

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Council, April 2014, Security Council Chamber
Statement by Mrs. Morgan, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations.

Mexico thanks Nigeria for holding this open debate and the Secretary-General and Ms. Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, for their statements.

One of the major challenges facing the international community in this area is that of bringing perpetrators to justice to put an end to the culture of impunity. In addition to that, there is the serious problem that an overwhelming majority of survivors never have access to means of reparation and reintegration. Accountability mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, are therefore essential to address that problem. Mexico emphasizes the relevance and usefulness of the International Criminal Court and its complementary power to investigate and prosecute those responsible for international crimes, including war crimes and sexual crimes, if a State is unable or unwilling to do so.

At the same time, we should not forget that sexual violence in conflict is almost never reported as a result of the risks facing both survivors and witnesses, which complicates the creation of accurate records on the incidence of that crime. We need closer cooperation among States and greater coordination among United Nations bodies to set up a joint international strategy to combat the culture of impunity, enable the full inclusion of women as key actors in peace processes and ceasefires, and promote their participation in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures and in security sector reform.

Mexico acknowledges that the commission of certain crimes is so serious that it transcends national interests and affects the international community as a whole; therefore, all States have an obligation to investigate and punish such crimes with the two-fold objective of ending impunity and preventing recurrence.

Our country actively participates in the actions and efforts of the international community to prevent international crimes. One example is our membership in the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, which held a training seminar this week in Mexico City on international mechanisms for the prevention of mass atrocities, with the participation of Government experts, international organizations and members of civil society and academia.

Likewise, at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mexico endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and agreed to serve as a regional promoter of the initiative launched by the United Kingdom in 2013. As part of those efforts, Mexico will host a regional seminar next month that will bring together a multidisciplinary group of experts and officials from the United Nations system to gather input from experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and to foster the exchange of best practices in combating sexual violence in conflicts.

Mexico has also supported the development of an international protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict, as a result of the Declaration of Commitment, and it has appointed an independent expert to assist in that process. We hope that the protocol will become a new tool that facilitates research aimed at prosecuting those responsible and providing comprehensive care to victims.

Moreover, my country is also reviewing its legal and institutional framework with a view to possibly creating an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000). That process involves the relevant areas of Government and systematizes some activities already carried out nationally, such as capacity-building for our armed forces in the human rights of women and in gender equality.

While the international community now has a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for addressing sexual violence under consideration by the Security Council, we must do much to continue to strengthen and implement it.