



Argentina

CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

DEBATE ABIERTO SOBRE MUJER, PAZ Y SEGURIDAD

Intervención del Embajador César Mayoral,
Representante Permanente de Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas

Nueva York, 27 de octubre de 2005
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SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Statement by Ambassador César Mayoral,
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

It is an honor for my delegation to participate once again in an open debate of this Council devoted to the situation of women in conflict situations. We are especially grateful to the Romanian Presidency for choosing this subject on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 and we are sure that this debate will be an excellent opportunity to analyze which obstacles still restrict the participation of women in peace processes as well as to exchange experiences on women's involvement in these processes.

Five years ago when this Council decided to adopt Resolution 1325, Argentina was one of its members. At that opportunity we were hoping for greater participation of women in the framework of peace and security. Today, we are sure that the adoption of this resolution meant a milestone in the history of female participation in the different phases of the conflict. Resolution 1325 is an appropriate legal framework both for Member States and for the different organs of the United Nations to be able to increase the participation of women in this sphere.

This year we celebrate the fifth anniversary of Resolution 1325. Five years from its adoption we must acknowledge that the subject of women, peace and security has become more visible within the UN system and that a series of measures have been implemented to make their participation effective. However, there still exists a gender gap that we have to remedy. Women are still underrepresented in peace processes and are still victims of the most horrendous human rights violations that occur in the context of armed conflicts. It is imperative to renew our commitment to Resolution 1325 and to transform this commitment into concrete action.

We thank the participation in this debate of Undersecretary Guehenno, of the Special Adviser for Gender Issues, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, of the Executive Director of UNIFEM, as well as the presence of civil society organizations.

Last year we focused the debate on gender based violence and now the Romanian Presidency invites us to especially consider the participation of women in peace processes and post conflict peace building. We are convinced that a peace process will be lasting and effective if it takes into consideration the perspectives and interests of all sectors, including men and women. Women have demonstrated that their presence can be instrumental to peace processes and that their participation in institutions that are constituted afterwards, guarantees a lasting and more secure peace. Therefore we must intensify interaction with civil society in the field, and especially women's organizations, in order to assure that these are taken into consideration not only during the negotiation of the peace process but also at the time of elaborating legislation and building new national institutions.

We take note of the Report of the Secretary General that includes the Action Plan for the application of Resolution 1325 within the UN system in response to a request by this Council. Bearing in mind the importance and range of this initiative, we consider that the Secretariat should complement the information provided in the Secretary General's Report through an interactive format with the participation of member states of the Organization.

Mr. President,

This year Heads of States and Governments reiterated their commitment to the double role of women in situations of armed conflict, both victims of the most unjustified violence and peacemakers. The final document of the 2005 Global Summit decided the establishment of a Peace Building Commission which, among other things, has the mandate to intensify its work

with civil society in order to prevent the development of new conflicts and gather accurate information about them. We hope that the Commission will interact with civil society organizations and keep in mind concerns of women in different sectors so that they may participate in peace reconstruction processes and the future political life of their countries on equal footing with men.

We urge this Council to continue taking initiatives to make the implementation of Resolution 1325 effective in the field, among them the appointment of Gender Advisers in peace missions, the integration of a gender perspective in visits and missions to the field and the necessity to maintain contact with civil society, especially women's organization in the field. In this respect we thank the Danish Delegation the formula Arria meeting that took place in recent days, the integration of the gender perspective in the visits and missions to the field. At the same time we urge the Council to draw the attention of the Secretary General to the necessity of nominating more women at the decision making level, including in the capacity of Special Representatives of the Secretary General. In the same sense, we call upon Member States to present female candidates for these kinds of positions.

We believe that in parallel to the implementation of the action plan that was presented by the Secretariat the Council should launch some kind of periodic monitoring mechanism for this resolution.

Mr. President,

The obstacles affecting the full implementation of Resolution 1325 are originated both in the instability of conflict situations and in the level of respect for women's human rights. This latter aspect is competence of other bodies such as the General Assembly through the Third Committee and the ECOSOC through the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. In this respect we call on Member States to implement their commitments, in particular those assumed at Beijing and Beijing+5. Resolution 1325 constitutes the framework for the protection of the rights of women in conflict situations, but it belongs to a broader framework of respect of women's human rights.

Finally, and even if we know that the subject that we primarily deal with is the participation of women in the reconstruction of peace, we cannot fail to condemn acts of sexual violation committed by the United Nations personnel in the field. We, as troop contributors, acknowledge our responsibility in the education and preparation of our troops, the necessity to take preventive actions and punish those who commit these violations.

Thank you very much.
