

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Carlos Enrique García González, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

Allow me to express my delegation's thanks for your timely initiative, Mr. President, to convene this open Security Council debate to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. This initiative under Uganda's presidency this month accurately reflects the relevance of this question for developing countries. I take this opportunity to welcome the presence of Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet here today and reiterate our congratulations for her appointment as the head of UN Women. We wish her every success in her work and assure her of our cooperation in fulfilling her mandate.

The Government of El Salvador acknowledges and values the progress made thus far, both by the international community as a whole and by Member States in particular, in reaffirming the important role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding. These efforts also reaffirm the need for women to participate on an equal footing and to be fully involved in all initiatives aimed at maintaining and promoting peace and security, as well as the importance of increasing their participation in decision-making processes for conflict prevention and resolution.

El Salvador welcomes the evolution of this historic resolution and the subsequent adoption by the Council of resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1882 (2009) on the prevention and response to sexual violence in conflicts and resolution 1888 (2009) on the participation of women in peacebuilding. We see those resolutions as crucial elements for confronting the challenges and obstacles to the full participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as in public life after conflict.

El Salvador acknowledges and welcomes the important contribution made by the Peacebuilding Commission to efforts to promote and strengthen the participation of women in peacebuilding following conflict. We also welcome the efforts made on a daily basis by civil society organizations, especially women's movements, aimed at incorporating the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. We hope for an increase in women's representation at all levels of institutional decision-making, as well as in national, regional and international mechanisms, to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts through a renewed effort aimed at encouraging concrete action that promotes a more strategic and systematic approach to this important question.

El Salvador, as a troop-contributing country, is making a significant contribution, relatively speaking, to peacekeeping operations in terms of members of its armed forces and the national civil police force. At the same time, we are also endeavouring to promote the gender perspective and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) within those national institutions.

In addition, through the El Salvador Institute for the Advancement of Women, we are promoting a strategic re-alignment, as of 1 June 2009, to bring about a society with full gender equality by reducing the gender gap and by combating all forms of violence against women. In that regard, we have drawn up and are implementing the second national policy for women, which includes the priorities of the five-year development plan and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the framework of our previous national policy for women.

To conclude, allow me to share the following thoughts with Council members. In our view, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) presents a valuable opportunity to establish a bridge between the Security Council and the General Assembly in terms of the participation and inclusion of women in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding. It is now time for comprehensive cooperation between these main bodies of the United Nations on this question, for the benefit of women, girls and all the peoples of the world.