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**AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS OF THE PEACEBUILDING
COMMISSION
2020 REVIEW OF THE PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE**

**“FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN
PEACEBUILDING”**

APRIL-MAY 2020

Equality between women and men is a fundamental pillar of democratic societies, an unavoidable requirement for the construction of peaceful and sustainable societies. The Agenda on Women, Peace and Security incorporates the gender perspective in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, defending not only the right of women to participate in peace processes but the relationship between sustainable, operational and effective peace and the participation of women in the process of its construction.

As we well know, the adoption of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council, on Women, Peace and Security in 2000 was the culmination of a process that took two decades, the States are aware that without the support of civil society this would not have been possible. Therefore, we consider that the participation of other actors in charge of the matter is extremely important. Since it allows a comprehensive vision of the situation at local, national, regional and international levels, allowing States to help reduce the gaps in the effective implementation of each and every one of the provisions of resolution 1325. This applies in situations of conflict and post-conflict. From Guatemala's perspective, with the adoption of the identical resolutions of 2016 on the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, the United Nations Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) complemented the provisions of Resolution 1325.

At the end of October this year, we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of this resolution and two decades after accomplishing this achievement, we can see that the number of attacks against women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and peace builders continues to increase. Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be used as a weapon of war, and survivors of that violence are often left without justice or support. In 2019, millions of women and girls needed sexual and reproductive health services to save lives, and millions more required interventions to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. To date, there are a growing number of armed groups for whom gender inequality is a strategic objective, and misogyny is part of its core ideology.

Resolution 1325 and its nine related resolutions reaffirm the important role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, in peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-reconstruction of conflict and stresses the importance of their equitable and full participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. It is the





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responsibility of the States and this Organization to ensure effective compliance with the provisions of the resolutions referring to the Global Agenda for Women, Peace and Security.

That is why the decision in 2015 to include the gender issue in all the pillars of peacebuilding, has given us the opportunity to thoroughly review where we have advanced and what are the challenges that countries face for its full implementation. For example, in field missions, there is little participation of female elements, most of the women are in support of military personnel. However, we have been able to observe that in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which includes the creation of a National Action Plan, it has increased since the last revision in 2015, with a total of 83 United Nations member States that have complied with making one.

From Guatemala's perspective, National Action Plans (NAPs) provide a valuable tool for states to implement their commitments to the Women, Peace and Security agenda and for civil society to hold them accountable. NAPs are a practical document that detail the actions a government is taking to meet its obligations under the UN Security Council Women, Peace and Security resolutions, and other internationally agreed resolutions to ensure these commitments are translated into concrete policies and programmes.

NAPs provide an opportunity for national stakeholders to identify priorities, determine responsibilities, allocate resources, and initiate strategic actions within a defined time frame to deliver policies and programmes that respond to the needs and priorities of conflict-affected women.

At the national level, Guatemala wishes to emphasize that Article IV of its Constitution recognizes that Women and Men, regardless of their marital status, have equal opportunities and responsibilities. With this, the political, social and economic empowerment of women is essential to prevent violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. The safety and empowerment of women and girls are important to enable them to participate meaningfully in peace processes, conflict prevention and the reconstruction of societies, and therefore the protection and participation of women and girls, this are inextricably linked and mutually reinforced, as reflected in all resolutions on women, peace and security.

As we have previously mentioned, Guatemala considers that one of the best practices at the local and national level is the National Action Plans, in the particular case of my country it has emphatically contributed to the strengthening of national legislation, mechanisms for women and in the articulation of institutional initiatives that have generated internal changes in public administration. From this account, a first progress report was made during 2018, identifying among the main results, more than 80 initial, continuous and special training processes related to the human rights of women within national institutions.





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My country wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate our position regarding the prioritization of the empowerment of women for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and their very relevant role in the maintenance of peace. To date, Regional Training Command for Peacekeeping Operations, (CREOMPAZ) has trained 5,880 national elements and 1,652 foreigners with a total of 7,532 trained elements. In addition, female personnel (324 nationals and 77 from other countries) have been trained, for a total of 390 women.

Guatemala reaffirms the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities and underlines the importance of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. In this regard, a broad spectrum of political opinions and domestic actors, especially women and youth, must be heard.

Guatemala believes that the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can play a more active role in promoting the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities, taking into account the PBC's mandate and its unique characterist to serve as a bringe within the main bodies of the United Nations and the importance of the PBC to fulfil its mandate as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, civil society and women's groups, in order to provide recommendations and information to improve their coordination, to develop and share good practices in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including on institutio-building, and to ensure predictable financing to peacebuilding

