

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
5th October 2009, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Ambassador Mr. Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Mexico

Our thanks go to the Secretary-General for his report on women and peace and security (S/2009/465), as well as to Deputy Secretary-General Migiro for her statement. My thanks go also to Ms. Rachel N. Mayanja, Ms. Inés Alberdi and Ms. Asha Haji Elmi Amin.

We congratulate the delegation of the United States for its successful presidency of the Security Council in September, and we wish the Vietnamese delegation every success during its presidency this month.

Almost 10 years have passed since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), and, while some progress has been made, the realities faced by women in conflict and post-conflict situations continue to be a matter of concern. Armed conflict continues to have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, and sexual violence continues to destroy the lives of thousands of them. We reiterate our appeal that in any conflict situation the parties recognize that it is essential under all circumstances to respect and ensure respect for the provisions of international humanitarian law.

Mexico is of the view that resolutions 1882 (2009) and 1888 (2009), which address sexual violence in armed conflict, constitute a positive step in strengthening applicable international law with respect to the protection of civilian populations in armed conflict, in particular the most vulnerable groups affected by sexual violence, including women and children.

The challenge now is to ensure full implementation on the ground, and resolution 1889 (2009), which we adopted this morning, is a very valuable contribution in that regard. We hope that the special representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in armed conflict and the team of experts — both called for in last week's resolution 1888 (2009) — will contribute to progress in this area.

We recognize the efforts being made by the United Nations Development Programme, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in promoting the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We hope that the outcome of negotiations on the new gender entity will expedite progress, which has been slow thus far, on the implementation of that resolution.

Mexico reaffirms how important it is that the mandates of peacekeeping missions include measures to support Governments in formulating national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

We can wait no longer for the international community to give due priority to the role of women as active protagonists, not solely as victims, in order to remedy their marginal participation in peace processes and mediation. We fully support the Secretary-General appeal for a strategy to increase the number of women in senior United Nations positions, in particular as special representatives, special envoys, high-level mediators and officials in peacekeeping and political missions.

We also view it as especially important to request of the Secretary-General a series of indicators in order to better and more effectively assess the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We consider that this would be a valuable tool that will enable us to make progress next year, when we mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000).

The lack of follow-up mechanisms for resolution 1325 (2000) has hampered the gathering of information about implementation on the ground. Mexico considers of particular importance the Secretary-General's call for assessment indicators to measure progress and shortcomings in the implementation of that resolution, and on that basis to take action to fill the gaps that have been identified. We also consider it appropriate to request the Secretary-General to include in all reports on conflict situations information on the impact on women and girls and their particular needs, as well as to identify the obstacles that stand in the way of meeting these needs.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate that our delegation truly believes that resolution 1889 (2009), adopted this morning, represents a significant step towards ensuring full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We have now ensured that, by 2010, we will have the necessary tools to allow us to better understand the challenges and obstacles to be overcome and, above all, the measures we must take to guarantee the full participation of women in conflict prevention and in the building of lasting peace.