

**Statement of Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo,  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,  
to the Third Committee Interactive Debate on  
“Women in the peacebuilding process**

**New York, 11 October 2005**

Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Bureau of the Third Committee for taking the initiative to hold this interactive debate on “Women in the peacebuilding process”.

This discussion is extremely relevant and timely, given the recent reaffirmation by the World Summit of three important principles:

- ! First, that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;
- ! Second, that gender equality is essential to advance development and peace and security; and
- ! Third, that women play an important role in preventing and resolving conflicts and in building peace.

No doubt, everyone in this room subscribes to these principles. What Governments, United Nations entities and civil society need to explore further is the type of policies and practices required to ensure that gender perspectives are fully taken into account—and that women play a greater role in peace and security. This is particularly important in peacebuilding, an area unmistakably marked by linkages between peace and security, development, and human rights.

Given its aim—to prevent the outbreak, recurrence or continuation of armed conflict—peacebuilding encompasses a wide range of political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights mechanisms and programmes. It requires short and long-term actions tailored to address the particular needs of societies sliding into conflict or emerging from it. And it focuses on fostering sustainable institutions and processes, in areas such as: eradicating poverty and inequalities; building transparent and accountable governance; promoting democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law; and fostering a culture of peace and non-violence.

Our emphasis on gender perspectives and the role of women in peacebuilding should match the broad scope of action involved. Most importantly, we must challenge the notion that gender perspectives and “women’s issues” need only be addressed post-

conflict. They must be addressed from the outset and across the board in social and

The Commission can also draw on the efforts of the Economic and Social Council to integrate conflict prevention and peacebuilding, through its Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Countries Emerging from Conflicts and its