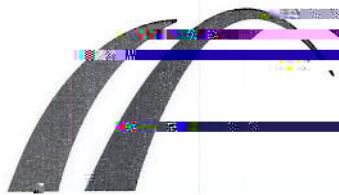


PERMANENT MISSION OF



PARAGUAY

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

General Debate: Analysis on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special Session of the General Assembly. Exchange of Views on experiences and good practices on the implementation of the Platform for Action for 2001 with a view to overcoming the remaining obstacles and the new challenges."

New York, 24 February 2011

Intervention by

MRS. TERESA VILLALBA

Head of Cabinet

Ministry of Women Affairs

Republic of Paraguay

(check against delivery)

"Bicentenario de la Independencia Nacional 1811-2011"

Mister President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

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

I would like to Express the Paraguayan Delegation's solidarity to the interventions formulated by the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Argentina on behalf of the UNOPAF on 17/27 and China, and by the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Chile on behalf of the UNOPAF on 17/27.

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

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

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

On behalf of the Paraguayan Delegation I would like to share with you all the main achievements attained in year 2007.

The road map followed by the la Secretaría de la Mujer de la Presidencia de la República (SMR) is defined by the Third National Plan of Equality between Men and Women (2006/2017), which is organized according to the Strategic Goals of the Beijing Platform for Action.

According to the institutional mission, the women's secretariat is the public mechanism for the advancement of women. The implementation priorities are related with the better positioning of the National Plan of Equality of opportunities between women and men (NPE) as a public policy; strengthening of prevention, eradication and punishment of violence against women and trafficking in persons; a better position to the international instruments; the definition and implementation of participatory management models in public institutions at central and local levels; improvement of information and communication systems; the approach to the media and the civil society.

The Proposal of National Policy of Social Development has as a first axis the realization of the total Women and Men, and it is committed to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Development services provided by the Government. These services include efficient and accessible mechanisms...

to prevent, sanction and eradicate all forms of gender and violence against women, where the SM (Secretariat for Women) has made its most significant contribution.

Mister President,

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

- i) Institutional strengthening in terms of a better articulation among the different departments in order to facilitate a better articulation, socializing the internal information, avoiding errors, duplication, improving internal control system and administrative procedures;
- ii) A better position of the SM before International Institutions, particularly those to which Paraguay has to inform on the application of the Conventions for the advancement of women and the protection of their rights (CEDAW, Belém do Pará among others);
- iii) Expansion of the supply of public services for the prevention, attention and integral protection to women under situation of gender violence or people trafficking, through the training and professionalization of the staff at the centers of attention which housed more than 2,300 cases, the strengthening of the shelter for victims of people trafficking and the opening of the first shelter for women in situation of violence and their children;
- iv) Coordinated interinstitutional work with the Ministry of Interior for the habilitation of 8 specialized police stations with their respective Divisions for the Control and Services to women, boys, girls, and teenagers, surveillance of non violence, training of 540 agents of the national police and 227 officials (men and women) in the area of justice and professional of the national society;
- v) Habilitation of 5 centers specialized for cases of family violence victims, as a result of the joint work with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare;
- vi) Strengthening of the Program for Equal Opportunities for women of the Ministry of Education, inclusion of gender perspective in the National Education Plan 2024, in the book texts of the 3rd Cycle of Non-Elementary Education and the studies programs of initial teachers, training of the Higher Institute of Education;
- vii) The signing of an Agreement between the Women's Bureau, Supreme Court, and the gender commissions of both Houses in the National Congress) for the preparation of an integral bill to prevent, sanction, and eradicate violence against women (December 20th, 2010).

Mister President,

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

The extension of public policies with respect to women has been developed with the Secretariats of Women of the 17 Governorates of the country, and 15 Municipal Secretariats in the Department of Itapúa. Today 177 towns of the country have a Municipal Women's Secretariat.

Although in a more incipient way, there has also been an advancement in the area of access to economic resources for the benefit of rural women. In 2009, the Government carried out over 7,000 credit operations with revolving funds, research on women as a food producer and 10 rural female technicians, planners and managers of rural extension training activities and a specific type policy for rural women. The Health Insurance System, for the first time in 2010, covers the female household workers in the whole country.

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

During the year 2010 we have worked for the professionalization of male and female officials of the Women's Bureau of the Presidency for the reinstatement of a strengthened institutional structure and in accordance to the government's principle of sustainability, we want government for the time comprehensiveness of its actions within the institution as well as the responsibility of the State with regards to the overcoming of obstacles or conditions perpetuating the subordination.

As an immediate challenge we must admit that although there has been an advancement in the adequacy of legislation from the gender perspective, we still do not count with comprehensive laws for the prevention, protection and eradication of violence and people trafficking. Several institutions collect data on women but functional statistics are not integrated within a unique information system with internationally comparable indicators. The departmental and municipal governments, have started to recognize the gender perspective, the adoption of equality plans and the allocation of budgets to legal policies towards women, while poor urban women and rural women are active participants in social inclusion programs (and poverty reduction) and must make themselves the axis in the economic and productive integration strategies. The need to understand (and report) the worldview from indigenous women represents the indispensable previous step to design inclusive policies towards them; it is not less important we are facing the challenge to strongly expand the presence of high level public services for the advancement of women from the capital city to the other corners of the country.

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

Thank you very much.