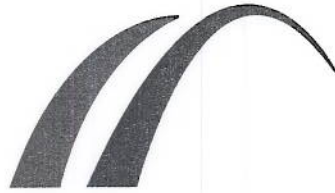


PERMANENT MISSION OF



PARAGUAY

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

***FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)***

General Debate: “Analysis on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special Session of the General Assembly – Exchange of Experiences and good practices on the implementation of the Platform for Action, with the aim of overcoming the remaining obstacles and the new challenges”.

New York, 24 February 2011

Intervention by

***Mrs. TERESITA SILVERO
Head of Cabinet***

Ministry of Women Affairs

Republic of Paraguay

(check against delivery)

“Bicentenario de la Independencia Nacional 1811 - 2011”

Mister President, distinguished delegates (ladies and gentleman),

On behalf of the Paraguayan Delegation I would like to express my congratulations on your appointment to the Presidency, as well as to the other members of the Board of this Commission, wishing you all a successful and productive performance while conducting your tasks.

I would like to Express the Paraguayan delegation adherence to the interventions formulated by the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Argentina on behalf of the Group of the 77 and China, and by the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Chile, on behalf of the Rio Group.

The Republic of Paraguay reaffirms its commitment on the Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action, in this occasion of the 55 Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which coincides with a very significant year for us, since we are celebrating the Bicentenary of our Independence.

Mister President, ministers (ladies and gentlemen), delegates (ladies and gentleman), and distinguished representatives of the civil society:

One of the priorities in the governmental service of President Don Fernando Lugo Méndez, is to improve the quality of life of the population, with a special emphasis on those in situation of vulnerability.

On behalf of the Paraguayan Delegation, I would like to share with you all, the main achievements attained in year 2010.

The road map followed by the la Secretaría de la Mujer de la Presidencia de la República (SMPR) is defined by the Third National Plan of Equality between men and Women (2008/2017) which is organized according to the **Strategic Goals of the Beijing Platform for Action**.

According to the institutional mission, the Women Secretariat (SM) is the public mechanism for the advancement of women. The implementation priorities are related wit the better positioning of the National Plan of Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men (**PNIO**) as a public policy; strengthening of prevention, eradication and punishment of violence against women and trafficking in persons; a better position to the international mechanisms of women, the definition and implementation of participatory management models in public institutions at central and local levels, improvement of information and communication systems, the approach to the media and civil society partnerships.

The Proposal of National Policy for Social Development, has as a first Axis the Quality of Life for all Women and Men, and it's committed to achieve universality in the access to the goods and social services provided by the Government. These services include efficient and accessible mechanisms

to prevent, sanction and eradicate all forms of gender and age violence, and it's exactly here where the SM (Secretariat for Women) has made its greatest effort.

Mister President,

According to the results obtained during the year 2010, the greatest achievements were observed in the following:

- i) Institutional strengthening in terms of a better articulation among the different departments in order to attain an integral attention, socializing internal information, avoiding efforts duplication, improving internal control system and administrative procedures;
- ii) A better position of the SM before International Institutions, particularly those to which Paraguay has to inform on the application of the Conventions for the advancement of women and the protection of their rights. (CEDAW, Belem do Pará among others);
- iii) Expansion of the supply of public services for the prevention, attention and integral protection to women under situation of gender violence or people trafficking, through the training and professionalization of the staff at the centers of attention which handled more than 2,500 cases, the strengthening of the shelter for victims of people trafficking and the opening of the first shelter for women in situation of violence and their children;
- iv) Coordinated interinstitutional work with the Ministry of Interior for the habilitation of 6 specialized police stations with their respective Divisions for the Care Services of women, boys, girls, and teenagers, suffering from violence, training of 340 agents of the national police and 224 officials (men and women) in the area of justice and professionals of the civil society;
- v) Habilitation of 5 care centers specialized for cases of family violence victims, as a result of the Joint work with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.
- vi) Strengthening of the Program for Equal Opportunities for Women in Education (PRIOME), inclusion of gender perspective in the National Education Plan 2024, in the book texts of the 3rd Cycle of Elementary Education, and the studies programs of the Initial Teachers Training of the Higher Institute of Education;
- vii) The signing of an Agreement between the Women's Bureau, Supreme Court of Justice and the gender commissions of both Houses in the National Congress) for the preparation of an integral Bill to prevent, sanction, and eradicate violence against women. (December 20th, 2010).

Mister President,

It is clear to see, through all the above actions, that today in Paraguay, there is a strong option to promote the advancement of women by the means of public policies, with a comprehensive focus on rights.

The extension of public policies with a gender perspective can also be observed in the work developed with the Secretariats of Women of the 17 Governorates of the country, and 15 Municipal Secretariats in the Department of Itapua. Today, 121 Towns of the country have a Municipal Women's Bureau.

Although in a more incipient way, there has also been an advancement in the area of access to economic resources (one of the most difficult to access for the promotion of women), through over 7,000 credit operations with revolving funds, research on women as a food producer and 167 rural female technicians, planners and managers of rural extension trained for the application of a specific type policy for rural women. The Health Insurance of the Social Welfare Institution for the first time in 2010, covers the female household workers in the whole country.

Exercising its guiding role in the policies towards women, the SM encouraged as well the **creation of gender mechanisms** within other institutions of the Executive Power: it promoted the creation of the Gender Secretariat of the Judiciary Power and it has designed a system for the recollection and processing of gender and age disaggregated statistics for the Superior Court of Electoral Justice.

During the year 2010 we have worked for the professionalization of male and female officials of the Women's Bureau of the Presidency, for the installation of a strengthened institutional culture and in accordance to the governance principles sustained by the current government, for the comprehensiveness of its actions within the institution as well as in others, and for clearly spread the responsibility of the State with regards to the overcoming of obstacles promoting or perpetuating the subordination of women.

As an immediate Challenge, we admit that although there has been an advancement in the adequacy of legislation from the gender perspective, we still do not count with comprehensive laws for the prevention, protection and eradication of violence and people trafficking; several institutions collect data on women, but official statistics are not integrated within a unique information system with internationally comparable indicators; the department and municipal governments, have started to recognize the gender perspective, and they must advance towards the adoption of equality plans and the allocation of budgets to local policies towards women; while poor urban women and rural women are active participants in social inclusion programs (and poverty reduction) we must make them keep the same relevance in the economic and productive integration stages. The need to understand (and respect) the worldview from indigenous women represents the indispensable previous step to delineate friendly gender policies towards their culture. Lastly, but not least important we are facing the Challenge to strongly expand the coverage of goods and public services for the advancement of women, from the capital city to the other corners of the country.

Mr. President, I don't want to conclude this introduction without mentioning that we feel encouraged and supported by the creation of an instance at the highest level of the United Nations System which will be specifically handling gender issues. **UN Women means for the institutional mechanisms of women, a point of reference and support in order to consolidate the attained achievements; in order to avoid setbacks in the International commitments in the equality between men and women and in order to undertake concrete actions for the empowerment of women and girls in the whole world.**

Thank you very much.