



International Conference

PROMOTING GENDER TO BUILD A LASTING PEACE: REFLECTING ON THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

*April 25 and 26, 2012
Buenos Aires*

Programme

Wednesday, April 25

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch in the Main Hall – San Martin Room (Ministry of Defense). Registration.

13:30 – 15:00 **Opening**

Welcoming Remarks

Marcela DONADIO, Executive Secretary RESDAL.
Nils HAUGSTVEIT, Ambassador of Norway to Argentina.
Gwyn KUTZ, Ambassador of Canada to Argentina.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Arturo PURICELLI, Minister of Defense of Argentina.
Accompanying: Dr. Alicia Margarita KIRCHNER, Honorary President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies-National Council of Women.

Keynote speaker

Michelle BACHELET, Executive Director UN Women.

15:00 – 17:00 **Panel: Voices from the Field: the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo Case (MONUSCO)**

Elsie EFFANGE-MBELLA, Senior Gender Advisor, Head of Office of Gender Affairs- MONUSCO HQ.

Marie ONIWA, Head Sexual Violence Unit MONUSCO HQ.

Colonel Devendra SHARMA, Chief Military Personnel Officer, MONUSCO HQ.

Jacqueline RUMBU-ZAKANG, Ministry of Gender, Family and the Child, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Moderator: Marcela Donadio, RESDAL.

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Thursday, April 26

- 09:00 – 10:00 **Panel: Why gender in peacekeeping operations?**
Major General Patrick CAMMAERT, UN Women.
Juan RIAL, RESDAL.
Moderator: Laura MITCHELL, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF).
- 10:00 – 11:15 **Panel: Contributing to peacekeeping operations. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti Case (MINUSTAH)**
Juan Pedro SEPÚLVEDA, Representative of the Head of Mission and SRSG in MINUSTAH (Special Representative of the Secretary General).
Baudouine KAMATARI, Head Gender Unit MINUSTAH HQ.
Navy Captain Rodolfo Claudio NEUSS, Chief Civil-Military Coordination Branch MINUSTAH HQ.
Celia ROMULUS, UN Women-Haiti.
Moderator: Alejandro SALESI, Director General for Cooperation and Peacekeeping, Ministry of Defense, Argentina.
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Panel: The Latin American contribution**
Jaime GARRETA, Former Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Argentina.
Johanna MENDELSON FORMAN, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).
Héctor SAINT-PIERRE, Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)
Loreta TELLERÍA, Observatorio de Democracia y Seguridad (ODyS).
Moderator: Michael SNELL, Pearson Centre, Canada.
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 17:00 **Working groups**
To Launch the Discussion: Participation and contribution to international security: education and training.
Moderators: Roberto CAJINA (RESDAL); Hal KLEPAK (RESDAL); Pamela VILLALOBOS (ECLAC).
- 17:00 – 17:15 Coffee break
- 17:15 – 18:00 Working groups' summary and conclusions.
- 18:00 Closing Ceremony
RESDAL and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Argentina.

Field work has been possible thanks to the permission and support of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

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PROMOTING GENDER TO BUILD A LASTING PEACE: REFLECTING ON THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Sixteen UN missions are deployed around the world in 2012. The total number of civilian, police and military personnel serving in those missions is over 116,000 men and women. Almost 7,700 of them are Latin American contingents, countries that have exponentially increased their contribution in the last decade: over 1,000 per cent from 2001 to 2012.

Such UN peacekeeping operations are immersed in complex environments; the variety of factors and issues that ought to be considered have led the international community to take a multidimensional approach where the military, police and civilian components of the mission need to work in an integrated manner, coordinating efforts with the various agencies of the UN system.

Each one of the missions underway has its own particular context and priorities. Mandates assign greater or lesser emphasis to certain issues: such as the protection of civilians at MONUSCO, the generation of a safe and secure environment in MINUSTAH or traditional tasks as in UNFYCIP or UNIFIL. Given the complexity of the environments in which missions must operate, the decision to contribute with troops involves matters relating to foreign policy as well as defense policy decisions. One of the key aspects in the analysis is the role of the military component in a mission, its integration in the overall system, and the roles it shall be required to play in the field.

The gender perspective issue is inserted in the context both as an operational need and as a way to respond to the kinds of conflict currently encountered. To attain peace, it is necessary to involve all the society along in the process; and this will hardly be achieved if women, who account for half of the local population or more, are not represented. For that reason, the UN Security Council has, especially since 2000 (when Resolution 1325 was passed), persistently focused on the introduction of the gender perspective in operations, calling for a greater representation of women in the political, civilian, military and police arenas.

The relations with the local population, the protection of women and children at risk, cooperation in CIMIC activities, patrolling and other actions show that the gender perspective is effectively present in activities conducted in the field. Far from being a politically-correct matter to be addressed, as experiences in the field have shown, the promotion of gender issues both among personnel as well as in actual activities has become an operational necessity.

What are the conditions contributing countries are faced with today? What political and operational challenges do they confront? What are the expectations of the international community regarding the contribution that countries from the region can make? How can peace be built practically through the promotion of gender matters, and what can we say about military contingents in that respect? How is the planning and operation of a troop contribution undertaken from the decision-making perspective? These are some of the questions that currently make us reflect upon the region's involvement in peace operations and help identify the challenges facing contributing countries, not only from Latin America but from all regions around the globe.

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In 2011 and 2012, RESDAL undertook field studies at MINUSTAH and MONUSCO, where it interviewed military contingents, UNPOL personnel and civilian agents of the mission, in order to learn about the contexts in which they operate and, particularly, to analyze how the presence of a peace operation can promote a gender perspective, involving the local population in the peace process. Thus, through the presentations of international speakers who have worked in the field and the use of specific cases for reference, we hope to contribute to the analysis of the following matters:

- Practical challenges in today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations and the promotion of a gender perspective as a way of building peace.
- Characteristics and prospects of Latin American contribution to international security.

The role of the military component shall be presented as the common theme cutting through all these areas of concern.

With the participation of UN representatives, international experts, various officials of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Women from Latin American countries, as well as congress members and regional academics, the methodology for the Conference is based on subject-specific presentations that will trigger a central working group activity. Inputs given during such work group discussions shall be made under the non-attribution non-official policy. The main themes to be addressed are:

A) Challenges of multidimensional operations and the gender perspective.

- What specific contexts do missions face in current deployments?
- What is the role of a peace-keeping operation in such contexts?
- How do the civilian, military and police components relate with each other during peace missions?
- What is the role of the military component in missions with a mandate for civilian protection?
- What kind of analyses and guidelines are needed at a national level for a troop contribution in multidimensional missions?
- Why should we introduce a gender perspective and how?
- What situations in the field can lead us to consider the gender perspective as an operational necessity?
- How does the adoption of a gender perspective translate nationally and in each country's specific contribution?
- What conclusions and possible steps can be taken from the case studies of MINUSTAH (Haiti) and MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo)?

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B) Characteristics and prospects of Latin American contribution to international security.

- What is the role played by Latin American countries in the negotiations involved in a peace operation?
- How can they contribute to peace-building and support the work performed by the military component in the case of integrated missions?
- Is there a role to be played by Latin America as a whole to contribute to peace-building, including the dissemination of a gender perspective and support to post-conflict reconstruction?
- What effective strategies can be implemented to involve and link the different national sectors that take part in the decision to contribute to a peace operation and its execution?
- How can we bring the reality of the field closer to national authorities and civilian society in the region?
- Is there a "Latin American way" of doing peacekeeping?
- What advantages and disadvantages do the Latin American historical and social contexts present for the conduct of the region's troop actions in peace operations?
- What are the current challenges in the area of military education for preparing the future peacekeeping personnel on the introduction of a gender perspective?
- What training needs are posed by existing contexts in terms of understanding multidimensionality, the introduction of the gender perspective, civilian protection and the role to be played in sexual violence and gender-based situations?