



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**Statement by Mrs. Lorena Cruz Sánchez,
President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico,
in the general debate of the
57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

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New York, March 5, 2013

Madame President, distinguished delegates,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak for the first time in this Commission, as President of National Women's Institute of Mexico. On behalf of the Mexican delegation, I congratulate the Bureau for their job in supporting the work in this Commission. I wish to extend my appreciation to UN Women for the actions taken in their second year of work, such as the "High Level Forum for Strengthening Women's Access to Justice", for the continuity of the "UNITE" Campaign, for the launch of the initiative "COMMIT" and especially for organizing preparatory activities and regional consultations that paved the way for this session.

As part of this regional effort, women mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean support the Consensus of San Salvador, outcome of the preparatory Regional Consultation for this Commission. We consider that violence against women is an offense to the human dignity and that States have the duty to protect, respect and guarantee all women the right to life, liberty, security and integrity.

It is for this reason that the Mexican Government is committed to the human rights of women, hence it has ratified and accepted all the recommendations of the CEDAW, and at the Inter-American level of the Convention for Prevention, Sanctions and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Convention of Belém do Pará and its

Follow-up Mechanism, which has allowed to move forward in recognition and sanction all forms of violence against women including domestic and sexual violence, such as sexual harassment, marital rape, and physical, psychological, economic, social and institutional violence.

The General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence is in force since 2007. It mandates all government agencies and judicial and legislative powers to take actions to prevent and eradicate violence. Since then, economic resources for that purpose are allocated to education, health, justice and security among others sectors, as well as NGOs involved in its prevention and attention. This year the amount allocated from the federal budget is around \$ 1.5 billion dollars.

Women and girls victims of violence inside and outside their homes, have free medical and psychological attention throughout the entire health system due to the Official Standard 046, attention to women victims of domestic and sexual violence, which mandates that all health institutions grant assistance and treatments, especially to those who have suffered sexual violence to be provided with prophylactic treatments for HIV / AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraception and legal interruption of pregnancy in the case of rape, with full respect of their sexual and reproductive rights.

In Mexico we have learned our lesson from the painful events in Ciudad Juarez that led to recommendations and a sentence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights against our country, as a result, we have created a new legislation to sanction femicide, the death of women and girls by the mere fact of being women or for their gender, we have also built investigation protocols for femicide crimes, disappearance of women and sexual violence.

Femicides can and must be prevented. It is announced each time a woman or a girl goes to a hospital or a police station or before a judge, and they only minimize the complaint and attend the wounds. All of these women should have been subject to credibility, and should have been protected. Access to justice for women will avoid more violence and prevent death. For this reason we are installing justice centers for women, spaces where assistance for legal and social services will be provided.

Our government, led by President Enrique Peña Nieto, has expressed commitment to Mexican women in law and practice; women will be the center of social, economic, educational and justice policies. In Mexico's public policy there is no room for discrimination, inequality or violence against women.

It is important to highlight that for the first time our legislative power is integrated by more than 38% of women in the Chamber of Deputies and 34% in the Senators, who have begun the approval of a gender-sensitive budget, aimed to guarantee Mexican women access to their rights and needs, on a priority basis to achieve a balance between home and employment and the economic empowerment of women, especially of indigenous women.

Madame President,

In this session of the Commission the priority theme is of great importance for the Government led by President Enrique Peña Nieto. Accompanying me in the Mexican Delegation are experts on combating violence against women, representatives of the Legislative and the Judicial powers, from the national human rights mechanism as well as from the civil society.

My Government recognizes and values the important work done by human rights defenders and we are concerned about the ongoing violence that they have been subject to, so we call for the establishment of comprehensive protection mechanisms.

We also recognize the importance to continue promoting the participation and awareness of men and boys, in order to be partners in building a more equitable and peaceful society.

We welcome and take into account the recommendations included in the report of the Secretary General of the UN and we support the initiative "COMMIT" of UN Women, to conduct comprehensive and targeted actions to strengthen and

guarantee the right of women to a life free of violence, with the focus on prevention, attention and sanctions.

We are confident that the international community will send a clear message to women, that any violation of their human will not be tolerated, nor justified, and that a life without violence is possible.

Thank you.