



**Statement of the Delegation of Mexico at the
Electronic consultation on the 2020 review:
Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding**

New York, April 29th, 2020.

Mr. President,

It has been 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1325, which represents an unquestionable milestone on the perspective we have on the consequences of armed conflict on women and girls, as well as the relevance of women's leadership and participation in the reconstruction of societies, the resolution of conflicts themselves and sustaining peace.

It has also been 25 years of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and today we confirm that full, meaningful and equal women's participation is crucial for the sustainable development of their communities and for the achievement of inclusive and peaceful societies. We echo the call of Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UNWOMEN, in the sense that societies respond better to their challenges and reverse their impact, when applying a gender lens and incorporating women and girls in the consideration of policies and the search of solutions.

It is important to highlight the importance of the implementation of the so called "twin" resolutions on Sustaining Peace of 2016, their follow up in 2018, and the Secretary-General's reports on peacebuilding and sustaining peace of 2018 and 2019, which laid out the foundation of a multi-sectorial and whole-of-system-approach to the peace *continuum*.

We welcome the PBC decisive actions to incorporate an inclusive approach and discussion of women's rights and gender issues in its agenda, as well as to focus in gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in its endeavors. Mexico is certain that this is an issue that must be systematically mainstreamed in a reviewed, more updated and efficient peacebuilding architecture.

We need to continue ensuring the full and effective implementation of the UN's commitment to the Seven-Point Action Plan to accelerate progress on the participation of women in peace building, including through increased financing for gender-responsive peace building and improved gender-transformative analysis and planning.

Mr. President,

We call to ensure full, equal and meaningful women's participation, including young women from diverse backgrounds, rural areas, indigenous communities, young women with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, in mediation processes, as well as in the negotiation of peace agreements and the cessation of hostilities, in order to promote national reconciliation based on the respect and application of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the active engagement of civil society, including grassroots organizations, feminist movements, women's human rights defenders and other stakeholders.

If women are victims of war, stripped of their lands, annihilated, tortured or raped, and they are also combatants, soldiers, police officers, health workers and first responders in the front lines, they must also be included to end conflict and violence, and their voices must be heard at the negotiation table. They must be recognized as active agents of peace.

Needless to say, we need to take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures, where applicable, in order to guarantee that women play a meaningful role in all stages of the decision-making processes, including at high-level positions in policy-making, conflict resolution, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding teams, addressing the structural and institutional barriers that may hinder their active participation and engagement. Let's not be content with just the symbolic inclusion of women in teams.

Mr. President,

At a national level, Mexico is committed to pursuing a Feminist Foreign Policy. In this regard, since the gradual reincorporation of Mexico in UN Peace Operations in 2015, a total of seventeen highly trained Mexican women have

been deployed in four UN Peace Operations performing both observer and planning functions in the headquarters of these Operations. Likewise, in different state institutions focused on peacekeeping, workshops were established to promote equal opportunities, and a more open vision, so that women can exercise and progress within the various existing hierarchies and thus be able to fulfill the same objective, which is to ensure the safeguarding and respect for Human Rights.

Mexico has reaffirmed to the UN its willingness to increase the training and substantive participation of women in Peace Operations, as part of its commitment to these Operations, as well as to advance in the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda.

The Mexican National Development Plan has gender equality as an essential component. With the support of UNWOMEN, Mexico is instrumenting a project (*Mucpaz -Mujeres constructoras de paz-*) to prevent gender and intra-family violence through comprehensive strategies to identify risk factors; the promotion of a gender equality culture; the creation of violence-free environments and fostering of a culture of peace.

Mr. President,

The ten solutions adopted by the Security Council in this area have contributed to strengthening the norms of this agenda. Nevertheless, the advent of COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing inequalities and has brought profound social, economic and political consequences, including the exacerbation of the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls

Besides the already concerning lack of equal access of women and girls to health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, social services, education and other critical support, challenges that need to be addressed, there is a need for specific gender-responsive policies to provide and enhance protection for all women, including against domestic, intimate partner and gender-based violence; recognizing negative social norms and gender stereotypes and combating conflict related violence; sexual violence; trafficking; sexual harassment; exploitation and abuse, phenomena which may increase with the imposition of much needed social distancing measures and movement

restrictions during the pandemic. We need to acknowledge this situation, gather better data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, and enforce a gender-transformative analysis to apply improved decisions to the post conflict scenarios in this regard.

We cannot envisage a better world, if half of its population, that is to say, all women and girls in all their diversity, are not taken into account. We need to recover from the current crisis with a renewed commitment not to leave anyone behind, and to fully realize that we need a more integrated, multi-sectorial and gender-transformative approach to conflict resolutions and sustaining peace, in which the leadership of women is a given, and not an aspiration.

Thank you.