

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mrs. Perceval Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations.

At the outset, we would like to thank the Permanent Representative and delegation of India for having held today's debate, which was originally organized by the Guatemalan presidency of the Council in October. We also wish to thank the speakers who took the floor today. Special appreciation goes to Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women, for her sterling work for equality for women.

Each anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) gives us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to its objectives and at the same time to focus on some of the many dimensions it covers. Today we have the opportunity to reflect on the central role of civil society, especially women's organizations, in the drafting and subsequent implementation of the normative framework launched by the Council in the year 2000. We wish to recognize the work undertaken by the civil society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, which at the start of this year began specifically to push Council action in the matter. The encouragement and guidance of the Working Group were decisive for the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), and that continues to be the case for its effective implementation.

Allow me, as Ambassador of my country, to recall that Argentina has been one of the countries promoting resolution 1325 (2000). In my case, as an activist for human rights and the equality of women, I wish to recall that the resolution was a new "enough!" in women's fight for international peace and security, the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence against women, the elimination of impunity, and progress towards a real and legal equality between men and women.

It was this Organization that took on the calls by and the initiative of millions of women around the world in order to say "enough!" to a double situation of injustice and discrimination against women that consisted of, on the one hand, silencing the voices of the victims and, on the other hand, hiding the faces of women and girls as rights holders and protagonists of social, economic and cultural changes that could promote, protect and ensure international peace and security and contribute to mediation processes and capacity-building for a real and lasting peace.

Twelve years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the decisive contributions from women's movements and organizations in conflict prevention, and the commitment of organizations focusing on the human rights of women and girls to make a reality of the responsibility to protect — those are no longer matters of opinion. The international community today shares the certainty that the inclusion and incorporation of women and their organizations before, during and after conflicts is not merely ethically necessary, but is also socially just and politically efficacious.

The best way that we have found to respond to the theme of this debate is to refer briefly to the National Action Plan of the Argentine Republic for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which is in its final phase of adoption. It will be adopted by a presidential decree once the final review phase, is under way right now, has been completed. The Plan is the result of efforts by an interministerial working group in which nine ministries participated. From the beginning, women's organizations, feminist organizations and human rights organizations in our country have provided momentum and participated actively. Just to note some examples, objective 2 of the Plan — on an increase in political participation of women in peace negotiation processes, in conflict management and in decision-making — provides for holding periodic public debates with women's organizations, feminist organizations, human rights organizations and other civil society organizations that incorporate gender perspectives, in order to broaden the participation of women and the sharing of experiences.

In addition, the actions taken to comply with objective 3 — on the inclusion of the gender perspective in all peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance missions — include the promotion of joint work by national institutions with expertise in the area of women's equality and civil society, with particular emphasis on the situation of women in armed conflict, post-conflict situations and socio-natural disasters.

Finally, in the section of the National Plan that focuses on monitoring and follow-up, it is expressly indicated that the Plan is the result of a participatory process launched by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Defence Ministry and with the participation of civil society organizations. To succeed, it requires coordination among different areas of the Argentine State and the cooperation of other countries in the region, civil society organizations and

international organizations.

During its 1999-2000 term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Argentina maintained an active participation in the negotiations and consultations undertaken with women's organizations and civil society organizations focusing on gender issues that culminated in the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). The same spirit and the same criteria will guide the implementation of our Action Plan and the participation of Argentina in the Security Council in 2013 and 2014. That is a responsibility with which we were honoured by the General Assembly on 18 October.

We wish to offer the Council our full willingness to contribute to the universalization of resolution 1325 (2000) and its effective implementation.