



**Argentina**

## **CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD**

**“DEBATE ABIERTO SOBRE EL TEMA: MUJER Y PAZ Y SEGURIDAD”**

**Intervención de la Delegación Argentina**

**Nueva York, 29 de Octubre de 2008**

**Verificar contra lectura**

## **SECURITY COUNCIL**

**“OPEN DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM: WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY”**

**Statement by the Argentine Delegation**

**New York, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Check against delivery**

**Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations**

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Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking the Chinese Presidency for organizing this open debate that reflects the commitment of the Security Council to the implementation of Resolution 1325. It is a resolution that marks an important milestone in our common goal to make sure that the action of the Council is the most effective with sustainable results through the efficient incorporation of the gender perspective at all levels.

At the same time I would also like to thank the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the Executive Director of UNIFEM, Ms. Ines Alberdi for the overall view that they presented this morning on the tendencies that are being verified in the field and the shortcomings in protection that we face today.

Mr. President,

In the framework on a perspective concentrating on human rights, Argentina attaches high priority to the situation of women and children in conflict and to the participation of women as principal actors in peace process and in the peace building phase.

Argentina has incorporated women for the last 15 years among its peacekeepers under conditions that are being developed under Resolution 1325. According to the Action Plan adopted by the Ministry of Defense altogether 341 women have been deployed, almost 70% of whom in the last 8 years.

Currently 26 Argentine women participate in peace missions in Haiti and in Cyprus. Argentina is the second country after Uruguay in participating with an outstanding number of women in MINUSTAH. In this respect Argentina as contributing country to MINUSTAH underscores the importance of the labor of the United Nations and its contribution to peace and security in the region. We are especially happy with the work that the different agencies of the System do in order to protect and promote the Haitian women's rights and impulse their participation in the political, economic and social sphere. In this respect we may recall the Banff, Canada declaration of the VII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas that renews the commitment to continue incorporating the gender perspective in the peacekeeping operations such as established by Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

Argentina as member of the Group of Friends of Resolution 1325 thanks member countries of this group for their permanent support and collaboration and especially Canada for leading this group whose acts make a great difference in the gender agenda of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Argentina actively endorses the multi annual campaign launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations against violence against women. In the framework of this campaign in 2007 by the initiative of Argentina within MERCOSUR a conscience making campaign was lead through a Poster Competition. The objective of this competition was to make the population sensitive towards violent situations where they can see women and children exposed in the public and private sphere.

Argentina appreciates the consideration of the role of regional institutions as indispensable agents in the promotion of peace in conjunction with the fulfillment of UN Mandates. In this respect, Argentina has arduously worked within the framework of MERCOSUR promoting the implementation of Resolution 1325. We can underline that through Argentina's insistence this issue has been included in the agenda of the XX Special Meeting on Women of MERCOSUR that will take place in Brasilia on October 31.

Mr. President,

Argentina has urged the integration of the gender perspective in the reform of security sectors with the objective of creating an atmosphere that is more adequate for the participation of women. In this sense we underline that the Ministry of Defense has an Observatory of Women in the Armed Forces. The design of public policies in the gender issue finds an indispensable instrument in the Observatory for the monitoring of the evolution of the situation of women in the Armed Forces.

As regards Security Council Resolution 1820/2008 on sexual violence we would like to underline that the reform of the military justice system has incorporated sexual abuse as a grave or most grave disciplinary fault.

In order to secure the active participation of women it is fundamental to offer special training for situations of conflict prevention, mediation, negotiation, peacekeeping, post conflict reconstruction and humanitarian support.

In this sense Argentina established the Argentine Center for Joint Training for Peacekeeping Operations that operates since 1995 as an excellent center for the transmission of knowledge and experience related to Peace Operations. In the fulfillment of these objectives CAECOPAZ has included in its curriculum gender contents that are shared among the participants of these courses as members of the contingencies to be deployed.

Mr. President,

In the framework of humanitarian assistance, the White Helmets Commission has been leading a series of trainings for volunteers and humanitarian assistance volunteers since 2007 and has included in the agenda the evaluation of participation of men and women. The participation of voluntary women reaches 43% during training and 36% among the White Helmets missions that have been taking place since 2007. The creation of response groups and humanitarian assistance with ample feminine participation are two privileged strategies for the reduction of the level of vulnerability of women in conflict situations.

Argentina underlines the participation of countries of the region, such as Canada, Norway and the Netherlands in the First Regional Workshop on the Gender Perspective in Peacekeeping Operation in Buenos Aires earlier this year in May. At the same time we acknowledge the labor of the different entities of the United Nations in the subject of women, peace and security. Especially, we would like to thank the UN Peacekeeping Department for its permanent support and collaboration, underline the participation of Commissioner Mr. Antero Lopes in the Buenos Aires workshop and thank for the help in the publication that we are planning with the conclusions of this workshop.

Mr. President,

Argentina agrees with the Secretary-General in his report on the necessity to develop action plans that will allow the identification of priorities and resources to determine responsibilities and chronograms to guide the implementation of the resolution. To put these action plans into practice will contribute to closing the existing breach between policies and their effective implementation.

At the same time it is necessary to take major efforts at the national level to transversalize gender policies in all their aspects, especially prevention, management, resolution and post conflict peace reconstruction. To this end it is essential to strengthen the National Mechanism on Women. In this sense Argentina has gender departments in all its Ministries and almost all Argentine provinces has designed institutional spaces to strengthen the rights of women and to put them in practice.

Finally, Argentina endorses the recommendations proposed by the Secretary General, especially those that assign major budget resources for the implementation of the above mentioned resolution.

Thank you.