extends to you, its appreciation for the celebration of this traditional open debate on "Women and peace and security" and thanks the Secretary-General for his recent report.

Gender equality, prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women and girls is a State policy in Mexico and its dimension in the promotion of international peace and security are essential elements of the foreign policy of my country.

The Secretary General's report reflects the increasing significance of the topic and stresses the need for progress towards improving the protection of human rights of women.

Mr. President,

It is clear that there has been some progress since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). However, there is a gap between policy frameworks arising from the adoption of this resolution and its effective implementation, as the Secretary-General clearly notes.

For this reason, Mexico welcomes the package of measures that the Secretary-General suggests to accelerate the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), particularly in ensuring that the women's needs and concerns should be included in the development of conflict prevention strategies and early warning measures.

Women are not a passive player in complex emergencies and are especially vulnerable to marginalization, poverty and psychological and physical violence associated to them. To that extent, Mexico looks forward to the Secretary-General's proposal to strengthen the capacity of the Security Council to eradicate sexual violence, by sending missions to assess situations in which recourse to sexual violence or encourage its use as tactic of war or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians. In addition, we deem appropriate that the Council consider the recommendation to intensify measures to prevent and eradicate sexual violence, even through more systematic operational and tactical responses of the peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance programs of the United Nations.

We agree with the Secretary General that the Council recalls that parties to armed conflict have a responsibility to protect women and to maintain and prevent and eradicate sexual violence.

We reiterate the need to sensitize and train the military of the States Parties and United Nations staff dedicated to peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance in the importance of human rights with a gender perspective.

Mr. President,

Mexico wishes to express its concern at the increasing number of cases of sexual abuse perpetrated against women during armed conflict and even during the stages of peace building. We agree with the Secretary-General regarding that sexual violence is a security problem requiring a systematic security response commensurate with its scale and magnitude.

It is imperative to take effective measures to prevent and respond to widespread or systematic acts of sexual violence as a measure to contribute to international peace and security, as well as to intensify efforts to implement the zero tolerance policy for the exploitation and sexual abuse in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, as required by resolution 1820 (2008) of the Security Council.

The adoption of resolution 1325 was the product of the political will of the members of the Security Council to provide protection for the millions of women affected by the armed conflict, which requires a permanent and strong willingness to translate into a concrete action.

In this regard, Mexico supports the approach of the Secretary-General on the Security Council should increase its use of the Arria formula or similar arrangements for informal consultations with women's groups and non-governmental organizations on individual conflict situations. This would allow progress in the practice, treatment and promotion of positive solutions in specific cases.