

## The Republic of Ecuador

### Positions for the Commission on the Status of Women

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#### 1. Preventing Sexual Violence against Women in Conflict Zones

The Republic of Ecuador (Ecuador) recognizes the threat of sexual violence against women in conflict zones is not only an immediate threat to women but a threat to the whole society and nation in which it takes place. Ecuador stands resolute in its efforts to end sexual violence against women in conflict zones across the world. **Internationally**, Ecuador acknowledges A/RES/70/1, particularly Goal 5, which aims to end all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence in areas of conflict. Ecuador supports the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) for assessing and eliminating sexual violence against women in conflict zones. In addition, Ecuador approves A/RES/70/133 fully implementing the BPfA. Ecuador affirms S/RES/1325 calling upon all Member States in conflict to take special measures to protect women from gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, in areas of armed conflict. Ecuador supports the Rome Statute, A/CONF.183/9, recognizing sexual violence in conflict zones as a war crime. Ecuador acknowledges that the act of rape and sexual violence against women can be both an act of savagery found within conflicts as well as a military tactic used in war.

**Regionally**, as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ecuador supports the Women, Peace, and Security global training programme to train civil and military leaders to recognize the effects of conflict on women, including sexual violence, and incorporate the needs of women in their efforts during conflict, peacebuilding, and post-conflict situations. As a member of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Ecuador is committed to the research of the causes of sexual violence against women and the treatment for victims of sexual violence. **Nationally**, Ecuador condemns any act of violence against women and, in 2017, launched a national plan to address gender violence in the country. Ecuador supports the statement of the president of the National Assembly, Gabriela Rivadeneira, that “Women have the right to a life free of violence.” Firm in this belief, Ecuador passed more than 50 laws between 2013 and 2016 to protect women against sexual violence. The City of Quito has worked alongside U.N. Women in a initiative that is part of the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign where women throughout Ecuador write letters telling their stories of abuse, and those letters are analyzed and sorted into themes and then delivered to the appropriate officials to use in creating policy responses. In the effort to eliminate sexual violence against women in conflict zones, Ecuador proposes a three point **Plan of Action** titled, **E.S.P.**; **E**ncourage Member States with ongoing conflicts to develop and participate in workshops that detect those at risk of sexual violence and act to prevent displacement, kidnapping, and sexual abuse of women; **S**upport efforts to rehabilitate victims of sexual violence through distributing medical and psychological treatments as well as reintegrate women into society by countering the stigmatization victims of sexual violence can experience; **P**romote uniform recognition of international laws, particularly the Rome Statute, among Member States and strengthen international judicial systems, specifically by bolstering the enforcement powers of the International Criminal Court and expanding the areas in which it has jurisdiction, so that those

who use sexual violence as a tactic of war are rightfully prosecuted and punished for their crimes no matter where they are committed.

## 2. Strengthening the Role of Women in Diplomacy and Political Affairs

The Republic of Ecuador (Ecuador) is committed to the advancement of women in politics both nationally and internationally. Ecuador considers women to be vital to the democratic process and invaluable assets in its political system. Eliminating barriers to women becoming involved in politics and formulating strategies to get women involved in political affairs and diplomacy is of the utmost importance to Ecuador. **Internationally**, Ecuador supports A/RES/66/130 identifying measures to increase the participation of women in political and diplomatic affairs. Ecuador approves S/RES/1325 encouraging all parties to take actions to increase the participation of women and integrate gender perspectives in United Nations security and peace efforts. Ecuador encourages A/RES/58/142 striving to create gender balance throughout the political hierarchy, as well as ensure that measures to reconcile professional and family life be shared equally between men and women. Ecuador endorses A/RES/62/218, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including discrimination in the political arena. **Regionally**, as a member of the ParlAmericas, Ecuador supports the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality's efforts to share policies and customs between Member States that promote gender equality in politics. Ecuador affirms the Quito Consensus, in which countries agree to adopt all necessary measure to ensure full participation of women in politics and diplomacy and prompt political parties to achieve gender parity and incorporate gender perspectives in their work and policies. As a member of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Ecuador acknowledges the necessity of equal access for men and women to all State institutions in every branch of government and at every level: international, regional, national, and local. **Nationally**, Ecuador recognizes women and men are equal before the law and equally constitute the sovereign people of Ecuador. Article 70 of Ecuador's constitution maintains that the State shall implement policies to achieve equality between women and men, mainstream gender approaches in its deliberations and policies, and ensure these policies are enforced. Ecuador, with 42 percent of National Assembly seats held by women, ranks second in Latin America for gender-equal representation in the national parliament. Ecuador's National Development Plan for Wellbeing includes strategies and policies to increase the equal participation of women and men in social spheres, including the public sector. In the effort to strengthen the role of women in diplomacy and political affairs, Ecuador proposes a four point **Plan of Action**, titled **S.A.M.E.**; **S**upport Member States' efforts to encourage political parties to adopt measures requiring equal representation of men and women and incorporating gender perspectives in their platform and operations; **A**ssist Member States to empower women through better access to education and resources that can be utilized to become effective female leaders in political affairs and diplomatic decision-making; **M**otivate Member States to support existing and create new sociocultural programs designed to reshape gender-based cultural norms and encourage the participation of women and girls in political and diplomatic affairs. **E**ncourage Member States to adopt policies that place the burden that children and family life can have on

employment and pay evenly between men and women and ensure that employed women have the right to suitable maternity leave.