

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

Statement by Mrs. Carrion, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

(spoke in Spanish): My delegation thanks you, Sir, for convening this debate on women, the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict situations, which focuses on an important aspect of the women, peace and security agenda.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the women, peace and security agenda has clearly advanced in terms of scope and depth, and now occupies an important place in the realm of legal instruments, policies and specific actions of the Organization in defending the importance of including a gender perspective in addressing the needs of women and girls in all conflict situations, and particularly in post- conflict reconstruction and recovery.

The natural synergy between participation and protection is probably the central aspect of resolution 1325 (2000). The role of women in bringing peace and security to conflict situations and their greater participation in post-conflict processes and in transitional justice is crucial to laying the groundwork for sustainable peace. We welcome the progress identified in the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/525), which reports on improvements in various national justice systems and the existence of more resources in international efforts, while recognizing that there is still a need for the greater participation of women in all mechanisms related to peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 2122 (2013) today, which joins other efforts of the Security Council to carry out a systematic follow up to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and to move towards the full participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

We value the efforts of UN WOMEN and the United Nations Development Programme and their initiatives to improve women's access to justice during and after conflicts, as reflected in the report before us today. We also value the critical role of civil society, particularly that of local women's groups that assist victims in various aspects of recovery, from health services to access to justice.

We believe that full accountability is crucial and requires a broad, multisectoral response that, apart from medical and psychological aspects and reparations, should also include a focus on social and economic reintegration for victims.

The United Nations system must continue to fight against the impunity of those responsible for such violations and promote national capacity-building, along with regional efforts, as well as international justice mechanisms and the work of organizations that defend women's human rights.

Peacekeeping operations are one of the most important aspects of the women and peace and security agenda. In recent years, such operations have gradually incorporated protection-of-civilian mandates, with special attention to women and girls. The progress has been significant, but there are still limitations in meeting the expectations of both local populations and the international community.

In that context, we would like to point out that Uruguay has been in the vanguard when it comes to including women into the armed forces, as reflected in the number of women deployed by the armed forces and by the national police in Uruguayan contingents to peacekeeping missions. Those professionals, always acting as volunteers, have performed remarkably and demonstrated significant levels of re-enlistment, thereby illustrating their commitment to the goals of the missions. That is why we would like to stress the importance of continuing to promote greater participation by women in the different areas and functions that are linked to peace processes, as they provide an undeniable qualitative contribution.