

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, (Conflict Related Sexual Violence)
23 February 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E Román-Morey, Permanent Representative of Peru

I am grateful for the initiative to hold an open debate in the Security Council on the role of women with regard to peace and security.

Resolution 1325 (2000) was a fundamental milestone in international law. Since it was adopted, the issue of women's role with regard to peace and security has had an important place on the Council's agenda, and therefore has a significant and crucial role in achieving the Council's goals.

The resolution was a starting point for subsequent developments on the issue in the Security Council aimed at ensuring women's participation in maintaining and strengthening peace and in combating all forms of violence against women and girls, especially sexual and gender-based violence. Along with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) provide the international community with the legal framework to address the needs and rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Women are clearly decisive actors at every stage of the peace building process in the long term. It is therefore necessary to promote their full participation as an integral part of efforts to establish, maintain and strengthen peace. We therefore welcome the trend to systematically incorporate the gender perspective in the Security Council's work, especially in mission mandates, as well as the involvement of women in conflict resolution processes.

My country has a long history of sending women military observers to various peacekeeping operations. I am pleased to announce that, last November, Peru deployed its first female personnel to peacekeeping operations. Their numbers will continue to increase in future operations.

We must in no way allow violence against women and sexual violence to be seen as an inevitable part of armed conflicts. In that regard, we are pleased that the Secretary-General has implemented a zero-tolerance policy in peacekeeping operations for all forms of violence against women, gender violence and in particular violence and sexual abuse. We also welcome his recent report on the issue that recognizes the important work that has been done jointly by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN-Women and various actors of the United Nations system with regard to the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to combat this scourge, which is essential in order to respond in a timely and adequate manner to situations of sexual violence.

My country also supports the work of UN-Women, and we encourage it to continue to contribute decisively to the implementation of resolutions relating to peace and security. Peru also welcomes the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on aspects linked to women, peace and security, especially relating to the prevention of sexual violence.

The fight against impunity for all forms of gender violence is essential to peace building processes. It is S/PV.6722 (Resumption 1) 12-23937 25 therefore necessary that States strengthen their judicial systems so that such cases can be duly and promptly brought to trial, including, whenever possible, women in those systems. It will also be important in that respect to continue to promote the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We agree with the Secretary-General that women are decisive players in the context of the three pillars required for lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. In that

context, in post-conflict stages it is vital that stress be put on strengthening the rule of law as well as the social, economic and political empowerment of women, without any discrimination, ensuring their full integration into the community and their full political participation.

Peru believes that the high-level consideration of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) proposed for 2015 would be an opportunity to consider, in a comprehensive manner, the progress made by the United Nations system and the measures promoted and adopted by Member States in priority prevention areas, which are participation, protection, assistance and recovery, and to consider the establishment of a working group charged with following up that resolution.

Since resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted, we have made progress in recognizing the importance of women's participation in peace and security. However, many challenges remain to which we must respond, and we must work jointly to ensure that women and girls can fully and without discrimination exercise their personal, employment, economic and social rights, which are recognized in international instruments, including their right to live without fear, without violence, with respect and with equal opportunities.