

Ms. Chan (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica congratulates Spain on having organized this debate and welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2242 (2015), which we co-sponsored. The adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) was a landmark in the history of the Organization. It marks a normative shift in the way we talk about women in the context of international peace and security. Resolution 1325 (2000) called upon Member States to prioritize women in peace and security processes and to stop talking about women as victims and, instead, to begin simultaneous conversations about the importance of promoting women's agency and participation. Resolution 1325 (2000) established a bold agenda in which gender equality forms the basis of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Despite the increased visibility of women in these processes, much work remains to be done in terms of impact. While a greater number of women participate in peace negotiations, nearly half of all peace agreements make no mention of women, and those that do, are often insubstantial. There may be an increase in the number of women's groups in the field, but women still remain especially vulnerable in conflict situations.

To remedy this disparity, the inclusion of women in peace and security processes must go beyond checking a box marked "women". Costa Rica believes that the full and effective participation of women means much more than inserting women in the existing security structures and concepts. The original intention of resolution 1325 (2000) was never to promote women soldiers, but rather to reap the rewards obtained when women are granted space to participate as equals in the search for solutions.

Costa Rica recognizes that the path towards complete implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is not an easy one. Just as there is not only one type of woman in the world, there is also no single best practice for operationalizing gender equality and women's security amid the myriad of distinct conditions on the ground. It is for this reason that we must work towards creating a women-inclusive system of operations on the basis of the normative agenda established by resolution 1325 (2000). An analysis of the disconnect between how the Security Council talks about women and how the wider United Nations community implements the women and peace and security agenda should be at the forefront of our debates as we move forward from this fifteenth anniversary of the resolution.

Costa Rica stands firmly in support of holistic approaches that enable women to participate in addressing the root causes of conflict, but it is impossible to move forward without also ensuring justice for those who have been victims of the systemic violence that accompanies conflict and war. In 1998, during her tenure on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Costa Rican judge Elizabeth Odio Benito worked successfully to have rape and other forms of sexual assault be considered forms

of torture. Odio Benito's interpretation, based on the case of two Serbian women who were raped in the Celebici detention camp, is now an accepted principle of international law.

Costa Rica is outraged by the pervasiveness of sexual violence as a weapon of war and condemns the sexual misconduct and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeepers. Odio Benito's juridical legacy continues to form part of our efforts to have sexual violence as a weapon of war considered a crime against humanity, and this belief is reflected in our zero- tolerance position against impunity in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel.

On this fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), we do not wish the United Nations to be accused of being another institution with "binders full of women".