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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY
NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. President:

Thank you for convening this Open Debate. Anecdotally, it brings back memories of our own Presidency of the Council exactly one year ago, when we adopted the Presidential Statement S/PRST/2012/23 even before the debate was held, since it was postponed until November due to storm Sandy that caused so much damage to this City, preventing the scheduled meeting. So we are happy to have this debate and the adoption of a new resolution which strengthens the conceptual framework of the groundbreaking Council resolution on this issue, 1325 (2000), as well as several subsequent resolutions and Presidential Statements.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report, which forms the basis for this debate and for his presentation. We also thank the new Executive Director of UN-Women, Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, for her presentation and we take the opportunity to congratulate her on assuming her new post. I thank Mrs. Navi Pillay for her valuable contributions to the topic and especially thank Mrs. Brigitte Balipou for providing a collective vision of civil society organizations, whose participation we have consistently supported, as testified by the legacy of the aforementioned Presidential Declaration. I would also say that we value the Concept Note prepared by the Presidency to give guidance to our discussion.

Mr. President,

Each year the Council has been building on the core premise of resolution 1325, because we are convinced that without the security of women, there cannot be lasting peace. We think there will be added value to today's specific theme which refers to women, the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict situations. Although up to now the Council has hosted seven debates on the issue of rule of law, there is still a way to go to achieve overall accountability for crimes that affect women and girls. We have not made sufficient progress in achieving women's full participation in the processes of transitional justice. Also, there is room to improve the analysis of sex-differentiated effects on women and girls when breaking the rule of law during and after conflicts.

We have previously expressed that, based on our own experience, the boundaries between peacebuilding, peace keeping and economic, social and legal transformations are not clear. Therefore, we think it is of paramount importance to advance the fight against impunity, improve access to justice for women and strengthening the justice system infrastructure to deal with these crimes, both nationally and internationally. Guatemala has legislation on femicide and established dedicated courts for this crime, as well as one-stop justice centers which bring together the legal, judicial, medical response as well as providing psychosocial support to women and their children. We agree with the Secretary General's recommendation that we must intensify efforts to meet and fund recovery needs of women and girls, especially those who have become heads of households.

Moreover, my country wishes to acknowledge the work of UN-Women. Its creation was a singularly important institutional development, among other things, to promote the implementation of resolution 1325. We support greater participation of women in peace-building and strengthening civil capacity after conflict to be consistent with the issue of women, peace and security. We believe that it is necessary to recognize women as peace and stability makers.

The resolution that we adopted today contributes to reducing the vulnerability of women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. We recognize the need to receive information in time to intervene

early and save lives. In that sense, conflict prevention is the best way to protect all civilians from the horrors that accompany armed conflicts, particularly women and girls. Hence we advocate promoting the participation of women in political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, as well as in the processes of peacebuilding. The mere fact of having suffered disproportionately the impact of conflict, enhances the importance of the participation of women in peace processes.

Finally, we consider that the Fifteenth Anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2015 will provide not only the Security Council, but the entire United Nations system, a manner to monitor the levels of implementation of that resolution and to renew commitments to combat violence, including sexual violence. We invite all Member States and the United Nations system, to facilitate greater participation of women in this area.

Thank you very much.