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EXPERIENCES, LEARNINGS, AND GOOD PRACTICES ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



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ACRONYMS

ICRM	International Gender Cooperation Roundtable for Gender Equality in Mexico
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
INMUJERES	National Institute for Women
NAP	National Action Plan
CECOPAM	Joint Training Center for Mexican Peacekeeping Operations
EMGA	Coordination and Strategic Planning Unit of the General Staff of the Navy
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps
Tte. Cor.	Lieutenant colonel
Enfra.	Nurse
D.E.M.	Diplomado del Estado Mayor
CEDAW	Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
PROIGUALDAD	National Program for Equality between Women and Men
GTOMP	Working Group for Peacekeeping Operations
SEDENA	Ministry of National Defense
SEMAR	Ministry of Navy
SSPC	Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection
MUCPAZ	Women Peacebuilders
FARC	Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces
ICRC	International Red Cross Committee

PRESENTATION

EXPERIENCES, LEARNINGS, AND GOOD PRACTICES ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

This document is a report of two events that took place during 2020 within the framework of the activities of the International Cooperation Roundtable for Gender Equality in Mexico (ICRM) on the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The ICRM was established in July 2018 as an informal space for exchange and strategic coordination with the international community for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Mexico. The ICRM has been chaired by the Following Embassies France (2018-2019), Ireland (2019-2020) and now Spain (2020-2021), with UN Women as the Technical Secretariat.

In order to contribute to the dialogue and exchange of learning and good practices that could be of use to the Mexican authorities in the process of building their own agenda on women, peace and security, the Irish Embassy and UN Women carried out different activities in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) and the Embassies members of ICRM.

In this document you will find the content and key points of the experiences presented at the Digital webinar: National plans on women, peace and security: Advantages, learning and challenges in the current global scenarios, which took place on June 26, 2020 and the report on the Event Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which took place on October 12 and 13, 2020.

WELCOME

WORDS FROM AMBASSADOR BARBARA JONES, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO MEXICO (2017-2020)

The year 2020 commemorates two important milestones for the recognition of women and girls' rights on the multilateral agenda. Twenty-five years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform, and 20 years after the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, it is clear that these historic events have set the beginning of important achievements and actions for advancing women's rights and participation in building fairer, more peaceful, and equal societies. Several countries have already implemented National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security and are actively working to make them a reality. The Security Council Resolution 2538 was also adopted in 2020 to promote women's participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding actions.

The year 2020 also presented major challenges for gender equality in the world. Covid-19 pandemic and increased violence against women and girls around the world highlighted the need to prevent conflict and violence in all contexts, as well as the need to break down barriers that prevent women from accessing basic rights such as education, security, health, and well-being. At a time when women continue to experience sexual and gender-based violence on a recurring basis as an additional effect of armed conflict, and when women do not yet have sufficient participation in building peaceful societies, it is urgent that we act forcefully for conflict prevention and the protection of the most vulnerable people in situations of violence. This work must also be carried out from an inclusive perspective based on multilateralism and international cooperation.

In times of great difficulty like these, actions seeking cooperation and dialogue despite adversity are inspiring. The digital seminar National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security: Advantages, Learnings, and Challenges on the Current Global Scenario, and the event Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security are proof that the will to dialogue, cooperate, and share experiences to achieve peace and equality are even stronger than the worst crises. During these events, specialists from Canada, Chile, Germany, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Colombia, Ireland, and Mexico shared their knowledge and experience around the crucial need to end the differentiated impact faced by women in contexts of violence, as well as to boost their leadership in peacebuilding.

The dialogues and experiences of these two major events compiled in this publication are also a celebration of Mexico's leadership in advancing the Security Council Resolution 1325 by launching its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, as well as the adoption of its Feminist Foreign Policy. These and other major achievements driven by Mexico in terms of gender equality will undoubtedly contribute to the construction of more peaceful and just societies both in Mexico and around the world. For Ireland it is a great honor to collaborate with Mexico during the period 2020-2021 in the Security Council. Ireland and Mexico share the view that a peaceful world without gender equality and women and girls' active participation is not possible.

BARBARA JONES

WELCOME WORDS BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN MEXICO REPRESENTATIVE

Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security was a pioneering resolution that was spearheaded by women leaders and organizations and was the first to recognize women's leadership in achieving peace and security, as well as their contributions to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, dispute resolution and the consolidation of peace. Evidence shows that peace processes which involve women are key to long-term and lasting peace, women are still systematically excluded, confined to informal processes, or relegated to the role of spectators, while men sit in the rooms that will define their lives and decide everyone's future.

2020 was a very difficult year for humanity. We had to act to protect gains made and build back better after the pandemic and worldwide lockdowns, which have exposed the deep inequalities in education, health systems and economic opportunities. We have been shown the enormous value of unpaid care and domestic work as enablers of economies. We have also seen the shadow pandemic of violence against women that is at an all-time high, prompting the Secretary-General to call on all governments to address gender-based violence with renewed vigour. All this means that the Women, Peace and Security agenda just got bigger.

It is necessary to strengthen multilateralism and initiatives that support women involvement in every process. It is necessary to create multi-stakeholder alliances to strengthen advocacy on gender equality, since this is something that will only be achieved with an effort from every actor, including governments, civil society, private sector, philanthropies, and international organizations.

UN Women Mexico's country office recognizes the relevance of the efforts that the Mexican government has undertaken to build a national agenda on women, peace and security, which has included the design of its first National Action Plan; the implementation of a flagship project of Women Peacebuilders; as well as the leadership that Mexico has announced that it will have with this agenda in the international arena in its role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the next two years.

The members of the International Cooperation Roundtable for Gender Equality in Mexico aim to support the Mexican government in all efforts to achieve gender equality. The main objective of this event was to bring together national and international experts to share their experiences and best practices in the implementation of a women, peace, and security agenda. This report is a synthesis of these experiences and exchanges that we had with the Mexican authorities. We hope that it will be useful to generate a dialogue between a great diversity of actors inside and outside the country and that this represents the beginning of many more conversations and projects to promote and guarantee the leadership of women in the construction of peace and security. UN Women reiterates our commitment to support all the efforts undertaken to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women around the world. We will continue to accompany and promote spaces for dialogue, exchanges of good practices, generation of knowledge and facilitating technical assistance to the institutions of the Mexican State, international cooperation, civil society, and women leaders to contribute to the construction of just, more peaceful and equal societies.

We thank Ireland and its Ambassador to Mexico, Barbara Jones, for their leadership in the International Cooperation Roundtable for Gender Equality in Mexico and making the theme of Women, Peace and Security a priority during their presidency.

BELEN SANZ

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DIGITAL SEMINARY REPORT: NATIONAL PLANS ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY:

ADVANTAGES, LEARNINGS, AND CHALLENGES IN THE
CURRENT GLOBAL SCENARIO

INAUGURATION



BARBARA JONES, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO MEXICO

On October 31st, 2020, the twentieth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security is celebrated. It recognizes for the first time the differentiated impact of armed conflict on women and girls, as well as the importance of promoting their participation in all stages of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and resolution.

Ireland's history has shown women's ability to lead peace movements and drive community recovery. Peace is not an event or a destination, but a constant process, and therefore it is necessary to foster a culture of peace on an ongoing basis.

1. El seminario se llevó a cabo en formato digital mediante la plataforma Zoom el 26 de junio de 2020. Aunque en sentido estricto no forma parte del Evento Conmemorativo del 20º Aniversario de la Resolución 1325 del Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas sobre Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad, se anexa la relatoria del seminario por considerar que los temas abordados no solamente son relevantes a las discusiones en torno a los retos y desafíos de los países, especialmente de México, en la aplicación de la Resolución 1325, sino porque complementa lo expuesto en las páginas anteriores.



MARTHA DELGADO, UNDERSECRETARY OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MFA

Twenty-five years of the Beijing Platform for Action and twenty of Resolution 1325 are celebrated this year, and it is increasingly clear that women's participation in decision-making in public life is critical to building more egalitarian societies. In addition, it has been found that the inclusion of women in peace processes contributes to improving them, and that it increases the likelihood that they will be more long-lasting.

Peace operations will always be more effective when women participate in them, which is why Mexico is committed to implementing Women, Peace, and Security's agenda, which coincides with two of the seven axes that comprise Mexico's transformative foreign policy and is promoted from the Undersecretariat for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, namely sustainable peace and gender equality and non-discrimination. These principles will be reflected in the objectives of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace, and Security.

In this sense, it should be noted that 40% of the staff that Mexico currently has deployed in peace operations are women, and that they have played very diverse roles in military observation and as officers of the General Staff, among others.

Earlier this year, Foreign Affairs' Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced the launch of a feminist foreign policy, which aims to guide government actions to reduce and eliminate

structural differences, gaps, and gender inequalities, as well as to contribute to the construction of a fairer and more prosperous society. This policy also seeks to cross-section the human rights approach and gender perspective in all areas of Mexican foreign policy, to make women's contributions to foreign policy visible, and to take concrete actions that have an impact on the gender external agenda.

Mexico has been elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with a historic support of 187 votes. The Government of Mexico reiterated its conviction to promote multilateralism as a way for peaceful dispute resolution, to promote international law and the success of the 2030 Agenda, and proposed the creation of a new space to project its feminist foreign policy. In this regard, one of the priority issues for Mexico during its participation in the Council will be to promote the gender equality agenda and that of Women, Peace, and Security. In October, it will also present the first National Action Plan (NAP) for the follow-up to Resolution 1325 of the year 2000 in the Security Council.

The plan has 10 objectives, 16 lines of action and 23 specific indicators for its follow-up, and is based on four pillars: Conflict prevention; peacebuilding; protection of rights during and after conflict, and repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation reintegration and reconstruction of post-conflict communities.



NADINE GASMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN (INMUJERES), MEXICO

Men and women have different ways of living violence and perceiving dangers. To advance the development of a country it is essential that women, adolescents, and girls have the freedom to leave their homes without fear and risk. This has been a fair and constant social appeal of feminist movements to the authorities, and is also a priority concern for the government of Mexico.

As part of the country's transformation, the government has focused its efforts on building safe and peaceful environments for women and girls through actions that include strengthening policy frameworks, supporting women's leadership for peace and security building, and driving the transformation of sociocultural behaviors and norms to foster a culture of peace. As women's ideas, inputs, and concerns are put at the center of peacebuilding actions, these processes and agreements' sustainability will be strengthened. Lasting peace is built day by day with the solidarity and well-being of individuals and communities; peace is integral and complete, it is an individual and collective process, and it understands the right of women to a life without discrimination or violence.

Mexico's experience has shown that women can be relevant actors in building peace, as shown by those who are tirelessly involved in the search for disappeared persons, those who have undertaken the defense of natural resources, those who daily care for children orphaned by femi-

de and negotiators in community conflicts. They are all women whose contributions strengthen the bonds between people and help rebuild the social fabric.

The NAP will not only promote the participation of Mexican women in international peacekeeping missions; the current government's commitment to recognize and invest in strengthening women's leadership as peacebuilders will also be endorsed in accordance with Recommendation 30 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee.

Also, one of the priority objectives of the National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD) is to build safe and peaceful environments for women, girls, and adolescents, as well as to strengthen their leadership in communities to build a culture of peace. The NAP urges protecting women, recognizes them as agents of change in peace processes, and will function as a tool to articulate and strengthen the actions of institutions in all peace prevention, maintenance, and consolidation efforts.

This plan represents an opportunity to move forward in the search for innovative alternatives to the violence that afflicts localities in Mexico and large part of the world, as well as to assist in the construction of a more supportive, just, and feminist society.



BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO

UN Women recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Mexican government to build a national agenda of women, peace, and security from different fronts.

International experience shows that countries with National Action Plans are better prepared to identify priorities, identify responsibilities, allocate resources and take strategic action within a defined period to advance compliance with Resolution 1325.

The Secretary-General's most recent report on women, peace, and security showed the correlation between gender inequality and a society's propensity for conflict. It also highlights the importance of addressing the root causes of gender inequality as a key measure to prevent conflict, identify threats to security and peace and to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the agenda in this area.

According to the report, in 2019 women account for only 4.2% of military personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions. In addition, human rights defenders, territorial leaders and peacebuilding leaders face more risks than ever before when it comes to their own security and integrity.

Another relevant fact is that less than 20% of the Security Council resolutions adopted in 2018 contained references to the importance of women's rights and women's group participation, and only 41% of Member States had approved National Action Plans in this area.

In addition, the global study on the implementation of Resolution 1325 has identified some of the factors contributing to effective implementation of action plans, such as strong leadership and effective coordination; developing participatory and inclusive design processes; allocating budgets to implementation; designing clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and make plans with the flexibility to adapt to different situations.

Mexico has taken these elements into consideration and different institutions have participated in the development of its National Plan, so its implementation is presented as an opportunity to involve women in all the government's efforts to sustain peace, both within the country and through its leadership in the international community.

PANEL OF EXPERTS



RACHEL VINCENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE CANADA

Women's Peace and Security Network Canada is a civil society coalition that brings together organizations and individuals interested in women, peace, and security. Its main objective is to monitor and follow up the implementation of this agenda in Canada. It therefore works on many issues, such as humanitarian responses, disarmament, women in the military and peacekeeping, among others.

Canada's second National Action Plan, launched in 2017, had a large participation of civil society representatives, men and women public officials, men and women politicians, members of the diplomatic corps, and men and women ministers. Main focus areas are:

1. Promoting meaningful participation of women in peace and peace processes.
2. Preventing and ending impunity for gender-based violence and sexual violence.
3. Promoting and protecting women and girls' human rights, gender equality, and women and girls' empowerment in fragile contexts of conflict and post-conflict.

4. Promoting respect for rights in humanitarian contexts to meet the specific needs of women and girls, including defending their sexual rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services.

5. Strengthen the capacity of peace operations to advance the agenda, including greater deployment of women.

Some of the strengths of this new plan is that it intends to establish a feminist agenda; highlights the links between state security, peace, and the rights of women and girls; recognizes women's participation; establishes a clear and unequivocal commitment to sexual and reproductive rights; recognizes the importance of civil society, in particular women peacebuilders and women's organizations, among others. Another important aspect is that it is committed to presenting annual public reports, which is very important in terms of accountability.

While the plan represents an important step forward, there are points that could be improved, such as the plan with an allocated budget. It is also necessary to analyze the connection between the defense foreign plan and policy, diplomacy, and development discussions in general.

Canada's National Plan has an innovative mechanism that brings together civil society and the government through an Advisory Group, which is jointly led by the civil society

and Canada's Ministry of World Affairs. This sends a clear message: Women, Peace, and Security's agenda will only succeed if the government and civil society work together.





AINE HEARN, DIRECTOR OF THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IRELAND

Currently, 84 UN member states (including 19 European Union States) have a National Action Plan. Ireland has already developed its third plan, which is based on four pillars: prevention, participation, protection, and promotion. The first (2011-2014) was created after a consultation process with civil society and an international initiative involving women from East Timor, Liberia, and Ireland. The second (2015-2018) was developed after a public consultation.

Some of the points that differentiate the third plan from the first two is that it focuses on the national dimension, that in the working group that developed it, people from the academia, the civil society and the government, participated. And that it emphasizes more accountability and reporting and incorporates an approach of gender equality in Ireland's development cooperation abroad.

Among the challenges presented during the development of the third plan, it is worth ensuring that human and financial resources are available to meet its objectives; strengthen the government's collaborative approach by figuring out how policies in other government departments fit Women, Peace, and Security's agenda; include members of civil society and above all, to ensure that all relevant actors were appropriated, and to include the voices of migrants and refugees who have increasingly arrived in Ireland, especially those of women from conflict situations.

Other challenges faced were to achieve commitment at the highest ministerial level throughout the process, to articulate the plan with other government policy documents, such as migration, gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, foreign policy and defense among others, as well as to have the approval of the plan by the Cabinet, in order to ensure resources for its implementation. It should be noted that Defense Forces have their own action plan in this area.

Ireland has managed to increase funding for Women, Peace, and Security's agenda by involving the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Development Cooperation Program. In addition, the country has a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention that is based on a gender perspective and provides training in this area to both national and international officials.

Finally, based on the path traveled by Ireland, other countries are suggested that when designing their own action plans, to work with women and men partners with experience in the relevant areas; involve security services, police forces and civil society in their development; objectives are identified and goals set; ensure that there is good oversight of the process and its implementation; take into account that women are not a homogeneous group and the participation of men and boys is promoted.



STEFANIA DOEBBEL, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY DEPARTMENT, CHILE

In 2009, during the first government of President Michel Bachelet, Chile launched its first NAP for the implementation of Resolution 1325, becoming the first Latin American country to do so. In this context, there was great interest on the part of the government to incorporate gender perspective in all areas of the State and to promote the participation of women within the armed forces, the investigative police and in United Nations peacekeeping operations to which Chile made an important contribution. These two interests converged on the creation of the first NAP.

For its development, a working table composed of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense and the then National Women's Service (now Ministry of Women), the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education was organized, and civil society participated.

The first plan recognized that in order to achieve gender equality it is necessary to increase female participation, especially in defense institutions as well as to promote cultural changes within these institutions. The objective of the NAP's violence protection and prevention axes was to make awareness and ensure the policy of zero tolerance for violence and sexual abuse as well as to incorporate gender and human rights perspective into peace operations.

The first NAP consisted of four axes: Incorporating the gender perspective into the understanding and approach of conflict prevention processes in conflict and post-conflict situations; human rights approach, focused on respecting, guaranteeing, and protecting the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations; participation approach, focused on building the conditions for equitable participation of women in peace processes and decision-making on international peace and security, as well as an active role in the scenarios of power and decision-making; focal points which intended to enhance the coordination of efforts developed in all previous areas at the international, cross-sectoral, and civil society levels.

The follow-up to this first plan was carried out by an inter-ministerial committee of three ministries that were to report their progress each year to the Advisory Committee of Ministers for Equal Opportunities. The inter-ministerial committee was also in charge of creating indicators for monitoring as well as dissemination material.

Although the percentage of women in peace operations did increase as a result of the implementation of the first NAP there were no significant results in their inclusion in decision-making in all areas of prevention, resolution, maintenance, and consolidation.

The second NAP was launched in 2015, when Chile was a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Its objectives were to deepen the progress of the first NAP; incorporate the problem of gender-based violence in greater depth; develop performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating program actions and strengthening ties with civil society and international organizations.

The second NAP consisted of four axes: prevention, participation, protection, and promotion, each of which had specific actions. And among its results, it is worth highlighting the progress in the prevention axis, thanks to the actions in the field of training and education; the inclusion of specific objectives, defined activities, indicators and targets, as well as the appointment of managers and participants, a situation that facilitated accountability and monitoring of the plan. One conclusion of the implementation of the second plan is the need for gender disaggregated data to enable the evaluation of concrete results and to strengthen the links between the NAP and national institutions.

Chile's third NAP is focused on involving women in recovery, relief, and transitional justice efforts, as well as strengthening capacities in the humanitarian response. The monitoring of the plan was carried out by the inter-ministerial committee and it was contemplated that updates should be incorporated annually into the plan based on the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the new Security Council resolutions. It was also considered to create an Observatory of Resolution 1325 involving members of civil society, with the aim of making public aware of the progress in the plan's implementation.

In conclusion, Chile's experience in this area can be said to consider the role of women in natural disasters' recovery and social crises, during which women are more vulnerable to violence. The role of women as peacebuilding subjects and not just as "objects" of protection should also be further promoted. In the context of the pandemic it is also necessary to emphasize the role of women in post-COVID-19 recovery.



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SARAH DOUGLAS, GLOBAL POLICY ADVISOR
CONFLICT PREVENTION, PEACE,
AND SECURITY, UN WOMEN

Mexico's feminist foreign policy lays the groundwork for the operation of the NAP. This represents an opportunity to address gender equality, women's rights, participation, and leadership. The global study published in 2015 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325 highlighted some key components for plan design. These include a theory of change; promote actions at the local level; that there will be greater parliamentary oversight to encourage the delimitation of responsibilities in the implementation of the plan, the allocation of resources, and to ensure the sustainability of the plan through changes in government.

Other highlights include the design of a communication strategy so that its contents and results are known to the entire population; the creation of a mechanism to track resources and to have technical assistance during the plan's implementation.

Finally, the exchange of regional and global experiences is important, as these can help the development and implementation of national plans.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres

MAIN ELEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF MEXICO'S NAP-13250



ROBERTO DE LEON HUERTA, COORDINATOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND PEACEKEEPING, DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE UN, MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)

The development of Mexico's first NAP was agreed in the Working Group for Peacekeeping Operations (GTOMP), an instance established in 2014 for the coordination of the strategic lines of Mexico's participation in peacekeeping operations. This group includes the Ministry of National MFAense (SEDENA), the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), the MFA, the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC), as well as the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Finance. INMUJERES joined these instances to address the issues related to the NAP, and UN Women office in Mexico, to provide advice for the follow-up to the plan.

The objective of the NAP is to take concrete action to incorporate gender equality in all efforts to prevent, maintain, and consolidate peace in compliance with the obligations assumed by Mexico on human rights. In addition, it is consistent with the government's feminist foreign policy and the country's historic commitment to gender equality at the multilateral level. It also seeks to articulate and

strengthen the actions of the institutions involved to accelerate women's empowerment in all areas, and has a preventive approach that aims to contribute to efforts to ensure women and girls human rights.

Mexico's NAP envisages ten strategic objectives, 16 lines of action, and 23 specific indicators. In addition, it considers a mechanism for monitoring and periodically assessing the targets to be achieved. The plan ensures inter-agency coordination so that the proposed activities have a greater impact, and is structured in the four areas recommended in the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, namely prevention, participation, protection, relief, and recovery.

The NAP will be an important reference framework for structuring cooperation actions, considering Mexico's dual character as an offeror and recipient. In addition, an annual results report will be prepared and the NAP will be reviewed three years after its adoption.



CAPTAIN FIRST NURSE ANA BEATRIZ CISNEROS RABELL, JOINT TRAINING CENTER FOR PEACE OPERATIONS OF MEXICO, SEDENA

In 2016, SEDENA appointed me as an international observer on the United Nations verification mission in Colombia, where I had the opportunity to work and live directly with female combatants, military, police, and civilians. Thus, I could see the impact that women and girls have on armed conflict as well as the key role that women play in preventing and resolving conflicts and achieving lasting peace.

Mexico's NAP aims to promote women's participation in conflict prevention at all levels of peacekeeping, reconstruction, and peacebuilding, and includes pre-deployed training in the field of peace operations.

SEDENA is in favor of promoting women's participation in peace operations. Currently, more than 40% of the staff deployed are women, and the Joint Peace Operations Training Center (CECOPAM) has trained a total of 377 people in this field, of whom 90 are women.

All courses taught at CECOPAM have a module on women, peace, and security, abuse, exploitation, and sexual violence related to armed conflict. In addition, the Center offers a special gender-focused pre-deployment course in support and cooperation of UN Women.

In this way, SEDENA endorses its commitment to women's participation in all peace processes and, above all to their representation in senior positions within the Navy and the United Nations.

Captain of Ship CG D.E.M Francisco González Reyes, Coordination and Strategic Planning Unit of the General Staff of the Navy, Ministry of the Navy

The SEMAR has a Human Rights Protection Unit. Within its organic structure there is the Directorate of Gender Equality and Inclusion, which is responsible for carrying out the different actions and strategies in this regard. Currently, SEMAR has 12,144 naval women, representing only 18% of the institution's state of strength. Of these, 1,502 are incorporated into operational units of sea, air, and land, and have the same opportunities and remuneration as men.

Since 2008, the call for the entry of young Mexican women to the Heroic Naval Military School is published in order to pursue the careers of Naval Systems Engineering, Hydrography Engineering, Naval Aeronautics Engineering, Naval Mechanics, Electronics, as well as the Bachelor's Degree in Naval Logistics, which encourages the increase of

women in academic and work spaces. This aspect is of great importance as professionalizing women in the naval career allows them to take the lead in both domestic and overseas operations.

Institutional policy is based on two guiding axes: Gender perspective and substantive equality, whose objective is to foster cultural and institutional change, in order to achieve substantive equality within the institution and eradicate any act of discrimination, violence, mistreatment, or segregation on the basis of gender. This is done through face-to-face and online courses, workshops, fora, and conferences, including some on harassment preven-

tion and sexual harassment and gender equality. The other axis is equal employment opportunities and inclusion, which aims to create the institutional conditions that allow the full exercise of women's labor rights on an equal footing than men within the institution.

Due to these actions, SEMAR has received different recognitions such as the Mexican Standard NMX-R-025-SC-FI.2015 in Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Gold Level Certification of the Mexican Standard in Equality and Non-Discrimination granted by the Ministry of Labor, INMUJERES, and the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED), among others.



GUADALUPE MARIA BAUTISTA CALATAYUD, DIRECTOR
OF POLICE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE
UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR PUBLIC SECURITY, MINISTRY OF
CITIZEN SECURITY AND PROTECTION

The establishment of police functions in Mexico's first NAP is a concrete expression of our country's importance in creating peaceful and prosperous societies.

Police work within the framework of the National Public Security Strategy has been instrumental in guiding the functions of the SSPC in order to make crime prevention, the reduction of community violence, social reintegration and, therefore, the recovery of trust in the authorities more effective. Therefore, the SSPC aims to include various topics on Women, Peace, and Security's agenda such as those related to the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes, the protection of persons and their property, and the maintenance of public order and security.

The SSPC's efforts in this area are based on four main actions:

- Joint police training programs: Police officers are trained before deployment and on the ground to implement United Nations mandates, with an emphasis on sexual and gender-based violence and child protection.

- Creation of Specialized Units in Gender Missions "Women, Peace, and Security", Gender Mission Program: These units are intended to establish comprehensive actions to ensure the life, safety, and human rights of civilians and women incorporating the perspective of gender and intersectionality. In municipalities with the highest incidence of violence against women, efforts are made to contribute to the implementation of local public safety programs in conflict resolution processes, as well as the local development of women including the construction of non-violent masculinities.

- Creation of Networks of Women Peacebuilders (MUC-PAZ): The objective of these networks is to form working, planning and citizen participation groups so that women become multipliers of peace processes at the territorial level. Women who know their territories are best able to contribute to peace processes helping in the social prevention of violence carried out by the various local, state, and municipal governments.

- Promote affirmative action to bring women police into United Nations peacekeeping operations.



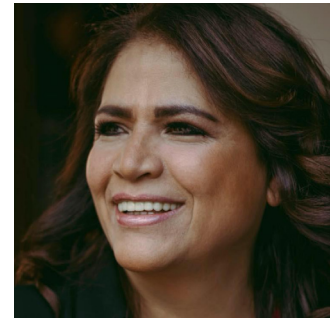
XIMENA MARISCAL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, INMUJERES

The current National Equality Policy of the Government of Mexico seeks to reverse the factors of inequality and meet the most pressing needs and demands that have been externalized by women in the consultations that were organized prior to the elaboration of the policy. To achieve equality, peace, and security these are indispensable elements. The first NAP represents for Mexico a tool that will allow to effectively articulate and strengthen the actions of institutions in these issues.

The approach to Resolution 1325 and the subsequent Security Council resolutions in this area are broad in scope and are not limited only to conflict or post-conflict situations. Therefore, linking these resolutions with actions for

peacebuilding at the national level is the big bet of this plan.

The NAP recognizes women as peacemakers in peacemaking processes at the national level. From the local level, women are key pieces in the reconstruction of the social fabric through mediation processes, the establishment of community dialogues, and through their concrete contributions in the fight against violence. The continued participation of women as multipliers of peace processes from the national level is a priority reflected in Mexico's first NAP, which will integrate one of the most innovative methods of violence prevention: The MUCPAZ Project.



FABIOLA ALANIS SAMANO, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE AND FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY, INMUJERES (2018-2020)

As established by the National Development Plan 20200-2024, it is necessary to change war measures to a comprehensive peace and security policy that addresses the very root of conflicts. The immediate goal is to reduce crime rates. The MUCPAZ Project is an initiative of INMUJERES and its central objective is to promote gender-sensitive peace through a coordinated effort with security areas, particularly with the Executive Secretariat of the National Security System through the Public Security Fund and the Security Strengthening Program with global investment reaching \$6.5 million by 2020 alone.

MUCPAZ promotes women's participation in peacekeeping guards, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in communities and municipalities so that women can help identify the main problems of their communities and promote specific actions to address them. It also promotes solidarity and community work.

It is complex to adopt gender-sensitive public policies in a patriarchal society like Mexico; Adopting the gender perspective in a strategy linked to the promotion of peace and security is doubly complex, as gender-sensitive peace involves, first, changing the root of discrimination against women in society and ensuring equal opportunities and the exercise of their rights.

MUCPAZ has links to the National Development Plan and

PROIGUALDAD, one of whose objectives is to build safe and peaceful environments for women, girls, and adolescents. MUCPAZ takes into account in a particular way the daily concerns of women in the most violent municipalities, those of women seekers of disappeared persons in the border States and those of maquilas workers in Ciudad Juárez.

During 2020, 190 networks of women peacebuilders will be installed in Mexico in 107 municipalities across the country with coverage of 30 States and the commitment of the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System Head Leonel Cota to promote it throughout the country and increase the number of municipalities participating in the Program in 2021.

The construction and installation of women peacebuilding networks is based on an analysis of crime rates, and particularly of levels of femicide violence in the territories. For example, networks will be installed in Iztapalapa, the third most dangerous district for women at the national level; in Tijuana, a municipality that ranks fifth in the level of danger to women; in Ciudad Juárez, Guadalajara, and Veracruz, which occupy the sixth, seventh, and eighth place, respectively. In this way, MUCPAZ recognizes that peace is a process that requires taking into account the voice of women themselves.

MUCAPAZ PROJECT CONSISTED IN THREE STAGES:

1. In the first stage a cultural socio-economic diagnosis was made and on the institutional strengths of 107 municipalities. A database of seven variables and 74 indicators was designed with disaggregated data per community including those related to the presence of indigenous and Afro-Mexican female populations as well as available data on femicide violence. The database also incorporates information on women's political participation and the identification of natural leadership in localities as it is a comprehensive intervention on women's representation spaces at the state and municipal levels. This stage is now over..

2. In the second stage a participatory diagnosis will be made and directly involved in the territories. Its central objective is to get in touch with communities through workshops, community dialogues, and the application of interviews, in order to identify the main problems that afflict the community. This stage will be implemented when health conditions in the country allows it so.

3. The third stage involves the construction of networks of women peacebuilders. These networks should have a gen-

der approach, addressing core issues such as collective networks of dialogue, local projects for the inclusion and reduction of discrimination, projects for the reconstruction of the social fabric and the promotion of human rights. To this end, a specific training plan has been designed in basic concepts such as positive peace, negative peace, analysis of the different levels of individual, family, community, community, colony, city, state, region, and municipality peace, as well as attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peace. It also includes topics related to intersectionality, interculturality, gender roles, as well as new masculinities and their relationship with each of the elements of peace.

The Program is directly coordinated with municipal, state, and federal authorities, as intervention and collaboration at all three levels of government is critical to success. The ultimate goal of MUCPAZ is to implement local actions to pacify, to interrupt violence, and to resolve conflicts with a gender perspective. This project is a big bet to contain violence against women, but also in rebuilding the social fabric in Mexico.



CONCLUSIONS

BARBARA JONES, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO MEXICO

In my thirty-four-year diplomatic experience I have seen women collaborate in peacebuilding. My experience with the women of Rwanda, who took a truly leading role during their country's peacebuilding process is especially memorable.

Therefore, the adoption of Resolution 1325 twenty years ago should be welcomed as a fundamental stone for shaping an international security policy since part of the idea that women know how to build peace and that for that reason they must be given authority and recognition in

those processes.

The work of UN Women, INMUJERES and the government of Mexico as well as the government of Ireland, Chile, and Canada has been useful in protecting the future of our societies and building international peace.

Ireland looks forward to continuing to work closely with Mexico to help maintain peace in our world for years to come.

BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO

The historic peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC was complex. One of its most memorable moments was when both the women of the government and the FARC allied themselves with those of civil society so as not to rise from the negotiating table until peace was achieved. It was thanks to this extraordinary demand of thousands of Colombian women that the negotiating table was maintained and their voices heard. From that moment on, the spirit of peace dialogues was transformed: Women spoke not only of themselves, but also of the needs of communities in Colombia. In this way, spaces

of reflection and exchange were generated that were very close to the reality of people and communities. Undoubtedly, there was a before and after women's participation in that process.

This small story is one of the evidences that indicates the importance of women's participation in building peace. Mexico's first NAP has the potential to benefit the lives of millions of Mexican women and girls around the world. UN Women reiterates its support for this work to make Mexico's effort a flag towards building peace in the world.

NADINE GASMAN, PRESIDENT OF INMUJERES

The government of Mexico is committed to changing the lives of women and building a peace that allows the development of all. I thank all the people who participated in this event.

As the Ambassador of Ireland points out: Once women are given the mandate and authority – and we should add: re-

sources – women can build peace. This is the challenge and commitment of the Mexican government to this transformation. The exchange of experiences from other countries is particularly relevant at this time when Mexico is developing its NAP. Thank you for all your input.

RAPPORTEUR OF THE EVENT COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY



Ambasáid na hÉireann | Meicsiceo
Embassy of Ireland | Mexico
Embajada de Irlanda | México



1ST SESSION

OPENING SESSION

BARBARA JONES, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO MEXICO

Twenty years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, it has been noted how women can promote, sustain, and build peace at the local, national, and international levels. This event will feature experts from different countries, who will present evidence of the transformative impact of women's leadership on the creation of a more peaceful and just society. However, violence continues to grow: 2020 is the year with the highest number of conflicts in the world. Currently, armed conflicts are becoming more complex and climate change and development challenges present the risk of further tensions.

Violence is unacceptable, as well for women to continue experiencing sexual violence in armed conflicts, and to have so little involvement in negotiating tables and peace processes. Strong action is urgently needed to prevent conflict and protect the most vulnerable people in situations of violence. This is not inevitable if action is taken

within the framework of Resolution 1325. Achieving peace involves not only conflict's parties, but also civil society, young people, and women.

It is now known that when women are included in peace processes, the peace that is created lasts longer. The importance of including them in all aspects of peacebuilding is evident to Ireland.

This year Ireland was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and we will work with Mexico on issues such as Women, Peace, and Security's agenda. Ireland's main principle for its term in the Council is peacebuilding.

Mexico will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Resolution 1325 with the launch of its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. We hope that this event will serve to stimulate debate on the subject.

NADINE GASMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN (INMUJERES), MEXICO

One of the objectives of the current government is to achieve national reconciliation which is only achieved through peace. INMUJERES is firmly committed to women playing an essential role in the achievement of this goal.

This event is a good way to commemorate the anniversary of Resolution 1325 and to reflect on the advanced path and the important role women have played in building peace in the world.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres

BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO

At this historic moment we have evidence on the points that are necessary for peacebuilding to be effective and sustainable. One of them is women's participation. Studies show the positive correlation between combating gender inequality and reducing conflicts in a society. Thus, addressing gender inequalities is a key aspect of achieving peace and is part of the general agenda of the Secretary of the United Nations. Without achieving gender equality it is very difficult to achieve peace.

On the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325, the United Nations published in 2016 a study identifying that when women are included in peace processes there is a 20% increase in the likelihood of reaching a peace agreement, and that the likelihood that an agreement will last more than fifteen years will grow up to 35%. Also, the probability of failure is 64% lower when there are representatives of civil society.

The international community has made significant progress in meeting its commitments. Thus, for example, in 2016, the Commission for peacebuilding was established, and additional Security Council resolutions have been

adopted to strengthen women's, peace and security agenda.

These commitments take on meaning when implemented at the national level, when they are assumed at the local level, and when there is strong leadership of actors and women to translate commitments into good practices.

Today, Mexico is committed to putting women at the center of these efforts. However, there are still lags on women's representation: Only 6.9% of personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations are women; 41% of Member States have approved action plans and, over the past three decades, women have represented only 3% of mediators, 4% of witnesses and signatories, and 13% of negotiators in peace agreements.

Women's participation in peace processes requires that gender equality be considered in all areas of rights. In the world, women are already leading community peacebuilding efforts, and they must be able to bring their expertise in all areas of this process.

PANEL 1

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325



MODERATOR: JUAN LOPEZ DORIGA,
AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN TO MEXICO



MAVIC CABRERA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL
NETWORK FOR WOMEN PEACEBUILDER

Resolution 1325 is based on the premise that local leadership and participation result in better public policy design. Local leaders can formulate local action plans and legislation as well as integrate Security Council resolutions into community development plans.

Reports presented annually by the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace, and Security's agenda point to gaps in the implementation of all its aspects, including significant women's participation in peace processes and agreements. It has also noted the importance of ensuring that local needs fuel the design of national, regional, and global policies.

The rationale for implementing resolution 1325's localization program is centralization and autonomous governance as it is based on the decision-making power and authority of local officials, as set out in the laws of the countries that have approved it.

To implement the localization program, the country must have a decentralized governance system. The program consists of three components: The first is the organization of localization workshops convening key players to discuss gender and security issues, review resolutions related to women, peace, and security as well as other national laws, and public policies, in order to identify gaps. The second is

the creation of local laws and policies in this area. This may result in the development of a number of products, such as a local action plan, local laws, or policies, and provisions included in the local development plan, which must be budgeted to carry out the projected actions. The third is to ensure that the program is implemented and sustained through the training of experts, the development of a guide on localization guidelines, and monitoring and evaluating progress at the local level.

So far, localization strategies have been implemented in 18 countries, in 115 municipalities, where the capacities of more than five thousand local actors have been strengthened, and 55 local action plans have been produced. As a result, Uganda, for example, has increased the number of women reporting sexual and gender-based violence six times. In the Philippines, indigenous women were in admission to a traditional court, after being excluded for more than a century. In Colombia, women from Cauca and Tolima departments were able to participate in the imple-

mentation and follow-up of the peace agreement. Finally, in Sierra Leone, localization allowed supreme chiefs to deter local populations from practicing female genital mutilation and discourage child marriage.

Two important publications in this area that should be highlighted are: Example from good practices to standard practices: Set of tools to implement the localization strategy of Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on women and peace and security, and No money, no NAP: Manual on the Calculation of Costs and Budgets of National Action Plans to Implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

In sum, the localization strategy ensures that it is locally appropriate and that it is involved in Women, Peace, and Security's agenda. It ensures sustainability and adapts to local realities. Even without an action plan, the strategy can be implemented, especially in the face of emerging crises, such as that of the current pandemic.



PABLO CASTILLO DIAZ, GLOBAL SPECIALIST IN PEACE AND SECURITY POLICY, UN WOMEN

From 2000 to 2005, after Resolution 1325 was adopted, only 15% of Security Council resolutions mentioned issues related to women's rights, gender equality, and sexual violence. In the last three years that percentage has gone to 70.

This means that many United Nations Member States devote more time and economic resources to this area of work today. However, this does not mean that the Security Council is doing everything in their part to advance the gender agenda. A clearer and more energetic diplomatic effort is needed to sanction people responsible for sexual violence and trafficking and sale of women in armed conflicts, as in the case of Islamic State occupation of part of the territory of Iraq and Syria.

Another example is the case of Mali. Since the peace agreement was signed in 2015, violence has not only not been reduced, but has increased considerably. And of the hundred people who participated in the peace process, only five were women. And the percentage of women involved in the committees that were formed to oversee that process is even lower.

In the last agreement reached in South Sudan, women had a 35% share of their participation in the mechanisms crea-

ted for the transition process. However, that quota was not met. Although this is already covered by many of the resolutions, the Council merely exhorts, recalls, takes note, but does not decide or request specific and strong actions in this area.

While the Security Council has recently reflected on the importance of women's participation in peace and security processes in Afghanistan, one wonders what might happen in Afghanistan if agreements reached violate women's rights. It's important to follow up on cases like this. The inclusion of words in this regard in general resolutions is useful, but it is not enough. On Women, Peace, and Security's agenda, there are many calls to become aware, but in the new conditions of the world there needs to be mandates, incentives, sanctions, affirmative actions, and others to change reality.

In Canada, for example, there is an initiative that through economic incentives the number of women in peace operations is increased. Recently, the Secretary-General noted that the United Nations should refuse to support peace processes in which women are excluded, and stressed the mechanism of quotas and affirmative actions that should begin to be implemented in the field of peace and security.

ROBERTO DE LEON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN
REGIONAL AGENCIES AND MECHANISMS, AND COORDINATOR
FOR PEACEKEEPING AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)

Twenty-five years ago, feminist movements managed to ensure that the Beijing Platform for Action was recognized as an area of concern for the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women's lives. With the adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2000, the Security Council incorporates gender perspective and importance of women's participation in peace efforts. Since then, the Council has adopted nine additional resolutions which have established a very strong regulatory framework in this area. However, the main challenge lies in the gaps lying in the implementation of these international commitments.

Women, Peace, and Security's agenda is based on a broad and comprehensive approach to peace, which goes beyond the absence of conflict, and for this reason its follow-up is not restricted to countries that are in conflict or post-conflict situations.

Despite progress in the international regulatory framework, it is necessary to think about how to accelerate its implementation in countries. This concern will guide Mexico's efforts as an elected member of the Security Council for 2021 and 2022. The cross-cutting mainstreaming of gender perspective into the actions of this body and the follow-up to the main provisions on Women, Pea-

ce, and Security's agenda will be promoted. Mexico will also encourage women's voices, experiences, and recommendations to be taken into account in the Council's actions, and greater coordination between the formal and non-formal mechanisms addressing this agenda will be promoted.

Another relevant aspect is the division of labor and how to generate synergies in different spaces. For example, a few years ago, with the leadership of Spain, the network of focal points on the subject was organized as a useful space to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices for the implementation of this agenda at the national level. Cooperation among network members should be expanded to develop projects, strengthen capacities, and promote South-South cooperation.

In New York, there is the Group of Friends on Women, Peace, and Security, which is a platform for broadening the profile and political visibility of the agenda at United Nations headquarters and other headquarters. It is necessary for the Group to continue to promote this agenda at a higher level and for more effective actions by the Security Council itself.

For its part, it has established an informal group of experts on women, peace, and security in which Mexico and Ireland want to assume a leadership position. In this sense, participation in this group aims to achieve: A comprehensive approach that considers this agenda not only in the specific aspects of the Council's work, but also field visits, review of peace operations mandates and political missions. It also wants to ensure greater cooperation with other subsidiary bodies to carry out joint actions.

Mexico and France, with UN Women and civil society organizations will organize the Generation Equality Forum next year and based on an innovative approach, they will seek to articulate the efforts of various actors committed to a progressive agenda of women's rights to promote the follow-up of international commitments in this area. Within the framework of the Forum, the establishment of a pact on women, peace, and security, and humanitarian action is proposed. This pact should assist in the implementation of the existing framework, and contribute to resource mobilization, cooperation, and accountability. In

this way, Mexico's strategy in its participation in these spaces is consistent with the feminist foreign policy announced by the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard.

In the coming weeks, Mexico will present its National Action Plan for the Follow-up to Resolution 1325 (NAP-135), which is based on a mandate from the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (GTOMP, Spanish abbreviation), which consisted of officials from the ministries of National Defense, the Navy, Security and Citizen Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, INMUJERES, and UN Women. Its main objective is to take concrete action to incorporate gender equality in all efforts to prevent, maintain, and consolidate peace in compliance with the obligations assumed by the Mexico on human rights.



GERALDINE BYRNE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS DE IRLANDA

Resolution 1325 is the first legal basis produced by the United Nations on peace and conflict, recognizing the differentiated impact that conflicts have on women and

their fundamental role in their resolution and peacebuilding.

In Ireland, for example, this assertion is not theoretical at all, it's an everyday reality. The country's commitment to this agenda is based on women's particular experiences with conflict resolution. There are many women in Northern Ireland who have been in a very traumatic situation. In six weeks, they formed a political party so that they could participate in election processes and have a place at peace negotiating tables. Twenty years later, you can see that it was an innovative idea, and inspired many women of different political, ideological, and religious positions. It also gave them a voice, an important fact not only in the history of Northern Ireland, but of the whole country, and even of Britain.

Thus, women's participation in peacebuilding of Northern Ireland had tangible results that have transcended. These include issues related to equality, social inclusion, victims' needs, comprehensive education, and mixed-income housing. Some of these elements had never been taken into account in political negotiations, and the fact that they were discussed is due to women's participation in peacebuilding tables. They saw for the good of their own communities, although conflicts were originally created by men around them. The fact that their contributions have been maintained over time is because they attacked the causes of conflict.

Based on the experience in Ireland, it can be said that women are involved in resolving conflicts not only to end violence, but also to see for the common good and for what is needed to maintain peace in the future.

Even at such complex times, as today due to COVID-19 pandemic, women's role in peacebuilding continues to show strength, although their field efforts have had to triple. Despite the above, women are not yet involved in de-

cision-making in their own environment; groups of peacebuilders working in the field face major problems that have been amplified by the new coronavirus.

It is possible to draw some lessons from this situation. Women, Peace, and Security's agenda has a unique strength, namely that it is founded by a large group of countries. However, the challenge faced by Mexico and Ireland is that the views within the Council are very divided. There is a trend in which gender and women, peace, and security's agendas serve as a kind of lightning rod within the Council's struggles and it is a situation that must be stopped. We do not want to see a scenario in which women's rights, health, and safety are used as a weapon to resolve political differences.

Mexico and Ireland have the opportunity to work together to adapt their peacebuilding capabilities and to change the way the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission see the role of women.

Ireland intends to ensure that diversity and inclusion aspects of the agenda are addressed, and in this regard, it will ensure that diverse voices are part of the table to shape the National Action Plan because it is known that without its inclusion plans cannot be sustainable.

Ireland's opportunity to be part of the Council is to move from celebrations to actions, that is, to do our job. As part of the Council, we will insist that Women, Peace, and Security's agenda is at the heart of the resolution of broader global and national conflicts. We will also promote the renewal of mandates, ensure that women are included in local plans and finally we will hear the voices of women who have worked on conflict resolution and peacekeeping in the field.

PANEL 2 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN PEACEBUILDING



MODERATOR, ERIC MAYORAZ,
AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND TO MEXICO



CLAUDIA MAFFETTONE, DIRECTOR OF THE SEARCH FOR
COMMON GROUND MEDIATION PROGRAM

In this year, more and more countries are experiencing some form of violent conflict than 30 years earlier. According to 2018 data, around 17 million people have been displaced by conflict and persecution due to the war. However, the focus on these is security and not really peace. Military spending has been on the rise in the world: It is currently 76% higher than in 1998, at the end of the Cold War. The same is true of peace treaties: Since 2012 there have been only 23, and since 2015, only one, that of the

Colombian government with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, Spanish abbreviation). In this context, women have represented 3% of peace mediators and 13% of negotiators.

The issue of violence against women has been addressed in very few treaties. Over the past ten years, this indicator has deteriorated mainly due to wars in Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Egypt. Thus, violence against women is one of the strongest predictors of the eruption of conflict in a coun-

try and, according to a Harvard University study, the methods of controlling those who exercise domestic violence are very similar to those used by kidnappers of repressive political regimes in order to break the will of their political prisoners.

This situation points to the importance of promoting actions that support women's leadership and decision-making in conflict resolution, in order to protect women's rights in periods of conflict and post-conflict. Strategies to prevent short-term gender-based violence include the following. Information collection needs to be improved: Only about 25% of the information needed to monitor gender progress for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is available today. The invisibilization of women and girls in official statistics prevents the accurate measurement of progress towards gender equality. Official statistics should integrate information produced by citizens, especially in places where it is difficult to collect it. United Nations should urge Member States to devote budgets to this end as well as to the analysis of information so that key indicators can be harmonized and compared between countries.

Another important aspect is the development of mechanisms for early detection of conflicts, in which both women and men must participate in its design and imple-

mentation. The role of women as a conflict mediator should also be promoted, especially since they can have information on local dynamics as well as on the symbols and traditions of the communities to which they belong, which can be very useful in conflict resolution. In this regard, when asked to mediate an international conflict, the United Nations should request as a condition the inclusion of women in the negotiating tables as well as their participation in the design of post-conflict scenarios.

On the other hand, economic and social inequalities being the main cause of violence and which disproportionately affects women and girls, must be addressed: In countries where there is gender-based violence in peacetime, violence against them is likely to take place in times of war. Although the number of women participating as mediators and negotiators is very low, the truth is that their participation in mediation processes makes it 64% more likely for there to be agreements, and 35% more likely for it to last at least fifteen years. This is particularly relevant if we take into account that almost 50% of the agreements are broken during the first five years.

For all of the above, it can be concluded that the attainment of peace is directly connected to the protection of livelihoods and the inclusion of women, so the entire international community should support gender equality.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres



MÖ BLEEKER, SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DEALING WITH THE PAST AND PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Although the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security gave a strong political impetus to women's participation in conflict prevention, there are now many obstacles that still prevent them from organizing or influencing peace processes. These include an increasingly small civic space, inadequate participation mechanisms in political or justice processes, lack of resources, and insecurity.

Beyond gender-based violence, it is crucial to understand how the culture of discrimination at the structural level, gender norms, and patriarchal hierarchies permanently affect women and prevent their participation in transformation processes, particularly in places where an important part of the population is indigenous, because in such cases in addition to the above, the dimension of racism must be added. In this context, it is relevant to make a number of recommendations to address these problems.

The first is to create a favorable environment for negotiations. It is important to discuss with communities and women the many ways violence affects them. In this sense, it should be noted that little attention has been paid to the ideologies of hegemonic masculinity so spaces must be created to think of inclusive and feminist initiatives for women and men, as well as innovative educational models that contribute to the transformation of culture and discrimination structures. Therefore, a pre-consultation process should be organized in communities whose outcome is part of the dialogue tables.

On the other hand, there are experiences that show that the inclusion of gender aspects in peace processes adds quality and sustainability to them. Women can participate as mediators or negotiators and in any case the gender dimension should be included in any element of the negotiations.

The second recommendation is that you not only ensure that there are women in transition or mediation processes. It must be ensured that through a design of participation of society, the roots of violence are analyzed taking into account gender issues in all its structural, social, and cultural dimensions.

Thus, for example, the Philippine Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission has, since the outset, worked by putting the gender issue at the heart of its methodology so that it not only paid attention to equality in participation but also in the language used and addressed the issue of gender-based violence including the discussion of masculinity models, which led to a number of gender recommendations that were developed with the same conflict-affected communities in order to prevent future violations and suggest appropriate modalities of fact-recognition and accountability. Processes of transition from peace or from an authoritarian to a democratic regime could be promising if they resulted in the creation of prevention mechanisms and policies at the national level.

The third and final recommendation is that in order to improve the sustainability of peace agreements or these transitional periods, the parties to the conflict must agree on the design of a national and permanent prevention policy, which is composed of State agents and civil society

actors and that has a wide participation of women. These prevention initiatives would also enable long-term work on the structural, social, and cultural dimensions affecting women and dominant models of masculinity.



ENNA PALOMA AYALA SIERRA, DIRECTOR OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE NATIONAL POLICY TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INMUJERES

The Women Peacebuilders Project (MUCPAZ, Spanish abbreviation) designed by INMUJERES takes into account the structural conditions that generate a situation of peace in Mexico, to analyze the position and situation of women within the hierarchical and patriarchal social structure of the different communities in the country. The objective of MUCPAZ is to modify institutions and attitudes that allow us to build structures to consolidate peaceful societies and communities. Among the principles of the project, it is worth noting that the community is seen as a framework of social relations, and that in a peaceful society we must talk about negotiating mechanisms developed by the communities themselves. Peace is also conceived as a dynamic process involving communities, in which women play a decisive role. Thus, peacekeeping is the main principle.

The project is enriched by international experiences, such as Colombia and Guatemala, as well as from conflict communities themselves and where the transition processes of political regimes have resulted in different forms of violence against women.

For Mexico, it is worth noting the immediate case of the community of Cherán, in the State of Michoacán, where the community was closed and proclaimed a kind of radical autonomy. In this case, women played a key role in the representation of their forms of government, in the idea and notion of justice, and in the dialogue that was established with state and parastatal groups. Thus, MUCPAZ analyses peace processes at the local level where women have been importantly involved.

The project is covered by the National Development Plan, the National Program for the Social Prevention of Violence and Crime and the National Program for Equality between Men and Women (PROIGUALDAD), so that through the institutional structure of the State, the own actions undertaken in the territories and communities are covered. In this regard, the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System has recently joined this initiative.

MUCPAZ also seeks to propose strategies to address Resolution 1325 and the National Action Plan, as well as to pro-

mote organizational and institutional processes at different scales of the government: Federal, state and municipal, as well as with the community authorities themselves. To this end, problems have been identified in different parts of the national territory and criteria for intervention

on the territories have been defined. Currently, the project covers 27 of the country's 32 States, where networks of women peacebuilders will be built in approximately 120 municipalities.



RAFAEL JOSE BARRANTES, INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS' (ICRC) REGIONAL DELEGATION FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

The ICRC conceives women looking for missing relatives as “expert” people in their own situation, so they must be involved in decisions concerning them. In Mexico, this is recognized in the General Law on Forced Disappearance of Persons. In this country, as in the rest of the region, women are agents of their own protection and they should be consulted to understand their specific vulnerabilities and to design responses to their needs and ensure the recognition of their rights.

Historically, women have led the organizations of missing persons relatives and the representation of family members in decision-making spaces on the resources to be devoted to the search for their children, husbands, parents, and family members. In organizations to this end it highlights the representation of these women as mothers who through this role can search for their relatives and have access to places that others would hardly access since their figure does not pose a threat even to potential per-

petrators of disappearance, although this work exposes them to many risks.

Generally, these women claim not only their own cases but also those of other groups or associations. This involves an effort to represent in public spaces, self-training, fundraising, among others. They share their knowledge and choose representatives and routes of action and protect each other. It is therefore important for them to have the resources to participate in decision-making spaces.

The ICRC is working to be told about legal and technical procedures related to the search for their families. Women have managed to position the idea that the search should be more empathetic to the pain of the victims, and not to be seen only as a technical and bureaucratic process. They have also promoted legislative processes throughout the region.

The majority of missing persons in Latin America are men: In Argentina, they account for 70% of the total; Chile, 94%; Guatemala, 88%; Peru, 85%; Colombia, 88%. Unfortunately, although men account for the vast majority, more and more women disappear in Central American countries every day. In Mexico, for example, the most recent figures indicate that of the 189,000 persons disappeared, 42% are women. In addition, there are fourteen States that report more women disappeared.

Faced with this situation, experiences have emerged in the region of differentiated search for persons led by women who have developed experiences that must be taken into account in the strategy of finding women since their disappearance has very specific characteristics.

A quarter of the 77,000 persons still disappeared in Mexico are women. Out of the more than 112,000 persons lo-

cated, 6% were dead. And of them, 14% were women. Out of the persons located alive, 53% were women.

According to Data Civica, as of 2009 the number of homicides of women committed in public spaces was higher than of those committed in the household. In addition, at least 90% of female victims of forced disappearance are between the age of 10 and 17 pointing to a possible relationship with human trafficking. Recent reforms in Mexico prevent women from being blamed for their own disappearance and their search not to be delayed.

Women have managed to position consensus on the need to design and implement differentiated human search strategies as noted in Mexico's General Law on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres

Q&A SESSION

Was the National Plan of Women of Peace and Security built with civil society organizations and feminist groups? Will it be made public? When will it be published in the Official Journal of the Federation and how much budget will be allocated to it for its operation?

Enna Paloma Ayala:

The National Plan has been coordinated with the MFA, and was also the result of a consultation and strategic planning exercise. INMUJERES participates as a guest organization to this coordination exercise. It is about to be presented publicly and the budget will be specified there.

What are the challenges faced by Mediterranean Women that could help MUCPAZ's strategy in the Mexican context?

Enna Paloma Ayala:

The project was based only on Mexican experiences from the context of violence of the communities themselves that has generated collective victims. And it has focused on addressing these local issues that have occurred and been exacerbated historically as well as those related to the patriarchal structures of communities and their organizational needs.

Claudia Maffettone:

Machismo in Italy is expressed in similar ways than in Mexico, but the context of each country must be analyzed separately. Around the world, however, social structures put men at the forefront of conflict resolution and decision-making. There are some things that can be done locally aimed at local contexts.

What is the system in which INMUJERES participates with the Ministry of Citizen Security and Protection (SSPC, Spanish abbreviation) and which municipalities were selected?

Enna Paloma Ayala:

Coordination with the SSP is given through the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Safety System and 107 municipalities have been selected, including the 100 ones that the Federal Government considers to be the most dangerous to women because of their high rates of femicides and other crimes, or that have triggered gender alert among other criteria.

Which States report the largest increase in disappeared women in Mexico? Is there any data on the reason for the disappearance of persons?

Rafael Barrantes:

In official versions there is no information on the reason. The list of States is on the Ministry of the Interior webpage. Moreover, the General Law on the Disappearance of Persons establishes three ways to file a complaint in this regard: (1) A criminal complaint, which is filed with the judicial authorities; (2) Those initiated by the authorities for having received information from any source, and (3) Through reports that may be anonymous.

What information is there regarding the relationship between trafficking in persons and organ trafficking and the disappearance of persons? Could actions be taken in the educational field to reduce femicides?

Rafael Barrantes:

Differentiated search strategies refer to actions that need to be taken for different population groups: It's not the same to look for someone who is presumed to be alive or someone who might be dead, or who may be detained or

be a trafficking in persons' victim. To do this, a context analysis has to be done to establish patterns that guide the investigation of each case. A person's fate is envisaged based on their socioeconomic characteristics among other factors. Through context analyses, predictive mathematical models have been developed with a certain level of certainty that allow orienting the search based on the profile of the disappeared person, something that is essential for an effective search. They are not homogeneous phenomena, peculiarities must be distinguished to establish search strategies appropriate to each case. Hence the importance of the Single System of Management and Technological and Informatics Information – established in the General Law on the Forced Disappearance of Persons – that allows to centralize and analyze the information existing in the country.

Enna Paloma Ayala:

The issue of masculinities' construction is recent and had not been addressed in the institutional structure of the government. Currently, the Federal Government has undertaken several strategies in this area: one addresses the preventive process and transformation of cultural frameworks through specific advertising to educate children who are taking classes at home because of lockdown. There are other small actions that have to do with promoting care cooperation.

Another way to address the issue is through administrative sanctions on male attackers in cases of domestic violence who are channeled to re-education services, as long as they accept the sanction.

INMUJERES has promoted that administrative measures related to education be extended to other types of violence and crime, such as harassment and sexual harassment. Reflection on forms of violence between girls, boys and adolescents has also been promoted and strategic actors with whom to work in higher education schools where teachers are trained have been identified.

Mö Bleeker:

In el Salvador, a telephone network of women was developed to communicate in case of danger. Actions on past

crimes can be thought of as a prevention key. Hence the importance of training women and men as local mediators, and giving them gender training.

Another aspect is working with the proposed public policy communities applicable at the local level and where they can get involved themselves. This allows dialogue to be generated between communities and authorities at different levels, which also promotes citizen participation.

Claudia Maffettone:

The transformation of gender roles must begin from home and must continue in schools. The Search for Common Ground has developed programs for police and security forces to raise awareness of how they approach communities before using violence, as well as to apply gender perspective on crimes involving women.

What is the working link generated by MUCPAZ networks with women in indigenous communities?

Enna Paloma Ayala:

To strengthen MUCPAZ's work, a participatory diagnosis was first made that convened women from the municipalities and from this a list of local leaders who already promote participation in their communities was obtained.

Another strategy is to dialogue with the municipal authorities, as they are the ones that will exercise budgetary resources.

The third strategy is to convene the Community authorities which in accompanying women in communities provide them with legitimacy in their participation processes.

However, it should be noted that these links are already established in the communities in which MUCPAZ works which only provides institutional coverage to projects that already exist.

Rafael Barrantes:

The ICRC works with communities to better understand their vulnerabilities and produce pedagogical tools for search, especially for relatives with disappeared persons. The interventions are based on a diagnosis involving family members and striving for authorities to fulfil their obligations and that the authorities are aware of the services provided in this area.

Mö Bleeker:

Communities are the ones who know their own situation; they just need a little support. It is necessary to accompany them so that their voice is heard at the highest level. To do this, people who have access to communities must be found, people who are trusted and who have a lot of experience and who can be trained to better represent the interests of their communities. They need to be taught to think about prevention: For them to know their rights, for women and men to receive legal and gender training. No one can speak on behalf of those communities.



PANEL 3

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN SECURITY AND PEACEKEEPING



MODERATOR: CORIN ROBERTSON, UNITED KINGDOM AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO



MAJOR SAMANTHA TOOP, UNITED KINGDOM

Conflict resolution requires the participation of different actors who understand the threads of the conflict, for which it is essential to dialogue with the community to which assistance is provided. In my experience, while men face acts of physical violence or death, women often suffer sexual assaults, so it is important to understand that conflict affects girls and boys differently. Gender analysis is important to understand how this happens and to develop plans that serve the entire community. It is a tool and a central component of military planning. Anyone can do this if they receive the right training: The more personnel are trained in the matter, the more effective the unit will be and there will be better results in the field.

Thus, there needs to be more national investment to increase the recruitment of women in the military field and to ensure that they have the same possibilities for professional development as men. Both men and women in the field are needed as this situation improves interaction with members of the community receiving assistance, which is especially relevant when girls or adolescents need sexual violence-related care: They feel more confident in addressing these issues with women. However, for this to work they need to be given training in the field. Valuation teams are an example of how increasing the number of women can have a big impact.

However, there are many more roles women can play, especially at the headquarters: If they participate at all levels they will be able to share their ideas and there will be better plans. Women's contributions, as much as those of men, should be valued and this is possible by promoting cultural change even if it is a long-term enterprise.

Previously, Britain has caught the attention of the international community about the need to support and recognize the legitimacy of women as peacebuilders and to ensure that they can carry out their work free from threats and violence. Female personnel are at high risk of harassment and attacks and while this is not a reason not to deploy them in the field, mission leaders must take action to ensure that they receive support and that they have access to health and communication services with their family. The risks women face are not only in the field; they are also at the base, where they can suffer different forms of sexual harassment and this can be a factor that deters them from pursuing a career in the military sphere.

Women should therefore have the same opportunities to receive training as men. Hence the importance of promo-

ting gender quotas and promoting incentives, as this reserves places for women. In this way, equality is not only respected but diversity is respected too, as there is a mandate to protect the entire population and women account for half of it. In this sense, for it to succeed, conflict resolution must take into account the voices of women.

Another noteworthy aspect is the use of inclusive language. United Nations publications are a good example of this. It is something that should be applied on a daily basis because it is very common for an officer to be called "sir"; when sending an email, for example, if the sex of the recipient is unknown it is better not to assume that it is a man.

Finally, countries that have deployed women have done so because they have used them in roles where they can make valuable contributions. The positive effect that the presence of women has on peacekeeping missions is well known. In summary, what a woman can do should never be underestimated.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres



COMMANDER ANNA PREHN, GERMANY

These reflections start from my experience in two missions: In 2010, in Lebanon and in Northern Beirut in 2017. In the latter, I was part of a panel that was led by a woman for the first time in history. In my experience in Lebanon I focused on training Lebanon's navy. The fact that a uniformed woman was part of the training corps served to change the mindset of the host country's soldiers and United Nations forces at the administrative level. This change even resulted in discussions of admitting women on peacekeeping missions, who could also serve as role models for other women and forcing men to think about the importance of their participation in these efforts. Their participation is a clear sign of gender equality as it involves the work of one and the other as a whole, setting eyes on the same objective. This involvement makes a peace mission more successful.

One of the great challenges I faced in Lebanon's mission was finding someone to give me advice around the religious context and gender roles in Lebanon. I was able to talk to two women who were part of the German training team. Since I was the first leader in that position since the mission had begun in 2006, there was little information about it. An international network of contacts would have been very useful. And it is good news that the establishment of a network of women peacebuilders with the United Nations is currently being discussed in Germany. So, in addition to my conversations with soldier women, I took some precautions to confront the particular cultural envi-

ronment. One of them was to have a Major on my team who could replace me in case I wasn't well received. Fortunately, this did not happen.

Today, the international community and security institutions have noticed the barriers that exist for women and the importance of exchanging experience among uniformed women before starting a mission, as this could improve the condition of soldiers.

As I mentioned earlier, Germany is ready to improve the participation of uniformed women in United Nations missions both qualitatively and quantitatively. In general, their conditions within the armed forces must be improved to increase their participation. Not doing so involves overloading the few who are part of the armed forces and training for UN missions, as they will need to be deployed more frequently than their male peers to achieve the United Nations targets for women's participation in the field.

In this regard, their important work in peacekeeping missions should be further disseminated. Men should encourage their participation; at this time, it is important to have their solidarity and to talk about the importance of women's work. Another way to do this is by putting them as role models and for the United Nations to introduce the recognition of "peacebuilder of the year."



COMMANDER JILLIAN COLLINS, IRELAND

Ireland is one of the few countries that has implemented a military action plan to address Resolution 1325 as part of the structure of its National Action Plan. This is important because it shows military forces an accurate path of how that resolution will be implemented within the organization. The plan establishes the assignment of a gender adviser. This was the starting point for pushing the agenda into the organization and could later be pushed into the regional brigade and training structures. Thus, a gender equality agenda was designed which is taught mainly at the introductory level to train people who recently joined the organization. It is also taught as part of a pre-deployment training module abroad.

It is very important to institute a gender perspective within the organization, but the most important thing is that in the context of this plan, people from other parts of the world have been trained, so that in all rotations there is someone with gender training.

Women's contributions to peacekeeping are the same as those of men, so they also need to be in charge of ships, troops, planes. When women are included in the organization of missions, other perspectives are gained on how different situations can be dealt with and how they can report on them.

I have been deployed in areas where soldiers simply could not talk to local women that is, with the other half of the population. Having women deployed increases the scope of the mission and access to the population. This also allows to identify more areas of risk and possible threats in terms of situational awareness, something that can be obtained by talking about local women. In this way, it also ensures that women's voices are heard.

It is also essential that there are women within the military organization who issue prevailing gender norms and who are allowed to participate fully in all areas of the military organization. And this is something that will undoubtedly benefit military capabilities.

Finally, if we want to deploy peacebuilders, we have to hire women and this is something that falls within the quality of recruitment and the ability of organizations to retain them. The participation of decision-makers at the highest level must be strengthened to push Women, Peace, and Security's agenda. The inclusion of a gender perspective at all levels of item deployment can have major impacts on the quality of work and results.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JENNY TORRE SALINAS, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, MEXICO

Uniformed women play a key role in conflict prevention, consolidation, and peacebuilding. This is simply because more than half of the population is made up of women and girls.

Mexico resumed its participation in peace operations from 2015 and in 2016 began deploying the first women for the United Nations special political mission in Colombia. To date, there are eighteen deployed women taking part in missions such as Western Sahara, Mali, among others. Among their activities is to serve as heads of logistics personnel in communications, training, and practicing. They also participate in operational activities related to the promotion of gender perspective.

As part of the commitments that have been established in the National Action Plan of Resolution 1325 to be published by Mexico, women have received training in various aspects. Mexico has a joint peace operation training center, where Armed Forces, Public Security personnel, as well as people from abroad are trained. It also offers a course for the General Staff in United Nations operations another gender-focused pre-deployment course aimed at raising awareness among women and men in the implementation of gender perspective during peacekeeping missions, as well as in planning, implementation, and prevention activities.

I had the opportunity to participate in the United Nations special political mission in Colombia, with the rank of Regional Logistics Staff Officer and developed activities related to

mission planning. In the first group to be deployed there were only four women. In a timely manner, I was in charge of seeing the logistical needs of health care, supplies, and vaccination. When I joined the region to which I had been assigned, I fulfilled the functions of Logistics Staff Officer and was the only woman and gender focal point. Given my rank, in the absence of the Lieutenant Colonel I had to assume his duties, so I had the opportunity to participate in decision-making.

In this mission only 20% of the staff were women; ex-combatants accounted for approximately 40%. It was very important for the United Nations that there be gender parity in the number of military observers on the ground so that women and girls could be cared for with a gender perspective. The participation of uniformed women in a peace mission is beneficial, as it builds trust among the female population: Girls and women come to express their concerns to us. In addition, with our presence, cases of harassment and sexual harassment decrease.

A positive aspect of this mission is that there was a tripartite monitoring and verification mechanism, that is, in all the positions we held we had a counterpart of the government, former FARC and police combatants. Then, among the three of us, we could know the needs of former combatants firsthand and try to meet them. This mechanism also helped push Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

From the beginning of Colombia's peace process, a gender

round table was established. Their agreements were made with a gender approach. In summary, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of women in personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations and for the de-

sign of their actions at all levels to be done with a gender perspective.

Q&A SESSION

Commander Gillian Collins: How is Resolution 1325 applied in your day-to-day work as a gender consultant?

It applies to virtually everything we do. For example, in the current context of the pandemic, we work to understand the needs of the community and analyze the differentiated impact on women and men. This is seen in personnel itself in the difficulties they face in family dynamics, so support for personnel and their families was increased.

Major Samantha Toop: What advice would you give on how to secure national investment for women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping?

It should be included in the “doctrine” itself as is said in military jargon. There must be mandatory items. It’s about seeing gender issues from a human security perspective, the effects on a population. In analyzing these terms we reach women, men, boys, and girls, and it is necessarily observed that each of these groups have different effects.

Another way is to make sure that the reports have information disaggregated by sex because it is not the same to say that ten civilians were affected as to say that nine women and one man were affected. This information gives a different context about what happens.

Recently, gender consultancy has been incorporated in all Britain’s headquarters, although not all of them perform full-time, but it is a trend that is observed.

Commander Anna Prehn: Do you have any advice on how to promote cultural changes that provide tools to women operating in very masculine environments??

It is important to be prepared and be aware that you will face an environment with these characteristics so that it does not take you by surprise. I have tried to show more confidence, not to hesitate when leading a team.

Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Torre Salinas: Are gender training courses open to the general public?

Puede participar personal de fuerzas armadas y civiles, pero estos tienen que hacerlo mediante algunas organizaciones.

In many areas of conflict uniformed men and women are a figure of fear, especially for boys and girls, would it not be better for the performance of their work to wear civilian clothing or wear the United Nations blue uniform?

Comandante Gillian Collins:

I don’t think so. We must be identified as military, it is about having a greater impact and scope and visibility in areas that involve greater commitment to some organizations such as those of women. It’s more about building relationships so that people understand the role you play and what you can achieve, and working with the expectations they can have about your role.

Should military eligibility standards be more flexible for women in order to increase the number of women?

Major Samantha Toop:

There are currently already gender quotas. What is needed is to create the conditions for women to develop. An undesired effect of quotas and making certain requirements more flexible is that people who are inadequate to do certain jobs are sent, which means that they cannot properly perform their functions and far from favoring them, such a situation can harm women because they lose credibility and can affect the very image of the women we want to promote. The question is to lay the conditions for women to be able to properly deploy in the field.

Comandante Gillian Collins:

I would say it depends on what kind of measures we have in mind. In the case of Irish defense forces, it is not necessary to change the standards to have peacebuilders. The difficulties of more women are in the field of recruitment

and retention of female personnel. There should then be special measures that address the participation of women within organizations and take into account the balance between private and working life.

Comandante Anna Prehn

I can only think of one case a woman's deployment time should be shortened and that's when a woman becomes a mother, although this depends on the type of task she performs.

Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Torre Salinas: Do you consider that greater participation of women in the armed forces can help reduce the mistrust that the Mexican population feels towards them?

In Mexico, more and more women are in the armed forces and more involved in operational activities. This presence has improved public's confidence in these forces, especially because of the role of military women.



PANEL 4

WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS



MODERATOR: BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO



ELENA AMBROSI TURBAY, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DELEGATE FOR THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN COLOMBIA

The Colombian peace agreement is one of the most influential in the world, incorporating a cross-cutting gender approach and recognizing the role that women have historically played in building peace in the country as well as the need to overcome historical gaps in inequality and discrimination. The agreement envisages three major groups of measures:

1) Those designed to overcome historical discrimination against women by implementing affirmative actions to bri-

dge the gaps that widened during the Colombian armed conflict;

2) Those aimed at recognizing the participation of organizations in peacebuilding;

3) Those who recognize the differentiated impact that conflict has had on women and who seek to guarantee their right to truth, justice, redress, and non-repetition of harm.

The inclusion of women and the gender approach was a gradual and progressive process. In the pre-agreement negotiations there were only two women in the seven-person government delegation. In the FARC delegation, made up of six persons, only one woman. In the official photo of the negotiations only men were shown on both sides and that led to the demand of international and civil society agencies to increase women's participation in this process.

A year after the public phase of the talks began in October 2013, the UN Women and Peace National Summit, supported by UN Women and countries such as Switzerland and Sweden took place. It brought together a group of feminist women's organizations to make proposals to both delegations and to ensure the inclusion of the gender approach. From this came three demands: Do not stand at the table until an agreement is reached and full support is expressed for the peace process; to have a greater presence of women at all stages of the process; To include their specific needs and recognize the impacts of conflict on women's lives. As a result, the government decided to include two plenipotentiary women in its delegation a month later.

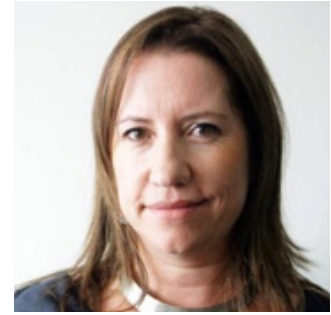
However, although progress had already been made in the agreements, they did not cross-cuttingly incorporate a gender perspective, so it was decided to open the discussion on all points in order to include it by creating a Gender Subcommittee, a situation that while involving a risk for the purposes of negotiation, it was ultimately successful. The Subcommittee was active for two years and in July 2016, delivered the results of its work in which recommendations were made to include the gender approach in the drafting of the agreements. The work of the Subcommittee was accompanied by social organizations through the creation of a model of participation to ensure that proposals were sent to the discussion table from three mechanisms: Inviting people to the table, organizing fora, and sending proposals by electronic or printed means.

To expand participation during the public phase, sixty men and women victims of the conflict were invited, who participated in the conversation tables that took place in Hava-

na. It was also attended by organizations representing the LGBTI community and sixteen former women combatants from Colombia and other countries.

Once the agreement was signed in August 2016, the referendum was organized in Colombia in October of that year in which about 40% of the population participated and the majority decided not to accept the agreement. Subsequently, there was a renegotiation process and the new agreement was endorsed by Congress in November 2016. Some of the spokesmen against the agreement opposed some points of the agreement related to the inclusion of the gender perspective and the recognition of the rights of the LGBTI community, arguing that they went against traditional values and the family. This situation alerted feminist organizations to address the renegotiation of the agreement, as the government could yield to points it considered not to be fundamental, such as the issue of gender perspective mainstreaming. Fortunately, both the government and the FARC decided to maintain the points that ensured the maintenance of said mainstreaming.

The agreement covers more than one hundred provisions and a battery of more than fifty indicators to measure progress in its implementation. In each of the three components mentioned above there are advances and challenges. One of the first is the recognition of the role of women in peacebuilding, specifically in the construction of a Peace Court which is the system justice mechanism that was created to address the legacy of human rights violations. More than half of the people who make up this court are women. There are eleven commissioners in the Truth Commission, five of whom are women, and it has a gender commission; unfortunately, one of them died from COVID-19. The disappeared persons search unit which completes these two mechanisms is currently run by a woman. In addition, an instance was set up under the agreement to follow up on the implementation of the gender approach, which has made it possible to see progress and setbacks in this area and there is a gender commission that reports on cases of sexual violence and other impacts that women suffered during the armed conflict.



PAULA GAVIRIA, DIRECTOR OF COMPAZ FOUNDATION

There are two factors that have not been mentioned that are a fundamental part of the process of recognition of women's rights in Colombia, namely the regulatory and public policy frameworks and their control mechanisms for monitoring compliance with them. The peace agreement is based on the above and is reflected in the mechanisms it created and the follow-up work done by the Attorney General's Office. Another important actor is the Court, which has made valuable interpretations of how the agreement should be implemented.

Thus, the organization of women, the accompaniment of international organizations, and that of the State's own institutions have been essential for the current framework that guarantees women's rights.

Although Colombia does not have a National Action Plan to implement Resolution 1325, there are actions that in fact address the disproportionate impacts faced by women in armed conflict as the Resolution points out, as there are more than 4.5 million women who recognize that they have been affected by the conflict.

As a legal precedent in Colombia it is worth mentioning the Law on Justice and Peace, enacted in 2005, which served as a normative framework for some demands of the women's movement, specifically the differentiated impacts that armed conflict has on women's lives. As a result of these claims, the Court issued an Auto 092 in 2008 in

which it acknowledges this reality, which is a very important precedent in this area. Despite this institutional recognition, there are still major problems in implementing the provisions of the regulatory instruments.

An important step forward is gender justice by applying a research model based on the unveiling of contexts and patterns of macrocriminality within the framework of justice and peace and determining that gender-based violence was a pattern of macrocriminality and a crime against humanity.

While the negotiations between the FARC and the government were in Havana, the Victims Policy was designed in Colombia, which was intended to help respond to the specific demands of women victims of the conflict. This policy pays for Resolution 1325 on collective redress and in the establishment of redress mechanisms for specific needs and guidelines to make these responses sustainable over time and in strengthening women and their leadership.

Currently, there are great opportunities with the implementation of the peace agreement related to strengthening women's leadership and recognizing its importance in peacebuilding. The final agreement represents an opportunity to integrate them into regional and rural processes. Women are the ones who most insist on the importance and need for peace from a critical perspective but also with a hopeful vision.



SONJA HYLAND, POLITICAL DIRECTOR AT THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ireland and Mexico have expressed an interest in sharing the Group of Experts and Experts on Women, Peace, and Security, and their joint work is expected to be important to the Security Council in this area.

With regard to my experience in the peace agreement in Colombia, I can say that I was surprised by the similarities between the peace process this country and that of Northern Ireland, specifically with regard to Women, Peace, and Security's agenda. Although in 2014, Colombia was beginning negotiations, while in Ireland the implementation of its own agreement was already under way.

Similarities include that in both countries the involvement of women in peace agreements was crucial. This was reflected in a timely manner in Ireland in the use of language in the agreement and the inclusion of certain provisions related to women's political participation, gender equality, social inclusion, and reconciliation, the needs of victims, as well as issues related to education and housing. In Colombia, there was a more systematic approach to including women in the peace process by placing gender as a cross-cutting issue, which allowed other issues related to ethnicity and the demands of the LGBTI community to be added to the discussion.

Another important difference is that precisely because of this cross-cutting approach, the agreement has a gender perspective that allows results to be tracked on the basis of a number of indicators in this area. In the case of Ire-

land, this was attempted in the 2014 National Action Plan.

An additional difference is that related to the approach of sexual and gender-based violence. In Colombia this was done clearly and openly. In Ireland this was not addressed which surely has to do with the fact that the moment the peace agreement was reached, this phenomenon was not yet very well understood nor had it been acknowledged. Unfortunately, in Ireland the rates of different forms of violence against women including sexual violence, remain high and have not changed since the signing of the agreement and they appear to be a transgenerational issue.

One of the things we have done to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Resolution 1325 is to work with UN Women and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders to organize a series of consultancies in Ireland, Colombia, Uganda, and South Africa with peacebuilders from those countries in order to share experiences and bring their apprenticeships to the Security Council table at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

One of the issues that emerged, especially in Colombia, is the economic empowerment of women, which is a prerequisite for promoting the advancement of women's role in governance and peacebuilding. Related to the above, the importance of funding for this purpose was noted.

Turning to the issue of differences between the Irish and Colombian processes on the issue of transitional justice, in

Ireland this issue was brought to the table mainly by women's organizations but was not as integrated into the peace agreement as in the case of Colombia. For Ireland, addressing this issue has been complex, largely because it was not integrated into the peace agreement and has had to be added later. Thus, for example, issues related to victims and the right to the truth remain unresolved in Ireland, something that contrasts with the Colombian case, where even a Truth Commission was formed, that is, these issues became part of institutional scaffolding.

One last difference concerns the intervention of international mediators in peace processes. In the case of Colombia, given the specificity of the points to be discussed, it was not so important to have such mediators. In Ireland,

an American senator acted as a mediator as well as from South Africa, Finland, Canada, in very specific aspects of the agreement such as the disarmament process.

In both cases, civil society played a key role, especially in demanding government accountability. All these experiences of Ireland and Colombia in women's participation, both in peace agreements and in their implementation can be very useful now that Ireland will be part of the Security Council.



MARCELO DIAZ, PEACE AND SECURITY ATTACHE OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN COLOMBIA

Sweden is a partner for peace in Colombia. Sweden's feminist foreign policy is based on two pillars: The participation of all people in a society in the processes that affect it and the representation of women in decision-making processes and dialogue tables. Women's participation in peace processes offers these greater integrality, sustainability, and efficiency.

Feminist politics appeals to a level playing field between men and women, something not often seen in peace processes or negotiating tables. In collaboration with UN Wo-

men, Sweden sought to highlight the differentiated and disproportionate impact that the Colombian conflict has on women and girls, so Sweden demanded their participation in the peace agreements and supported the victims' fora.

At the Summit for Women and Peace, Sweden underpinned the formulation of efficient proposals for the Havana dialogue table where it made a number of gender recommendations, including reviewing what had already been agreed and what was to be agreed to incorporate a gender

approach and strengthen the technical training of those participating in the table. In short, Sweden unified diplomatic and political efforts.

In the implementation process, the country provides technical training to the government team developing implementation plans to strengthen gender focus on security issues. It also noted that funds from different donors

should be used with a gender approach, and that accountability should be done in a differentiated manner in order to be clear about who the people benefited from the actions being taken, so that they promote gender equality.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres

Q&A SESSION

What strategies have been used in Ireland to incorporate the gender perspective into peace processes? What has worked and what recommendations would you make for the implementation of Mexico's National Plan?

Sonja Hyland:

Unlike the Colombian case, Ireland failed to place the gender perspective on agreements from the outset. One way to do this was by developing the National Action Plan itself. With regard to the recommendations to Mexico, it would be important for them to follow the Colombian route: To place the gender perspective in a cross-cutting way from the outset for which the participation of women, civil society, and feminist groups is essential.

Paula Gaviria:

Women should participate in all mechanisms for implementing the agreements not just those related to gender.

Elena Ambrosi Turbay:

It would have been more enriching if the issue of gender mainstreaming had not been a parallel discussion of the general agreements within the Gender Subcommittee as this topic transcends what is envisaged in the 51 indicators of follow-up to the agreement.

International accompaniment is fundamental to the achievement of the agreement not only for gender approach cross-cutting but for the entire part of the implementation of the agreement

Marcelo Diaz:

The Colombian peace process is a product of that country; International accompaniment must respect these national characteristics. Commitment must be transparent and long-term.

Belen Sanz

From previous presentations, it would be worth noting a series of “ingredients” that cannot be missed in a peacebuilding process: Including the participation of women from the beginning; having the support of partners from other countries; recognizing the leading role of civil society and women’s organizations before and during negotiation processes; political will to encourage women’s participation; giving greater visibility of women; the lack of regulatory frameworks guaranteeing women’s rights; the existence of a specific mechanism to incorporate the gender perspective in a cross-cutting way and follow up on its implementation; developing a holistic approach to transitional justice during the negotiation. These are very useful elements for other countries that seek to promote women’s leadership in peacebuilding.



CLOSING CEREMONY

MARTA DELGADO, UNDERSECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, MEXICO

This event was a space for dialogue and reflection on the experiences of women and men officials and international experts as well as actors of national political life who contribute to the construction of a national agenda on Women, Peace, and Security. It also notes the relevance of this agenda at the global level and is a recognition of the essential role that women play in building peace and security.

Twenty years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, there is an opportunity to reflect on the path traveled and what needs to be done to ensure its implementation. Promoting the Resolution's application on the ground will be one of the purposes of Mexico's forthcoming participation in the United Nations Security Council. In addition, in compliance with the feminist foreign policy of the Government of Mexico, the cross-cutting incorporation of gender perspective into the actions of this body as well as its follow-up in the implementation of the main provisions of Women, Peace, and Security's agenda, will be promoted.

On the other hand, Mexico will seek a leadership role in the Security Council's women and men expert group so that women's voices and recommendations are taken into account in the actions of this body.

In 2021, Mexico and France will co-chair the Equal Generation Forum with the accompaniment of UN Women and the leadership of civil society organizations around the world, to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to achieve gender equality. In this context, the establishment of the pact for women, peace, and security and humanitarian action is relevant since it will seek to accelerate actions and ensure the meaningful participation of women peacebuilders working in communities for equality, peace, and security.

National action plans have been the main tool that has enabled States and civil society organizations to follow up on the implementation of this agenda. Thus, Mexico will formally present its own plan before the end of this year. In this way, the country joins the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to drive radical change to promote the substantive participation of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts by ensuring that they are fully involved as egalitarian members from the early stages of peacebuilding processes.

NADINE GASMAN, PRESIDENT OF INMUJERES

As seen during this event, it is possible to analyze the mechanisms that different countries have used to implement Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, both from the perspective of the implementation of a National Action Plan and from initiatives for the inclusion of women in works for peace and security at the local level and this has been useful in identifying the challenges in this area.

Although not at war, Mexico is a country that builds a peace agenda demonstrating the current government's commitment to transforming the country by addressing the structural causes of violence through the coordinated efforts of all institutions and levels of government.

The approach to Resolution 1325 is far-reaching, and is not limited to addressing conflict and post-conflict situations. The truly transformative nature of Resolution 1325 is its ability to expand dialogue and the spectrum of dialogue that allows an inclusive agenda of all voices to be generated to influence peacebuilding. In this sum of efforts, a strategic sector is that made up of police and security forces.

In order to build safe environments for women and girls, the Mexican government has a roadmap, namely the Na-

tional Program for Equality between Women and Men and PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024, where the construction of safe and peaceful environments for women, girls, and adolescents is established as one of its priority objectives.

INMUJERES assisted in the development of the first Action Plan for the Follow-up to Resolution 1325, in which many government institutions were involved in incorporating the gender perspective into the actions of that plan, especially through the Women Peacebuilders initiative.

Through this, mechanisms will be developed so that more women can become multipliers of peace processes in Mexico at the municipal level. The MUCPAZ strategy is integrated into the Action Plan through concrete actions.

The global crisis caused by the pandemic presents an invaluable opportunity to end discrimination against women and encourage equal participation of women at the forefront of peace and security efforts, including decision-making processes to promote and protect human rights and the work of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders. As women's ideas, concerns, and needs are put at the center of peacebuilding actions, these processes and the sustainability of agreements will be strengthened.

BELEN SANZ, UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO

The women who have participated in this event are proof that when there are leaders in the institutions, it is possible to do great things. The content of the four panels has focused on how Resolution 1325 has been implemented and has shown where women's opportunities and leadership are in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. What has been addressed in these sessions will be very useful for the joint work of Mexico and Ireland as part of the Security Council.

These panels have also shown that meaningful participation of women not only implies an increase in their participation, but a transformation in the way we build peace.

We have enormous optimism and expectation about Mexico's role in adapting this agenda to its own context through the development of the National Action Plan which will serve as an example for other countries in the region and the world. We also welcome the country's commitment to a feminist foreign policy and the formation of the Peace Operations Training Center. The work of MUCPAZ, an initiative led by INMUJERES and supported by other government institutions is also very inspiring, as it is a huge opportunity to realize the contents of Resolution 1325 and to implement many of the experiences shared in the different panels.

BARBARA JONES, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO MEXICO

Mexico is not at war, but it must address the various forms of violence that afflict the country and it must do so creatively, as the experience it develops can be useful for other countries such as Ireland, whose participation in the Security Council table will focus on peacebuilding.

These discussions have shown that as long as women are excluded from leadership roles in the world, we will be sa-

botaging our chances of building a more peaceful, safe, and just world. The growth of world's violence is a consequence of gender inequality. Ireland will seek to apply its own experiences and those gained from the Colombian experience in the Security Council.

We thank all the team that made it possible to hold this event.



Fotografía: ONU Mujeres

PANEL 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325: LESSONS LEARNED AND OPPORTUNITIES



MODERATOR: JUAN LOPEZ- DORIGA

Graduated in law from the Complutense University of Madrid, he entered the diplomatic career in 1986. He was Deputy Director of the Office of the Undersecretary and Deputy Director General of Personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later, he was Consul of Spain in Paris. Since 1999, he has held a series of positions related to Latin America and Development Cooperation: Second Head of the Embassy of Spain in San José, Costa Rica, Advisor in the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America, General Director of Cooperation with Ibero-America, Ambassador of Spain in Guatemala, General Director of Planning and Evaluation of Development Policies, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and Ambassador of Spain in Tunisia.

He has also been Secretary of the Spain - USA Council Foundation. On August 24, 2018, he was appointed Ambassador of Spain to Mexico.



PANELIST 1: MAVIC CABRERA, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Maria Victoria “Mavic” Cabrera Balleza is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. Ms. Cabrera-Balleza initiated the Philippines National Action Plan process on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She also served as the international consultant to Nepal’s National Action Plan. She has provided technical support in 1325 national action planning in different countries including Guatemala, Japan and South Sudan; and facilitated costing and budgeting workshops of 1325 national action plans in Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, and Nepal. She pioneered the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program that is regarded as a best practice example and is now implemented in 18 countries. She co-authored the books From Best Practice to Standard Practice: A toolkit on the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security and Costing and Financing 1325; and edited the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 editions of Women Count: Civil Society Monitoring Report on Security Council Resolution 1325. She also edited the publication Implementing Locally, Inspiring Globally: Localizing UNSCR 1325 in Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda. She leads the civil society advocacy on the use of CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations as a complementary accountability mechanism to the WPS resolutions. In 2014, Ms. Cabrera-Balleza led the establishment of the Young Women for Peace and Leadership (YWPL), a network of young women in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan, and Ukraine, who are leading peacebuilding efforts in local communities.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza has facilitated workshops and discussions on the women, peace and security resolutions in many countries including Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine. Her masteral thesis on communication strategies on UNSCR 1325 was awarded best thesis at the University of the Philippines.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza is a founding member of the Global Funding Board of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, a funding mechanism and partnership that supports peacebuilding work of grassroots women’s organizations in different parts of the world. She initiated and co-coordinates the Beijing +25 Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security.



PANELIST 2: PABLO CASTILLO-DIAZ, POLICY SPECIALIST ON PEACE AND SECURITY, UN WOMEN

Pablo Castillo Diaz is a Policy Specialist at UN Women, focusing on efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, post-conflict, and emergency settings. He also works on mainstreaming gender equality in peacekeeping operations and engaging with the UN Security Council on women, peace and security issues. Before joining the United Nations in 2009, he taught international politics at several universities in the United States of America, including Rutgers, Fordham, Queens and Lehman.



PANELIST 3: ROBERTO DE LEON, COORDINATOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND PEACEKEEPING, DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE UN, MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)

Roberto de Leon has a degree in International Relations from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Estado de Mexico and a master in Diplomatic Affairs from the Instituto Matias Romero of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is a member of the Mexican Foreign Service and he was appointed abroad to the Mexican Mission to the United Nations in New York, during which he was a member of the team that represented Mexico in the Security Council in 2009-2010, and he was also appointed to the Mexican Embassy in Brazil.

In the Mexican Foreign Ministry, among other positions, he has been Director of Political Affairs at the General Directorate for the United Nations, Deputy Director General for Human Rights and Democracy, and is currently the Deputy Director General for Regional American Organizations and Mechanisms. In her career, she has participated in multiple multilateral and regional organizations and forums: United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, CSW, Indigenous Forum, UN-Women Executive Board, CELAC, SEGIB, Alliance for Open Government and General Assembly of the OAS.

Currently, Roberto de Leon is Coordinator for Peacekeeping and Political Affairs at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations.



PANELIST 4: AMBASSADOR GERALDINE BYRNE NASON, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason is the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in New York. She took up this position in August 2017 on completion of her term as Ambassador of Ireland to France. Previously she was Second Secretary General in the Department of the Taoiseach, Ambassador and Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, and Director of the National Forum on Europe.

During her career, Ambassador Byrne Nason has served in Brussels, New York, Paris, Vienna and Helsinki. As Second Secretary-General in the Department of the Taoiseach from 2011-2014, she was the highest ranking female public servant in Ireland. During that period she also was Secretary General of Ireland's Economic Management Council.

Since her arrival in New York, Ambassador Byrne Nason has been Chair of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for 2018 and 2019. The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

More recently she has also co-chaired high level political negotiations on the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and on the pathway for Small Island Developing States, ahead of the major summit on that subject in September 2019.

In 2014, she was elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland's highest academic honour. She holds an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Maynooth University as well as Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Literature from Saint Patrick's College in Maynooth (NUIM). Ms. Byrne Nason is married and has one son.

PANEL 2: PEACEBUILDING AND THE REDUCTION OF CONFLICTS.



MODERATOR: ERIC MAYORAZ, SWISS AMBASSADOR

Eric Mayoraz graduated in Political Science from the University of Lausanne and the University Institute of Higher International Studies in Geneva, as well as from the Spanish Diplomatic School in Madrid. Before entering the diplomatic service of the Swiss government, he worked as a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Liberia and the former Yugoslavia. He held various diplomatic posts in Madrid, Geneva, Bucharest and Bern. He was the Swiss Ambassador to Madagascar and Nigeria. On September 3, 2018, he assumed his duties as Swiss Ambassador to the United States from Mexico and Belize.



PANELIST 1: MÔ BLEEKER, SPECIAL ENVOY AND HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE FOR DEALING WITH THE PAST AND PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES, SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mô Bleeker has been working for the Swiss FDFA since 2003 and has accompanied complex political processes of transition in numerous contexts and on different continents, including Central America, Colombia, the Balkans, South-, Southeast- and Central Asia as well as in several different regions of Africa. Currently she serves as Special Envoy for Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities. She acts as Chair of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) of the Peace Agreement on the Bangsamoro in the Philippines. She also acts as the Chair of the Global Alliance Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAA-MAC). Mô Bleeker studied anthropology, religious studies, journalism and holds a post-graduate diploma in development studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.



PANELIST 2: CLAUDIA MAFFETTONE MEDIATOR, MEMBER OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN MEDIATION NETWORK (MWMN)

Claudia Maffettone is the Track II Mediation Program Manager at Search for Common Ground. She has led over 35 dialogue initiatives in support of US-Iran and US-Russian relations, the Syrian peace process, demining in Libya, and of broader inclusion in peace processes. She is an advocate for the advancement of the practice of mediation, and leads an international consortium to support African insider mediators and their engagement in high-level processes. She is an experienced mediator, trained at the US Institute of Peace, PATRIIR, Harvard Law School, and the New York City Bar among others, and a member of the Mediterranean Women Mediation Network (MWMN). Previously, Claudia worked at Soliya, a pioneering organization in the field of virtual exchange and intercultural dialogue, advancing partnerships with educational institutions, NGOs and CSOs in the MENA Region, Asia, Europe, and North America. Claudia holds a BA in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Università degli Studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale', in Italy, and a MA Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford in the UK, where she studied as a Rotary Peace Fellow.



PANELIST 3: ENNA PALOMA AYALA SIERRA, DIRECTOR OF MONITORING NATIONAL POLICY FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOMEN

Enna Paloma Ayala has a degree in economics from the Universidad Michoacana of San Nicolás de Hidalgo; She holds a Master Degree on Science and is a candidate for a Doctor of Science in Regional Rural Development from the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo and the Universidad Autónoma de México. She has developed research on topics such as violence and land management, crisis and reconfiguration, social reproduction strategies, gender and rural youth, with various publications. Among some of her work activities is the elaboration of the models of Regional Funds for Indigenous Women of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples; She was part of the Mercosur liaison team with the Ministry of Agriculture in Andalusia, Spain; she is a researcher at the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, in Santiago de Chile; Professor at the Institute of Geographical Research of the Autonomous University of Mexico, the Michoacan University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo and the Center for Higher Studies in Legal and Criminological Sciences. Additionally, she is part of the Collective Directorate of the magazine Marxismos of the Center for Didactics and Educational Communication of the UMSNH as well as the Editorial Committee of the magazine Territorios belonging to the Network of Researchers in Management of Territorial Development. She is currently the director of follow-up to the national policy to combat violence against women of the National Institute of Women.



PANELIST 4: RAFAEL JOSE BARRANTES SEGURA, INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

Rafael Barrantes is the Coordinator of the Department on Disappearances of the Regional Delegation of the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) for Mexico and Central America. He has previously worked for the ICRC Delegation of Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, and for the ICRC Delegation in the Western Balkans (the Bosnian and Kosovo context). He studied Social Anthropology at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Peru, he has a Master's Degree in Human Rights from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Before the ICRC, he worked in the Truth Commission of Peru and was a Researcher at the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, where he focused mainly on research on memory and transitional justice.

PANEL 3: THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN IN SECURITY AND PEACEKEEPINGA



MODERATOR: CORIN ROBERTSON, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN MEXICO

Ms Corin Robertson has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Mexico in October 2018.

Corin joined Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service in 1994, and has previously represented the British government in Japan, Brussels, Canada and now in Mexico.

Prior to assuming her ambassadorial appointment, Corin served as Director of Assets and Security at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office where she led the foreign diplomatic and security operation. She also served as a Director in the Secretary of National Security. From 2011 to 2014, she was Deputy High Commissioner in Canada and held previous positions as Head of the Counter-Terrorism Department (2008-11), Business Advisor (2007-8) and working on European Union affairs (2000-2006), among other things



PANELIST 1: MAJOR SL TOOP RAMC, UNITED KINGDOM

Major Toop commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK in 2004. Early years were spent working with armour in Germany as well as an instructor at one of the soldier training Regiments. As a Captain she was the Adjutant of 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital and also completed a MSc in Disaster Healthcare Management. Having promoted to Major in 2013 she advised on the medical requirements for the Enabling Command in the 3* NATO HQ, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. Appointed Commander of a Sub Unit in the Medical Regiment within 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Major Toop has key operational experience, having deployed to Iraq twice as a Troop commander and as a Squadron Second in Command for a Close Support Medical Regiment. She was instrumental as a member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (Afghanistan), assisting with the development of the Afghan Health Care system; particular focus on maternal healthcare to decrease maternal mortality. In 2019 Major Toop deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the UN mission, MONUSCO as the Force Commanders Gender and Child Protection Officer. This deployment saw her work with over 16 Female/ Mixed Engagement Teams supporting the Protection of Civilians mandate and specifically implementing the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Resolution.

She remains keen to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and innovative ways that the military can increase its contribution to WPS.



PANELIST 2: COMMANDER ANNA PREHN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN GERMANY

Commander (OF-4) Anna Prehn joined the German Navy in 2002. She was Commanding Officer of a Minehunter and is also specialized in the human resources management branch. From 2018 until 2020 she participated in the German Staff Officer Course. Commander Prehn was assigned abroad four times - twice under UN flag in the mission of UNIFIL.



PANELIST 3: COMANDER GILLIAN COLLINS, MEMBER OF THE SUPERVISOR GROUP OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN III AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE DEFENSE FORCES

Commander Gillian Collins is the current Gender Equality and Diversity Advisor for the Irish Defense Forces.

Commander Collins joined the Defense Forces in 2003 and was dispatched to the Cavalry Corps in 2005. She has since been assigned a wide number of appointments at various levels in the organization. She is a member of the Oversight Group of the Third National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council, representing the Defense Forces.

Commander Collins has completed five tours of duty abroad, two with the United Nations in Liberia and Lebanon, two with European Union-led deployments in Chad and Bosnia, and one NATO deployment in Kosovo. As a CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) Officer for the EUFOR mission in Chad in 2008, Commander Collins also acted as the Gender Issues Coordinator at the tactical level, gaining experience in the practical implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 in operations. of the United Nations.

Commander Collins has also completed several gender training courses at the Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Switzerland, as well as at the European School for Security and Defense.

Commander Collins has a BA in European Studies from the University of Limerick, she has a Higher Diploma in Defense and Leadership Studies from the University of Maynooth and an MA in Peace and Conflict from University College Dublin



PANELIST 4: LT. COR. NURSE. D.E.M. YENI TORRES SALINAS, MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Lieutenant Colonel Yeni Torres is a graduate of the military school for nurses, with a degree in Nursing and a specialty as a physiotherapist from the Military Graduate School of Health. She is also a graduate of the course of the General Staff of the Higher School of War and Master of Human Rights.

She has held various positions during her military career. She has been head of the nursing room and head of the physiotherapy area, as well as head of the subsections of Research and Military Doctrine, Plans and Programs, and Academic Control in the General Directorate of Military Education. She was also Commander of the Cadet Corps and Deputy Director of the Military School of Nurses, as well as Head of the Observatory for Gender Equality, group leader of the Research and Development and Strategic Plans subsections of the Fifth Section of the Defense General Staff National. She is currently the head of the Medical Supply Procurement section of the General Administration Directorate.

From July 2016 to Sep. 2017, she participated in the United Nations Special Political Mission in Colombia and from Oct. 2017 to February 2018, at the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

PANEL 4: THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN IN PEACE EFFORTSAD



MODERATOR: BELEN SANZ, REPRESENTATIVE OF UN WOMEN IN MEXICO

Since October 2017 she is UN Women Representative in Mexico. Between 2013 and 2017, she served as Representative of UN Women in Colombia where, under her direction, she was accompanying the historic peace process that this country lived through and supporting the participation of women and the promotion of a gender approach in peace construction. This process is recognized to be one with the highest level of inclusion of women. Likewise, she assumed the functions of Resident Coordinator, of the United Nations System in the country, during the period February-August 2016.

Prior to her position in Colombia, she worked as Director of Evaluation first for UNIFEM and later for UN Women in New York. Her main functions were the evaluation of policies, programs and strategies in different regions of the world, and the consolidation of the evaluation as a strategic function for accountability, learning and the definition of evidence-based policies. In this capacity, she assumed the role of Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group, promoting a human rights and gender approach in the evaluation carried out by the United Nations system, which earned her numerous awards.

Before joining the United Nations, she worked as Head of Development Policy Evaluation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, where she led the development of the Evaluation System in the Spanish cooperation agency, and previously as Advisor on gender programs and policies in the same entity.

She served as Vice President of the Evaluation Network of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Gender Network.

She is a Spanish national, she has more than 15 years of experience in development policies, with special emphasis on gender equality and women's rights policies, and the evaluation of public policies in international settings.

She holds a Master degree in Anthropology from the University of London, and in Public Policy Evaluation from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. She holds a degree in Social Anthropology from the National School of Anthropology and History of Mexico. She's been a speaker and teacher in numerous academic institutions and a lecturer in international forums related to International Cooperation, the Public Policy Evaluation, Human Rights and Gender Equality Policies.



PANELIST 1: SONJA HYLAND, POLICY DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

Sonja Hyland is Policy Director in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs since 2019. She has been an Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, as well as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in East Africa and the African Union. From 2010 to 2012, Sonja Hyland was Deputy Director to the United Nations Multilateral System and Representative of Ireland on the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Office, Project Services Units at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Sonja Hyland was also Deputy Director of the Security Policy and Planning Section in the Presidency of the European Union in the Political Division of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2006.



PANELIST 2: ELENA AMBROSI TURBAY, DELEGATE ATTORNEY FOR THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN COLOMBIA

Elena Ambrosi is a lawyer from the Universidad de los Andes, specialized in International Humanitarian Law and International Relations from the Universidad Externado de Colombia. She was the thematic director of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, where she served as alternate negotiator in the process carried out between the Government of Colombia and the FARC.

In the Colombian Ministry of Defense, she held various positions: she was advisor and director of human rights of the Vice Ministry of Defense and advisor on International Affairs, positions from which she contributed to the Colombian Plan.

She was also the Delegate Attorney for Support to the Victims of the Armed Conflict and the Demobilized and currently serves as the Delegate Attorney for the Follow-up of the Peace Agreement in Colombia



PANELIST 3: PAULA GAVIRIA, GENERAL DIRECTOR COMPAZ FOUNDATION

Paula Gaviria Betancur is director general of the Compaz Foundation. She is a lawyer and journalism specialist, with postgraduate degrees in public opinion and political marketing. She is the former Presidential Councilor for Human Rights in Colombia.

She started and directed the Victims Unit for more than four years, a government entity in charge of assisting and repairing eight million people affected by the internal armed conflict. For this work, she was awarded the 2016 José Edgardo Campos Collaborative Leadership Award, by the World Bank.

She actively participated in the construction of the rights of the victims of the Final Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, where she promoted a leading role for the victims and the inclusion of their voices in the dialogue process. Previously, she led initiatives with the Social Foundation, directing the area of Advocacy in Public Policy and the Human Rights and Peace consultancy. She also served as head of communications for the Constitutional Court, as well as private secretary of the Ombudsman and in charge of the National Directorate for the Promotion and Dissemination of Human Rights of the same entity.

She has completed specialized courses and diplomas in human rights such as the Transitional Justice Fellowship in South Africa and the International Visitors Leadership Program with the United States Department of State.

She is currently a Member of the United Nations High Level Panel on Displacement.



PANELIST 4: MARCELO DIAZ, PEACE AND SECURITY ATTACHÉ OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN COLOMBIA

Marcelo Diaz is currently acting as Peace and Security Attaché of the Swedish Embassy in Colombia sent to the authority of the Swedish government before the Republic of Colombia by the Folke Bernadotte Academy-FBA.

Prior to this, he was an Expert Advisor to the FBA for the High Council for the Post-conflict of the Presidency of Colombia on Security and Gender issues in the implementation of the peace agreements between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, particularly contributing to the gender approach in the Implementation Framework Plan. Additionally, in cooperation with the Peace Building Unit-UNIPeP of the National Police of Colombia, he led the capacity development to address gender-based violence, among others, through the design of the Ema-Focus of Gender in the National Police Service, for the prevention and care of gender-based violence in rural areas of the country widely affected by violence in the context of the armed conflict.

With a degree in Linguistics and a Master in Political Science from Uppsala University, he holds specializations in Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and Gender, and has more than 15 years of experience in peace work, conflict resolution and human rights.

These include approximately 10 years as a Human Rights Officer at the United Nations, where he has documented hundreds of cases of human rights violations and infractions of international humanitarian law, particularly focusing on cases of sexual violence and femicides in the context of conflicts.

Marcelo has extensive and deep experience of dialogue with regional and national authorities and has led training processes aimed at the security sector in Colombia on gender mainstreaming and equity issues within the framework of reform, transformation and modernization of the security sector.

CLOSING PANEL



MARTHA DELGADO PERALTA, UNDERSECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Martha Delgado holds a Master Degree of Liberal Arts in the field of Sustainability from Harvard University. She has developed her professional career in the field of the environment, from different sectors: government, civil society and international affairs, in the last 25 years. In her current position, she is responsible for the design and implementation of Mexico's foreign policy before international organizations, the coordination of policy and cooperation with the international human rights system, dialogue with civil society organizations and the coordination of Mexico's participation in forums on the environment and climate change, gender and democracy promotion, as well as the sustainable peace agenda. Since December 1, 2018, she is Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations.



NADINE GASMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN

Nadine Flora Gasman Zylbermann is a Doctor of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, she holds a master's degree of Public Health from Harvard University and she is a certified surgeon from La Salle University and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

She has an impeccable, outstanding, broad and solid professional trajectory of more than three decades (both nationally and internationally) in the areas of planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, programs and projects, in the health sector, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, as well as initiatives and policies for gender equality, prevention and care of violence against women, and their economic and political empowerment.

Her long-standing trajectory also includes extensive work in the academic and social spheres, with direct work locally, where she has led participatory and inclusive processes aimed at promoting the empowerment of women, as well as developing and strengthening policies on institutional and innovative initiatives with a gender, human rights and intercultural perspective, in which she has also managed to involve and mobilize various actors (governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector), to provide coordinated and effective responses that allow addressing the needs of girls and women, especially those in the most vulnerable conditions.

As an international official, she was the Representative of UN Women in Brazil from 2013 to February 2019 and Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Guatemala from 2005 to 2010, a body in which she promoted policies and initiatives in the areas of migration, health reproductive, new masculinities, attention to sexual violence and empowerment of adolescents.

From 2010 to 2013, she was Director of the Campaign of the Secretary General UNITE to end Violence against Women for Latin America and the Caribbean, in which she achieved commitments from various sectors and actors from all countries in the region.

Dr. Nadine Gasman has more than twenty academic publications. Her mother tongue is Spanish, but she also speaks English, French and Portuguese.



AMBASSADOR BARBARA JONES, IRISH AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO

Barbara Jones is Ambassador of Ireland to Mexico since September 2017, with responsibilities in Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela. Originally from Co. Wexford, Barbara has worked for almost 30 years as a diplomat to become one of the highest-ranking officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs, including positions in San Francisco, Luxembourg, London and New York. She has also worked as Head of Humanitarian Aid Policy and Assistant Secretary at the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat in Belfast.



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