In the context of the 15th Anniversary of the UNSC1325
Side event – 59 Commission on the Status of Women

Engendering National Security Agendas and Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean

March 9, 2015 - 10:00 am
Conference Room 11 - GA Building, United Nations, New York

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Organizers: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)

Moderators: Andrew Morrison, Chief, Gender and Diversity Division, IDB
            Cristina Goñi, Secretary General, IJJO

Speakers: Cristina Gallach, UN Undersecretary General for Communications and Public Information
          Regina Miki, National Secretary of Public Safety, Ministry of Justice, Brazil
          Laura Carrera, General Director of Gobierno, Ciudadanía y Seguridad, Civil Society, Mexico
          Angelic Young, Senior Coordinator of National Action Plans, The Institute for Inclusive Security, USA

Rationale and objectives

The LAC region is struggling with many forms of violence such as gangs, organised crime, alarming levels of insecurity, and high rates of homicides. An important part of this violent panorama is violence that affects women, including femicides, sexual and gender based violence, displacement, forced disappearance and human trafficking. These different forms of violence against women and girls urgently need to be addressed in regional and national security policies, but it is clear that women are, for the most part, excluded from the discussion, formulation and implementation of security policies. This exclusion has two important consequences: first, the important types of violence affecting women frequently receive little attention. Second, the types of solutions designed to respond to violence skew toward reactive and repressive options, while there is under-investment in the prevention of violence—therefore diminishing the effectiveness of public policy.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000), reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Panellists will discuss progress made in LAC and possible lines of action to integrate a gender perspective in security policy, such as increasing the participation of women in policy making and incorporating a gender approach in areas of national security including the police, defence sector and justice reform.