



COMISION SOBRE LA CONDICION
JURIDICA Y SOCIAL DE LA MUJER

52ª Sesión

Intervención de la Señora Flavia García
Secretaria de Estado de la Mujer
de la República Dominicana

EN NOMBRE DEL GRUPO DE RIO

Nueva York, 25 de febrero de 2008.
Sírvese verificar contra lectura

COMMISSION FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

52nd Session

Statement by Mrs. Flavia Garcia
Secretary of State for Women

ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

New York, February 25, 2008
Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the Members of the Rio Group, composed by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and my own country, the Dominican Republic, on the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Having in mind the full relevance of the objectives of the Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on the Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), the Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Forms of Intolerance (Durban, 2001), and the Millenium Declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations (New York, 2000), as well as subsequent agreements, we reiterate the adherence of our governments to the international agenda contained in those texts.

Mr. Chairman,

The present session of the Commission on the Status of Women, besides allowing us to follow-up on the Fourth World Conference on Women, pays close attention to financing in favor of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the evaluation of the achievements reached in the application of the conclusions on the basis of equal participation in the prevention, management, and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace consolidation with a view to achieving the inclusion of gender perspective as a programmatic issue.

Since the celebration of the First World Conference on Women, that took place in Mexico in 1975, the United Nations has given impetus to the advancement of the universal recognition of women's rights and its instrumentation. However, the challenge has been a great one for Member States. In trying to achieve equal opportunities for women in basic areas such as nutrition, education, employment, health, peace, justice, security and democracy, we have faced deeply rooted social and cultural standards, but more so, several actors who not only see our efforts with indifference, but that have also intended to question the international commitments we have acquired.

The Rio Group, with a view to achieving the objectives agreed upon in Beijing, as well as other United Nations Summits and Conferences, including the Millenium Summit and regional agreements, proposes further strengthening the coordination

between United Nations agencies, civil society and States, taking into account the multidimensional and cross-cutting character of issues related to women. As an international community we should recognize that the obstacles for equity and equality are still numerous and wide-ranging, and that overcoming them requires a sustained and coordinated effort from all actors involved.

before we go on, we want to emphasize, the support received from the different United Nations agencies in this area, in particular the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Population Fund, at the same time urging them, in conformity with their mandates, to continue synergizing their efforts with national priorities in favor of the achievement of equality between women and men, in order to promote and protect the rights and the generation of opportunities for the women of our region, who, in therefore need to increase the resources at their disposal.

In this regard, the Rio Group praises the active role that play INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the CEDAW Committee, OSAGI, and DAW in the promotion of gender equity and empowerment of women all over the world, at the same time inviting them to reinforce their efforts directed at the strengthening of the coordination and complementarity of their actions in favor of women and the girl child

In a similar vein, the group recognizes, and expresses its satisfaction for the activities carried out in the field by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), in particular those related to cooperation programs with the national mechanisms for the advancement of women and with civil society.

We are pleased with, and congratulate, the continued fruitful work being carried out by INSTRAW and its director, particularly in the areas of gender investigation, governance and political participation, peace and security, remittances and through networks, as well as the efforts of its Executive Board directed toward institutional strengthening and the training and research activities that the Institute performs on behalf of women, particularly those in developing countries. We invite the Secretary-General to give his utmost support in order to guarantee the adequate operation of INSTRAW and its interaction with the other agencies of the Un system, in accordance with their respective mandates, and we also call on Member States to support through voluntary contributions, a strong base on which INSTRAW can be guaranteed the performance of all its projects and programs.

This is the proper occasion to express our interest in that gender structures in the frame of the reform which is under consideration in the United Nations system, be strengthened, taking as a starting point the decisions and agreements arising from the corresponding intergovernmental decision process

The United Nations is a driving force of our efforts to define a wide global agenda for peace and security, human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Our structures must count with the necessary resources in order to make gender equality effective in the entire world. It is necessary to incorporate the gender perspective as a high level mechanism, strong and with a presence in all countries, with all the methodologies, tools and the resources needed to make transversalization operational in all plans, programmes and projects of the United Nations system.

In order to identify the main obstacles to assure the potentiality of women and therefore be able to overcome them with specific strategies, we exhort States to establish cooperation mechanisms in their regions. In this sense we abide by the Quito Consensus, which was adopted in the Tenth Regional Conference of Latin American Women, because it contains specific measures in favor of women rights.

To fight against these obstacles, we consider it essential also to promote giving the support to activities for strengthening the national mechanisms for the advancement of women, which will enable the adoption of measures in all necessary areas, including legislative, budgeting and institutional reforms, to reinforce political incidence and the technical capacity of the mechanisms, so that they can comply with their mandates fully.

Mr. Chairman,

To achieve the common wellbeing is the main objective of any democratic State. The search for equity amongst personas or groups fo persons constitute a necessary objective for the economic and social development of countries. This explains and legitimizes what we support of the different efforts that are being carried out from both, the Government and the civil society to overcome this situation.

An important mechanism for the elimination of discrimination and social inequity is that of the public politics, understanding them as a work instrument by which it is intended to achieve, from the State, in a systematic and coherent manner, certain objectives of interest for the wellbeing of all society.

Public politics constitute the fundamental axle of the State actions, as an instrument to orient of its interventions, which also express the political will and the State proposals towards society. Therefore, to strengthen the compromised citizenship of women results necessarily from guaranteeing its participation in equality (with the same numbers and the same rights) in the slots of decision making and interests. It is also essential to include the gender perspective in a transversal manner in public politics, including when it is required, formulate specific affirmative politics on issues that boost the advancement of women.

These public politics with a focus on gender, not only should be directed to generate changes in the political and economic process, but also in the transformation of cultural role models. Only in the measure that equitable relationships are built in a personal level will it be possible to improve the quality of life of men and women.

The fundamental role of women in the processes of social transformation and in the progress of our countries, compromises us even more with the need to end with the discrimination that still affects them. In many instances, also, women are the object of multiple discrimination depending on a diversity of factors as gender, origin, culture, disability, age and poverty, amongst others. For example, indigenous women and afro descendents are more vulnerable to poverty and this obstructs the full realization of their rights. The Member States of the Rio Group are aware of the needs of these women groups and of the attention they require.

We reaffirm our commitment with the protection and the realization of the human rights of indigenous women, including the right to development and other civil, politic, economical and cultural rights, without discrimination.

On the other hand we recognize the magnitude and importance of the migratory phenomenon for the region, and the need to promote and protect the human rights and the fundamental freedom of the migrants, giving special emphasis to the situation and needs of the migrant workers

The protection and promotion of human rights, constitutes an indispensable frame to approach such important thematic issues, as gender equality, the non discrimination and the elimination of violence, which constitutes the pillars for the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This is why our Governments are committed with a culture of respect to the human rights of

women and are propelling public politics that guarantee the full exercise of these rights.

Mr. Chairman:

Acts of violence, whether they occur in the public or in the private lives of women, constitute a violation of their human rights. One of the main goals of the countries from our region is to design suitable politics to eliminate all forms of violence against women, in particular the violence within the family, both physical and psychological. Hence, these politics must prioritize the programs to prevent and eliminate the violence against women, provide the attention, the treatment and recovery of the victims, the integration of men and boys in such programs, the communitarian campaigns of public education and the strengthening of social services. We will not tolerate any form of violence against women and girls.

The Group also worries about the increase in the phenomenon of illegal traffic of migrants, people trade, in particular of women, girls and adolescents and in the modality of sexual exploitation, commercial and labour related in face to the lack of opportunities and poverty in our region. This phenomenon can only be prevented and eliminated with a decisive action, coordinated and collective at the national and international levels, within the frame of the respect to the human rights of the victims.

The eradication of poverty constitutes a priority challenge in which it is crucial to grant women a central panel in the elaboration of strategies and the development of their capabilities, as well as the carrying out of politics and programs designed for said purposes. We work towards overcoming poverty. The Rio Group understands that public politics are required to promote, in conditions of equality, the access to employment, means of production, the resources, credit and to training, to increment production and to work, and above all we deem important to integrate the aspects of gender and equality to the debate on climate change and to the plans to adapt to such impact.

Mr. Chairman:

The Rio Group recognizes the decisive role that women play in the construction, the maintenance, reconstruction and consolidation of peace post conflict. The contributions of women to the process of peace and the creation of associations for the peace have been amply acknowledged in different forums of the United Nations. We support that women receive training in order to facilitate their more active participation in national initiatives and when appropriate in regional and international initiatives as peace agents. We express our rejection to the different forms of violence to which women and girls are subjected in any situation.

Mr. Chairman:

The Rio Group is hopeful that this exercise will help to identify the axes where we still have pending assignments and to reflect with a starting point from the exchange of experiences and the good practices on ways to face the outstanding challenges.

I thank you.