



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**2020 Review of the peacebuilding architecture.
Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding.**

Ambassador Egriselda López
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

Nueva York, May 1 of 2020

El Salvador welcomed the mechanisms established to review the architecture of the women, peace and security agenda, and agreed that redesigning strategies in this area would require careful analysis, but would also require additional resources and long-term investment, which would in itself contribute to ensuring the promotion of the role of women and girls as agents of sustainable peace.

El Salvador has a long-standing commitment to the development and implementation of the women, peace, and security agenda. It reaffirms its conviction that women are active agents of peace, protagonists in the prevention of conflicts, and the pursuit of effective and efficient responses to current global threats.

Mr. Chair.

Resolution 1325 (2000) calls for ensuring the full participation of women in peace processes to ensure a significant contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of

international peace and security. As one of the lessons learned of the El Salvador peace process in the early 1990s, there is a conviction that to achieve significant participation of women, it must be more than just a simple presence of women and girls in peace processes; instead, their presence must not only be ensured, but their voices must be heard and their suggestions included. Only with this approach can peace processes be transformative, inclusive, and sustainable.

El Salvador believes that the following recommendations could make a valuable contribution to the effective implementation of the mandates contained in resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions:

- a) Incorporate actions to make visible and integrate the role of women after armed conflicts, in their role as facilitators of the reconstruction of the social structure;
- b) Declare the rapes and sexual assaults against women, perpetrated by state and para-statal security forces as crimes against humanity, in order to be investigated by the highest international authorities;
- c) Declare an international day of "Women who build and consolidate peace " and urge States to take action to commemorate this day;
- d) Create indicators of progress to verify the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions;
- e) Linking resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Elimination of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention), and other instruments related to the protection of women's rights at international and regional levels; and
- f) Promote initiatives to recover the historical memory of women who have suffered violations against their rights in periods of conflict and provide them with support for their reintegration into society, including psychosocial support.

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador has a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, for the period 2017-2022, which reflects its willingness to implement the commitments undertaken and to define objectives in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. The Plan emphasizes the role of women in different social spheres, especially in the construction of peace and human security.

Additionally, it seeks to integrate the gender perspective into the Salvadorean participation in Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), through gender awareness training for members of the security forces, and measures that allow more women to participate in national and international security.

Following the change of government administration, and in close connection with current efforts against violence and insecurity, El Salvador had launched a process of inclusive dialogue to update its National Action Plan. This initiative is also expected to increase its efforts to create a more democratic and participative society.

El Salvador believes that it is crucial to provide more space in the United Nations system to enable countries, that have an action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, to share their experiences and learned lessons. Opening these mechanisms will not only make it easier to learn what other states have done, but also to establish cooperation initiatives that will help to promote the agenda for women, peace, and security at the regional and international levels.

Based on its experience, El Salvador believes it is important to address the following recommendations, to improve the implementation of national plans for the implementation of Agenda 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions:

- a) Create indicators of progress of the action plans for measuring the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions;
- b) Incorporate strategies and courses of action towards the restitution of the rights of women who were or are still affected by armed and/or social conflicts;
- c) Design a mechanism to guarantee the incorporation of actions to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions into the strategic planning of all State institutions, with specificity in their mandates;
- d) Guarantee appropriate financing for specific actions aimed at promoting the participation of women in peace processes, including the development of policies and strategies for development and consolidation of democracy;
- e) Promote specialized awareness programs for law enforcement bodies, in accordance with international law and post-conflict reconstruction; and
- f) Recognition of female survivors of massacres and their families.

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador has a long-standing commitment with peace processes of the United Nations and its Security Council. In 2019, the participation of women from the Salvadorian Armed Force and its National Civilian Police in the PKOs has increased by 40%.

Salvadoran women participate in different tasks such as: specialists in piloting and crewing helicopters, institutional capacity-building, health activities through specialized doctors; as well as the most recent deployment of our first Military Observer in the South Sudan Mission.

On this basis, El Salvador supports the creation of different mechanisms to continue increasing the participation of women in PKOs. In this regard, it welcomes the innovative leadership of the Elsie initiative of the Government of Canada.

Regarding the Secretary-General's latest report (2019), he highlighted the progress made in promoting the agenda on women, peace and security. However, it expresses concern about the data that register an increase in sexual and gender violence, the exclusion of women in political and mediation processes, as well as the number of attacks against women who participate in PKOs, women's rights defenders in countries and regions in conflict situations. For El Salvador it is a reminder that there is still much to be done.

For this reason, collective efforts must be increased to ensure that the objectives and commitments regarding women, peace and security are fulfilled. On that basis, El Salvador believes it is important to implement the following measures:

- a) Support initiatives that are aimed to increase the capacities of women to participate in peace processes;
- b) Promote the role of women as conflict mediators at all levels, particularly in the appointment of women as chief mediators in peace processes led by the United Nations; and
- c) Improve, as much as possible, the representation of women from civil society, as well as those relevant actors in the defense of women's rights, in order to promote a broader vision in the deliberations on this issue and in the discussions of the Security Council.

Furthermore, the experience of El Salvador has made it possible to understand that in order to have a higher participation of women in peacekeeping processes, in terms of quantity and quality, it is important to follow the following recommendations:

- a) In the construction of national and international strategies, all parties to the conflict must be involved (military women, combatants, civilian victims and girls, surviving victims and family members): Therefore, women's organizational spaces must be strengthened throughout their life cycle;

- b) Promote specialized studies on resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions through academia, with a view to enhancing the analysis of its implementation; and
- c) Reconstruct historical memory from the perspective of women in past and present armed conflicts.

In the meantime, the areas of application should seek integration and the creation of synergies between the same agenda and other initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030.

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador recognizes the contribution of other actors in this process, and considers it is important, in view of their experience and expertise, to work in partnership with them. They have, among other aspects, contributed to improving women's access to transitional justice mechanisms and have led to increased attention to survivor-centered approaches.

In that sense, is imperative to encourage the participation of civil society in the agenda of women, peace and security, as well as the efforts undertaken by those organizations promoting peace and defenders of human rights of women and girls.

The participation of the other relevant actors is essential to achieve comprehensive results. In that sense, the following actions could be undertaken, in order to stimulate and strengthen the work of the agenda:

- a) Provide spaces for dialogue, where the main contributions and obstacles that women have had in the construction and consolidation of peace in the countries of the world can be discussed.

- b) Establish legal, social and physical protection measures specifically for and with women in civil society who suffer threats, harassment, violence and hate speech from State and non-State actors;
- c) Monitoring the recommendations made by members of civil society who provide information;
- d) In order to ensure the successful promotion of the women's peace and security agenda and the defense of women's human rights by civil society, it is necessary to ensure their access to political and financial resources;
- e) Recognition of the work and contributions of 100 women worldwide in peacebuilding during the twentieth century; and
- f) Establish spaces to commemorate the victims and survivors of the past-armed conflict, in the countries that reached peace agreements.

Mr. Chair,

The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented series of challenges for all governments and stakeholders involved in achieving the objectives of women, peace and security agenda, and is leading, and expected to increase, the social, economic and political consequences, including those related to international peace and security.

The pandemic has the potential to exacerbate the situation in conflict-affected countries, threatening to lose the progress achieved after decades of work against poverty and increasing the already high levels of inequality within and between countries.

It is time to take action immediately to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 on the women, peace and security agenda. This response must address the immediate effects of the pandemic, taking into account that hate speech, inequality, and restrictions on access to healthcare, among other restrictions that undermine human rights and

limited women's progress in peace and security, which have been also exacerbated in the effort to contain its effects.

Finally, El Salvador would like to call for strategic integration of the women, peace, and security agenda into national, regional and global plans, policies, and guidelines. At the same time, to increase, according to national capacities, the financing of programs that allow for an increase in their participation in peace processes, development, and protection of human rights.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.