



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS



Costa Rican Chairmanship

**Joint Statement of the Human Security Network
in connection with the agenda item:**

“Women, Peace and Security”

Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
Open Debate of the Security Council
New York, December 16th, 2010

(Check against delivery)

**Declaración conjunta de la Red Informal de Seguridad Humana
en relación con el tema del programa:**

“Mujer, Paz y Seguridad”

Embajador Eduardo Ulibarri, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica
Debate Abierto del Consejo de Seguridad
Nueva York, 16 de Diciembre de 2010

(Cotejar con la alocución)

Madame President,

It is an honor for Costa Rica to speak today in its capacity as Chair of the Human Security Network (HSN). The network is a cross-regional group of countries, which includes Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, and South Africa as an observer.

On behalf of the members, I would like to express our appreciation for convening an open debate on this important topic and thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, Ms Margot Wallström, for the presentation of the report. The Human Security Network stresses the need to provide coherent and strategic leadership in the United Nations on the issue of “sexual violence in conflict”, including through the allocation of appropriate resources in implementing the mandate conferred on Ms. Wallström by the Security Council in its resolution 1888 (2009). We would like to express our support to Ms. Wallström and encourage her to build strong synergies with the UN operational system.

Less than two months ago we celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. On that occasion we emphasized that this milestone resolution has greatly contributed to an increased political focus on the role and contribution of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding, including the issue of sexual violence in conflicts. Unfortunately, progress towards the implementation of cross-cutting gender commitments, and especially with the aim of curbing, punishing perpetrators of and protecting against sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, has not been satisfactory. In this respect, as a step forward in the process, we welcome the progress made on Ms Wallström’s five-point priority agenda as described in the Secretary General’s report as well as her briefings on sexual violence provided to the Council.

The report *inter alia* highlights challenges posed by inaccurate information about sexual violence, inadequate preventive measures and the failure to end impunity. In light of these challenges, we strongly support the efforts of the United Nations system to establish monitoring, reporting and analysis arrangements with regards to conflict-related sexual violence. Timely, objective, accurate and reliable information, verified by the UN system, about conflict-related sexual violence is crucial for addressing this issue in a comprehensive and systematic manner and must be the basis for further action by the Security Council, including for adopting sanctions and other targeted measures, and for including in the SG's annual report to the Council detailed information on parties to armed conflict who are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence. As suggested in the report, the arrangements

should take into account experience and practice gained through the monitoring and reporting mechanism established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1612 and 1882 on children and armed conflict.

Sexual violence is unacceptable at any time, including by parties to armed conflict. We call on all parties to cease such acts and to make concrete commitments in this regard, as called for in the resolution adopted today.

All necessary steps, including targeted measures, must be taken to protect individuals, hold perpetrators accountable and provide remedy to victims. Ending impunity for perpetrators and those responsible in chains of command is imperative, including within the UN personnel. The Rome Statute's qualification of sexual-related crimes as potential "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity" constituted a major achievement in the fight against impunity. In this connection, we urge the Security Council to refer relevant cases to the International Criminal Court.

The Human Security Network also notes the recommendation regarding the adoption of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities by relevant sanctions committees. In this regard, the exchange of information of UN peacekeeping missions, the SRSG on children and armed conflict and the SRSG on sexual violence in conflict with the Security Council Sanctions Committees will be of great importance.

Madame President,

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that women's full enjoyment of all human rights has been a priority for the Human Security Network since its inception. We are committed to promoting and enhancing the role of women in peace processes. While it is crucial to this agenda that we maintain momentum in the fight against sexual violence, we also underline the importance of women's empowerment as part of the solution. Despite the adoption of resolution 1325 ten years ago, the participation of women in peace-related activities remains unsatisfactory. We must all continue to encourage the empowerment of women and their systematic inclusion and meaningful participation at all levels, in addition to their protection from violence. Sustainable peace is not possible without the participation of women. And without the participation of women to lay the foundations for sustainable peace, sustainable development may also be hindered in the future.

This year has been a very important one for gender equality and the empowerment of women. We particularly welcome the adoption of a new resolution on sexual violence in conflict. We undertake to use the momentum gained to strengthen our efforts to combat

sexual violence in the situations of armed conflict and its aftermath, and urge all relevant actors to do likewise. We do also express our hope that these efforts will be strengthened in a manner that will support a coherent and comprehensive UN response consistent with the conceptualization of the newly created UN Women.

Neither silence, nor tolerance or impunity are an option when facing the perpetrators. This is a message that should clearly emanate from this Security Council and one that must resonate with us all

Thank you, Madame President.