

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security- 23 October 2007
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NICARAGUA

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Nicaragua wishes to commend you, Mr. President, the Permanent Representative of the fraternal country of Ghana, for the initiative of holding this open debate in the Security Council. Likewise, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on women and peace and security, which described the achievements in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and the institutional and organizational difficulties that need to be overcome in the next plan of action in order to fulfil that resolution.

Women throughout the ages have played a very important role in the decisions that have changed the course of history. Many of those women have been forgotten, omitted from historical accounts by chroniclers who disregarded their participation in the transformation of ideas and societies. Some years ago, the words “women and peace and security” would only bring to mind women as victims of conflict and the objects of sexual violence. Now, they must be recognized as a decisive factor in peace negotiation processes, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

In Nicaragua, women have held a key role, despite the difficult situation in which they have lived, in the most important decisions that have affected our society. They have been a vital element in the reconciliation of family members and of members of society that fought on opposing sides in the war of foreign aggression. Nicaraguan women have distinguished themselves as leading actors in achieving peace and reconciliation. As companions, mothers, sisters and members of society in general, they have succeeded in moving towards full participation in the decision-making process on projects and programmes that affect their community and their own lives, at all phases of the process, from diagnosis and planning to monitoring and evaluation. That has been a key factor in the successful reconstruction process in our country. That experience proves that it is possible to provide women with the space in which to work to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development.

We are grateful to all the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and entities of the United Nations system involved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and we urge them to continue to incorporate the gender perspective in all of their activities, so as to ensure that women participate in decision-making processes at all levels on matters of peace and security.

We are exceedingly concerned by the complaints regarding rape in peacekeeping operations, and we would invite all the actors involved to comply with the policy of zero tolerance for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. We join in the call for an end to be put to impunity. Nicaragua believes that the Secretary-General must continue to step up his efforts to increase the presence of women at all levels in peacekeeping operations, including the highest ranks. We are sure that such measures will help to reduce crimes of a sexual nature.

We urge that more effective measures be considered by both the General Assembly and the Security Council aimed at implementing resolution 1325 (2000). We join in the appeal to the international community to play a leading role in seeking to ensure that women participate in international peace and security processes, while at the same time

recognizing that States bear the major responsibility for promoting and implementing national policies that allow for the empowerment of women in that area. Without the inclusion and participation of women in all decisionmaking processes, we will never attain the international peace and security for which we all yearn.