

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security – 5 October 2009
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Ecuador

Mr. Morejón (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Over the past 60 years, the United Nations has played a central role in combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women. It has also made a contribution to redoubling efforts to promote gender equality, and in particular to the establishment of an internationally agreed normative framework that provides guidance for the efforts of Governments and other stakeholders. In following up those efforts, Ecuador has ratified every relevant international treaty. We have also sponsored various General Assembly resolutions on this issue.

The Security Council's adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) marked a milestone in acknowledging the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective at all stages of a peace process. That resolution also reflected the Council's interest in the situation of boys and girls in armed conflict, the protection of civilians and the prevention of conflict. Ecuador has taken due note of the first report (S/2009/362) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1820 (2008), which refers to various efforts by States to eradicate this evil. Despite the significant efforts led by the Secretary-General and the Security Council, Ecuador believes that it is urgent to achieve greater cooperation among the principal organs of the United Nations, bearing in mind that the General Assembly is the universal body charged with providing a normative framework to guide the decisions of all States.

Ecuador believes that all Member States, as well as the United Nations system, should more coherently and systematically apply international law and implement the programmes and policies aimed at combating ongoing complex problems hindering the achievement of the rights of women. Since 2008, my country has had a new constitutional framework that lays the foundations for participatory democracy. The preamble of our Constitution also acknowledges the rights of women and provides for a way to move from equality on paper to genuine equality by identifying how those who have been victims of inequality and discrimination due to tradition, history, culture or religious attitudes are to be treated.

In conclusion, allow me to emphasize that, in an effort to ensure equality between men and women, Ecuador is working to identify the most appropriate way of setting up a national gender equality council. The challenges are numerous. But there is a reality that must be changed. Allow me, therefore, to reiterate the decision of the Government and the people of Ecuador to continue to cooperate with the international community to ensure the right of women to lives free from violence and to guarantee their full participation in mediation and negotiation processes, all aspects of peacekeeping operations, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the post-conflict reconstruction process.