



MÉXICO

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**65th SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ITEM 28**

“ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN”

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65th Session of the General Assembly to the United Nations
General discussion on the advancement of women,
Item 28 "Advancement of Women"

October 11, 2010

Mr. President,

Through you I thank the Secretary General for presenting the various reports that we have under consideration in this important issue, and I would like to join to what was said by the Permanent Representative of Chile on behalf of the Rio Group.

After fifteen years of the Declaration and Action Plan of Beijing and ten years after the Security Council adopted the resolution 1325, it is urgent to recognize that much remains to be done in order to ensure that women participate effectively in all areas of our societies and exercise their rights without discrimination and violence.

Women are still disproportionately affected by poverty, disease, natural disasters and armed conflicts. In many cases, women with disabilities, and indigenous or migrant women are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination.

We are confident that the establishment of the new entity "UN-Women" will increase the capacity of our organization to respond to the expectations of women worldwide, who are still waiting for the date in which the various commitments that we have taken on equality and gender equity will be accomplished.

The Government of Mexico would like to reiterate its congratulations to the Former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, on her appointment as head of the new gender entity. We are confident that her talent and experience will be useful at this stage of initiation and consolidation of "UN-Women."

"UN-Women" should strengthen the coordination of different agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations for its activities to adequately incorporate a gender perspective and promote the empowerment of women. In view of its universal mandate, "UN-Women" should develop strategic alliances and work in coordination with Member States in programs that respond to the particular situation of women in different regions of the world.

For the Government of Mexico the economic and social development of women and the promotion of their human rights are a high priority, for this reason, we have always supported the United Nations work performed in this field. Mexico will seek to strengthen the work of "UN-Women" in relevant governmental forums and through voluntary contributions made to UNIFEM and INSTRAW.

It is with this vision and the courage to work with all Member States of the Organization that Mexico has presented its candidacy to the new Executive Board of "UN-Women" and hope to have the support of the membership .

Mr. President,

Mexico is party to all the international and regional instruments aimed at promoting women's rights. Fulfilling our international obligations and cooperation with international human rights have resulted in better laws that seek to reduce inequality between women and men and the creation of institutions and public policies in order to combat discrimination and violence that unfortunately still affects a significant number of women in our country.

Mexico has submitted six national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Last month, Mexico referred its 7th and 8th consolidated reports to the Committee and we hope to engage in a frank and open dialogue with the experts of it.

Indeed, following the recommendations and decisions of international bodies, is that the Government of Mexico adopted the General Law on Access of Women to a Life Free of Violence and created the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women (CONAVIM).

The national legal framework also provides, among other relevant provisions, the General Law on Equality between Women and Men and the Law to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Currently, Mexico is working to harmonize the legal framework of the 31 states that make up the country.

Mr. President,

Convinced that the lack of equality before the law creates adverse effects on the enjoyment of all rights of women, is that Mexico and Colombia presented in the latest session of the Human Rights Council the resolution "Elimination of Discrimination against Women", which established a group of five independent experts on discrimination against women in law and practice.

The theme is essentially mandate cooperation with States and is based on the commitments that we have all taken to address the issue of universal concern. We are confident that the new Expert Group will work in coordination with other entities of the United Nations, including the CEDAW Committee and the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, to compile and disseminate best practices to eliminate discrimination against women before the law.

Mr. President,

There are many challenges and problems facing women and girls around the world, but one of the situations that require urgent attention by the international community is sexual violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict.

Women are important actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and represent an engine to rebuild. Although women and children are the main victims of violence, they have the strength and courage to be agents of change in their communities and promote national reconciliation.

The women are part of the solution to structural problems and conflicts, however, having no effective mechanisms and tools to ensure their participation is perpetuating inequality, holding the spiral of violence and delaying the same solution of conflicts.

The various United Nations bodies in attachment to their respective mandates and within their competence, should prevent these acts of violence, assist victims and work toward a comprehensive settlement of the underlying causes of conflict.

Examples of countries after facing a crisis situation that have managed to build equitable and inclusive societies, clearly show that the participation of women is essential to achieve more stable, prosperous and democratic societies.

Thank you very much,