

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Pintado, Representative of Mexico

First and foremost, Madam President, I should like to thank you for having convened this important open debate. I should like also to thank the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the President of the Economic and Social Council, and the representative of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for their important briefings.

Through the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, the United Nations has been able to develop, integrate and fine-tune the tools available to it to address a gender perspective in a multidimensional manner, by recognizing the importance of women's active participation in the various stages of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in peacekeeping, reconstruction and peacebuilding.

We welcome in particular the establishment of UN-Women, the agency that lies at the heart of the gender architecture of the Organization, as it coordinates all efforts undertaken in this field.

We welcome also the inclusion of specific indicators in the reports of the Secretary-General, as is the case in the report before us today (S/2011/598*), as well as the seven-point action plan. Unfortunately, however, as a result of the unequal implementation of resolutions dealing with the gender architecture, there exist significant gaps. One of the clearest examples of this is the persistence of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

My delegation is concerned about the identification of patterns of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations in many States and regions. Sexual violence as a tactic of war stokes crises, fuels the continuation of armed conflict, promotes the displacement of people, limits subsistence activities and reduces opportunities for development. In order to avert that phenomenon, it is pivotal that peacekeeping mission personnel as well as mediation and electoral assistance teams have sufficient specialized expertise in the field of gender and sexual violence and also have the capacity to act in a timely manner so as to initiate the relevant investigations.

There can be no lasting peace unless we guarantee access to justice as well as accountability and support the fight against impunity. In that regard, I wish to recall that the International Criminal Court could exercise its jurisdiction with regard to such crimes.

We are also concerned about the low level of participation by women in peace negotiations. The exclusion of women and the lack of experts in gender matters in negotiations perpetuate inequality. As is indicated in the current report of the Secretary-General, issues related to women tend to be addressed at the later stages of conflict prevention and mediation. The Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded to outstanding women in this field this year undoubtedly sends a positive message, but it is nonetheless insufficient.

The presence of additional female peacekeepers and female staff in peacebuilding operations, at both the military police and civilian levels, would have a clear positive effect. It is therefore necessary to increase the number of women who hold high-ranking posts in such operations. We welcome the

decision of the Peacebuilding Fund to allocate \$5 million to the gender promotion initiative; we hope that this will lead to tangible results in the short term.

We believe that the provisions of these Security Council resolutions are relevant at both the international and national levels. In Mexico, following an approach to prevent violence, the institutions that are responsible for monitoring security, safety and law enforcement receive ongoing training in the field of gender affairs. As a result, more women have become involved in the administration of justice, with the notable example of the appointment of the Attorney- General, Marisela Morales — the first Mexican woman to hold this important post. In turn, the national defence agency has trained almost 80,000 personnel in the field of gender equity, and this year will see the graduation of the first female air force pilot. In the diplomatic sphere, a high number of female representatives have had a bearing on my country's foreign policy, starting with Ms. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General are highly useful in identifying existing shortcomings in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and in ensuring the harmonization and coordination of United Nations efforts in that area.

Mexico will continue to support the protection, empowerment and participation of women in decision-making processes, as we are fully convinced that women are key stakeholders in strengthening the three pillars of lasting peace, namely, economic recovery; social cohesion and political legitimacy. The commitment of States Members of the United Nations and of civil society is essential in order to continue to strengthen the central role played by women in the maintenance of international peace and security.