

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, (Conflict Related Sexual Violence)  
23 February 2012, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by H.E. García González, Permanent Representative of El Salvador*

El Salvador welcomes your initiative, Mr. President, to convene this open debate of the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

That resolution constitutes a cornerstone in the efforts to achieve full participation — on an equal basis — of women in all initiatives for peace and security, together with the integration of the gender perspective in the context of seeking a resolution of armed conflicts, in peacekeeping and peace building and in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) constitute important policy instruments, since they make it possible to consider, in a broad, comprehensive fashion, the increasing complexities of conflict and post-conflict transitions to development situations from a gender perspective.

El Salvador recognizes that, 11 years after its adoption, progress has been achieved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as pointed out by the second report (S/2012/33) of the Secretary-General. The report clearly indicates the importance of making the women's peace and security component universal and cross-cutting, and not only from the perspective of the Security Council, but also from that of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and in particular, the Peacebuilding Commission, as appropriate.

The Secretariat has increased and given greater weight to reports covering women's issues. But, in our judgment, a consistent lack of information still exists regarding countries and specific situations of women in respect to this issue.

It is important to note that communication and information between field missions and Headquarters should be open and immediate in order to make it possible to update data. Furthermore, to the degree that the gender perspective is entrenched in the context of armed conflicts, associated problems come to light, such as the lack of prevention and protection against abuse and all kinds of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, as was eloquently indicated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at this meeting.

In that regard, El Salvador agrees with other delegations and civil society organizations that the Secretary-General should be asked to include more systematically in all his reports on conflict situations broad information on acts of sexual violence and other gender-based acts against women and girls.

El Salvador recognizes the progress that has been made with regard to the mandates of peacekeeping operations, as many of them now include an express mandate on women, peace and security, as is the case of Libya, South Sudan, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Darfur, Burundi, Haiti and Afghanistan.

El Salvador also recognizes and encourages the important role that can continue to be played in the future by United Nations Women, which has a special mandate to deal with this issue in a broad, comprehensive fashion.

To conclude, allow me to reiterate the Government of El Salvador's political will to continue making progress in promoting and implementing resolution 1325 (2000), as well as in strengthening the political participation of women in decision-making processes and in all areas affecting their lives.