

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict- Affected Situations, October 18th, 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Montaña, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Mexico would like to thank Azerbaijan for its work in coordinating this debate. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for presenting his recent report on the subject (S/2013/525), and we welcome the participation of the Executive Director of UN Women and civil society in today's dialogue.

My delegation commends the adoption today of resolution 2122 (2013), which continues building the institutional framework begun in 2000 with the historic resolution 1325 (2000).

The Secretary-General's report provides a road map for the action that all relevant stakeholders must take in order to continue to effectively include women in peace, development and in strengthening the state of development we all live in. Mexico welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation to move up the holding of a high-level meeting in 2015 with the aim of reviewing the progress made regionally and nationally in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). We believe that from a preventive perspective of shared responsibility in the face of threats to international peace and security, the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) continue to apply and to have relevance for the community of nations.

My country is currently moving forward with a review process of our legal and institutional framework with the aim of ensuring its conformity with a plan of action for comprehensive implementation of the resolution. The process seeks to systematize some of the activities that are already being developed at the internal level, such as educating the armed forces on women's rights. In order to do so, we are in regular contact with various partners so as to learn the best practices already being used for similar action plans. Concerning political rights, our executive authorities recently proposed an initiative to the legislature aimed at ensuring women's equitable representation in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. With regard to the United Nations mandate, we are striving to increase the number of women on the lists of candidates for high-level posts, particularly those having to do with political operations and, of course, peacekeeping.

Mexico welcomes the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, and commends the initiative taken to formulate an international protocol for investigating and documenting sexual violence in conflict. We assure the Council that we will continue to support such efforts. Similarly, we consider it vital to continue to push for women's participation in mediation processes and peace agreement and ceasefire negotiations so as to encourage national reconciliation, based on respect for and enjoyment of the human, social and civil rights of the most vulnerable groups. We believe it essential to support national reconciliation and dialogue processes with judicial change that ensures that justice is impartially meted out, and including programmes for repairing and reconstructing the social fabric.

Strengthening inclusive and solid societies must be an essential part in re-establishing the rule of law, both in societies living with armed conflict and those that are undergoing the process of reconstruction and reconciliation. There can be no lasting peace without justice, and it is therefore vital to ensure that national dialogue and reconciliation processes contribute effectively to fighting impunity and ensuring not only that women take part in the processes of reform of the security and justice systems but that they are also full participants in those systems once they are reformed.

In that regard, we note the Declaration facilitated by Mexico and Denmark and adopted at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels in September 2012. The text enshrines "the importance of ensuring that women...fully enjoy the benefits of the rule of law" (*General Assembly resolution 67/1, para. 16*), and we committed to ensuring their full participation in institutions of governance and the judicial system.

For my country, persistence continues to be the linchpin for decision-making and implementing action on the agenda for women and peace and security.