

Ms. Cruz-Sánchez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of President Enrique Peña Nieto, I thank President Mariano Rajoy Brey and the Government of Spain for convening this important debate in the context of the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). I would also like to extend my warm greetings to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women.

The full participation of women in all spheres of public life is fundamental for achieving peace and inclusive development. Mexico has actively promoted the agenda on women and peace and security. As a non-permanent member in 2009 and 2010, during the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), we contributed to strengthening the legal framework of the Security Council in this area by supporting the adoption of resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). We welcome the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015).

Today, 15 years later, we have at our disposal more robust institutional frameworks to guarantee the role of women as key actors for stability and peace, as well as mechanisms to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict. The Security Council should not limit itself by tackling this issue in an isolated or ad hoc manner. We believe that a gender perspective should be integrated in a cross-cutting and consistent way in all its decisions.

Peacekeeping operations and prevention and mediation efforts are two concrete examples. In the past, we might have thought that applying a gender focus to peacekeeping operations simply meant deploying a greater number of women on the ground or increasing the number of women in the armed forces. While that is still a priority, a broader concept of gender equality now allows us to realize that all the activities of a given operation — including patrols and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, security sector reform, the promotion of the rule of law and the effective enjoyment of human rights — should take into account the specific needs of women and should recognize the importance of their participation in interaction with local communities.

It is vital to maintain the momentum for women's participation in mediation processes and in the negotiation of peace agreements and agreements to cease hostilities in order to promote national reconciliation based on respect for, and the application of, the human, social and civil rights of the most vulnerable sectors of the population, with support from civil society.

We should keep in mind that every conflict situation requires a different analysis of its effect on women and children, and that all peacekeeping personnel should include a gender perspective in the various aspects of their operations from the moment planning begins. This year, when we are discussing a revision of resolution 1325 (2000) and recommendations for reforming peacekeeping operations, we should seek and encourage

synergies and clear road maps in order to set in motion the recommendations of the Secretary- General.

Another relevant aspect of this discussion concerns the need to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to programmes of proven success. For that reason, my delegation considers it essential to guarantee the deployment of specialized gender advisers in peacekeeping operations and special political missions. Such a strategy will require that we strengthen all our activities through appropriate coordination with the other organs of the United Nations system so as to avoid duplication and to respect the competencies of each separate organ.

Mexico has reported to the General Assembly on the specific steps it has taken towards its gradual return to peacekeeping operations. As part of our commitments, I would like to recall that we will increase capacity- building and specialized training for Mexican officers, in particular members of the Mexican armed forces, based on the criteria established by resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent related resolutions. To that end, we have already established cooperation mechanisms with a number of countries that will enable us to strengthen our specific activities in the area of capacity- building. Just last week, for example, the Government of Mexico held one such specialized training session at the Centre for Advanced Naval Studies of Mexico, in collaboration with the Governments of Spain and the Netherlands.

Within that framework, we pledge to make the women and peace and security agenda a fundamental component of our gradual return to peacekeeping operations.