

Mr. Scappini Ricciardi (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, Sir, allow me to thank your delegation for having brought such an important issue for discussion before the Security Council.

The most important Security Council resolution on the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is now 15 years old. The Republic of Paraguay joins the commemoration of the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325 (2000). The resolution is important not only because it is the first to point out the inextricable link between gender equality and the participation of women in international peace and security, but also because it recognizes the particular impact of armed conflict on women and the role they play in peace processes and post-war rehabilitation.

The Republic of Paraguay, which has participated actively in peacekeeping operations since 1993, reaffirms its commitment to prevention, protection and the participation of women before, during and, where necessary, after conflicts. In this regard, the Government of Paraguay, taking into account its international commitments to contributing to peacebuilding and the need to integrate the gender perspective into conflict prevention, management and resolution, recently finalized its national action plan, which will allow it to implement the mandates set out in resolution 1325 (2000). The national action plan, which will be officially released later this month, is the fruit of the efforts and coordination carried out by various national institutions since 2012, including the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with the valuable support and continuing assistance of UN-Women, of which we are a faithful ally.

In 2015, our country has enjoyed the highest percentage of female participation in awareness programmes and training for peace operations. Some 27 per cent of participants are women, and we hope to see this percentage increase through the efforts of the relevant institutions to promote the greater participation of women in the contingents of peacekeeping missions in which Paraguay is a participant. The main obstacles that prevent women's full participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding can be linked to gender-based discrimination and women's economic and social exclusion, situations that entail the denial of women's rights. That is why it is so important to work to strengthen women's human rights from a perspective that includes devoting attention to their economic, social and cultural rights.

Numerous experiences in conflict and post-conflict situations have proven that the exclusion of women from peace processes not only undermines the promotion and protection of their human rights but also reduces the probabilities of lasting peace and future development for all the citizens of a given country.

The inclusion of a gender perspective in every aspect of peacebuilding, including conflict prevention, management and resolution, requires, first and foremost, the political will to include women in decision-making processes. Without the participation of women there can be neither a gender agenda nor political decisions that reflect a gender perspective.

As we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), we call on Member States to ensure that all resolutions and initiatives on women and peace and security are implemented with specific measures that ensure women's effective participation in peacebuilding activities under equitable conditions.