

**MISION PERMANENTE DE
CHILE
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**



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Statement by the delegate of Chile

Ms. Belén Sapag Muñoz de la Peña

Sixty-fourth General Assembly

Third Committee

Item 62 (a) and (b)

“Advancement of Women”

New York, 12 October 2009

Intervención de la delegada de Chile

Sra. Belén Sapag Muñoz de la Peña

Sexagésimo cuarto Período de Sesiones de la Asamblea General

Tercera Comisión

Tema 62 (a) y (b):

“Adelanto de la Mujer”

Nueva York, 12 de Octubre de 2009

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Mr. Chairman,

Chile endorses the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group.

Gender equality and women's independence have been a major focus of the Government of H.E. President Michelle Bachelet. Accordingly, as we near the end of her term of office as the first woman President of Chile, we reiterate our strong commitment to the rights of women and the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as our firm determination to contribute to the follow-up of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, Chile welcomes the recent reports by the Secretary-General that we are discussing under this item. In this connection, we are glad that, as noted in document A/64/151, since the publication in 2006 of the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, both States and the System have made progress in implementing some of the recommendations contained in the study, designed to achieve gender equality, to protect the human rights of women and to promote the prevention and elimination of physical and psychological violence against women.

In this connection, the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, co-sponsored by Chile, demonstrate that a strong commitment by States, the System and civil society can help to eradicate scourges which we used to think were intractable.

In this regard, we support all efforts to promote implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in conjunction with those resolutions and with Council resolution 1882 (2009) on children and armed conflict, which extends the Council's scope of action to include, inter alia, sexual violence against children. We also support the recommendation made in those texts that women should be present at the peace process negotiating tables.

Mr. Chairman, as a reflection of this co-sponsorship and in acknowledgement of the important role of women as agents of change and builders of peace, on 3 August this year Chile launched the National Action Plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women and peace and security". The goal of this Plan is comprehensive and cross-cutting implementation of measures to protect women in cases of armed conflict, as well as promotion of their participation in peace processes. This is a pioneering strategy in Latin America and demonstrates the country's determination fully to assume international responsibilities by incorporating a social and gender approach in peace operations.

Mr. Chairman, in this connection we welcome the increase in contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM through an inter-agency consultative process.

Mr. Chairman,

As noted in the report in document A/64/218, the Millennium Development Goal on which least progress has been made is the reduction of maternal mortality. We therefore support the partnerships and coordination of efforts at all levels to tackle the multifaceted causes of maternal mortality and urge States to fulfil the commitments and initiatives announced at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, which took place on 25 September 2008.

Chile's indicators in this regard are good and our country is implementing the regional campaign "Let us act now for women and their sons and daughters", consisting of a programme of horizontal cooperation designed to promote the reduction of maternal and child mortality in groups that are vulnerable because of their situation of poverty, geographical isolation or culture.

We appreciate the important contribution made by UNIFEM in our region and reiterate the concern expressed by Chile during the recent session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board about proposals designed to change the existing methodology for allocating resources to the UNIFEM regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would result in a reduction of their resources, with a consequent adverse effect on the sustainability of work in progress.

Mr. Chairman, Chile has participated actively in the negotiations on the reform of the gender structure of the United Nations system, since we believe that this is an essential prerequisite for guaranteeing respect for women's human rights and their full and egalitarian integration into society.

We therefore welcomed the recent adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/311 entitled "System-wide coherence" and hope soon to receive a comprehensive report. We trust that the necessary leadership and human resources will be provided for its preparation, so that the report can provide a structural proposal for implementation.

At the same time, in a desire to contribute to this issue and a belief in the importance of gender mainstreaming, Chile facilitated the Economic and Social Council resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" adopted on 28 July.

Mr. Chairman, today, with the slogan "We are all Chile", President Bachelet is reaffirming this priority by implementing the Gender Equity Agenda, entitled "Commitments of the Government of Chile to advance gender equity, 2006-2010".

Among the achievements of this agenda, mention may be made of pension reform with a gender perspective, guaranteeing the basic solidarity pension for housewives and the benefit for each biological or adopted child; increase in the number of day-care centres from 700 (the figure when President Bachelet took office) to over 4,000 at the end of her term of office; legislation guaranteeing the steady and gradual increase of the minimum wage of female domestic workers; 90 women's centres and 25 shelters for victims of serious family violence (women and children) fully operational.

Thank you.