

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mrs. Morgan, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Mexico would like to thank Argentina for its initiative in convening this debate, and would also like to say that we support the presidential statement issued by the Council this morning (S/PRST/2014/21).

Our participation in today's open debate is very important to us in the lead-up to preparations for the high-level review next year of the Security Council's landmark resolution 1325 (2000). We commend the Council's intention to mandate a focus on women and peace and security in its regular field visits, and welcome the new five-year gender strategy devised by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, as well as the action plan involving commitments arising out of resolution 2122 (2013). We also acknowledge the trend towards greater representation of women in senior United Nations posts. To cite one example, the appointment of Major General Kristin Lund, the first woman to command a peacekeeping operation, is a milestone.

Despite the undeniable progress, however, the reality does not yet live up to all the expectations raised by resolution 1325 (2000) 14 years ago. As the Secretary-General says in his latest report (S/2014/693), we have to ensure more consistent application of the agenda on women and peace and security.

One of the most alarming consequences of armed conflicts today is the increase in the numbers of displaced persons and refugees. The situation of displaced people and refugees in conflict-affected environments makes women and girls more vulnerable to becoming victims of sexual abuse and other human rights violations. My delegation therefore emphasizes the importance of the comprehensive integration of the gender perspective into policies related to refugees and displaced persons, in accordance with international law, and of promoting comprehensive strategies for protecting women and girls on the ground that take their specific needs into account.

Mexico believes firmly that we should continue to enhance the prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict. In the twenty-first century, it is unacceptable that sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war, and we are particularly concerned about the surge in such violence against girls registered by the United Nations in 2013. We consider it a positive development that sexual violence is now being more broadly considered by the Security Council as a criterion in determining the application of targeted sanctions in situations of conflict.

We hope that the strategic review on sanctions and peacekeeping operations to be carried out in 2015 will take into account the commitments and priorities of the agenda on women and peace and security. Impunity in cases of sexual violence in armed conflict remains continues to be a major challenge for the international community. Those responsible for such crimes must be brought to justice, and we believe the Security Council should take stronger measures to deal with those involved, including by referring cases to the International Criminal Court.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing how strongly my delegation feels that conflict prevention is a crucial tool for addressing the causes of emerging crises and preventing the reappearance of old conflicts and the emergence of new ones. We urge the Council, and the international community as a whole, to pay more attention to the role of women in early-warning mechanisms, mediation and prevention in communities, and we hope that the outcome of this debate will add to empowerment, peace and security for women and girls.