

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. De Alba Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations.

Allow me to begin by commending you, Mr. President, on your sterling leadership of the presidency of the Council for this month, and your clear sense of responsibility, including your presence here at this hour. Allow me to also commend you for the initiative to hold this debate on women and peace and security and to provide follow-up to the efforts of the delegation of Guatemala.

Mexico welcomes the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/732) and the subsequent statements by Ms. Bachelet, Ms. Diop and Mr. Eliasson this morning. We would also like to join other delegations in underscoring the importance of today's debate.

Twelve years after the historic adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), Mexico recognizes the progress that has been made in creating favourable conditions for the participation of women in all phases of peace processes. The deployment of women gender advisers in all peacekeeping operations is a very positive development that we hope to see replicated in peacebuilding processes. We also recognize that the inclusion of early warning and response mechanisms in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions play a very important role.

As a member of the Group of Friends of Mediation, my delegation welcomes in particular the inclusion of the gender dimension in the most recent report of the Secretary-General (A/66/811) on the strengthening of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution as well as in guidelines for effective mediation. While recognizing the progress that has been achieved, it is also important to recognize the challenges and the work that remain, in particular with respect to the implementation of the resolution. We must identify additional actions that promote the participation of women's organizations in the peace processes and peace accords, an issue that has quite rightly been identified as central to the debate.

Unfortunately, peace processes and accords rarely include concrete provisions for promoting access to justice and women's representation in government bodies to enable inclusive access to power or prevent and punish sexual violence. This perpetuates the exclusion and vulnerable conditions in which half of the population lives and is an obstacle to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The inclusion of women's organizations in peace processes and agreements is therefore necessary in order to overcome the injustices that often predate conflict situations, and offers a valuable opportunity to avoid structural problems of exclusion in the design of national institutions.

It is evident, in reading the concept paper circulated by Guatemala (S/2012/774, annex), that the work of women's organizations is truly admirable, especially since they are often intentionally excluded from official processes and political dialogue and yet are able to move forward. We recognize the importance of the work of such non-governmental organizations from the very onset of these processes. We echo the recommendation of the Secretary-General that his envoys, representatives and mediators consult with women's organizations and with those affected by crisis — the victims.

Mexico also believes it essential that we include the gender dimension in all phases of building our new societies, in particular in the electoral processes. This is important not just when votes are cast, but also during the process of electoral observation and in subsequent political representation.

Regarding the transition of United Nations presences, including the drawdown of peacekeeping operations, we must ensure that these transition processes do not entail a reduction in the attention given to this topic, or put at risk the protection and security of women.

We have immense challenges ahead when it comes to fully including women in processes to promote peace and security. The inclusion of women in conflict resolution and in post-conflict situations is without a doubt essential. It is the only way that we will achieve the full inclusion of women on an equal footing for the building of societies that have better prospects for development and peace.