

**Ms. Darisuren:** It is a great honour for me to be here representing the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I commend the focus of this year's debate on moving the women and peace and security agenda towards a systematic implementation leading to tangible results. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is the largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. With our comprehensive approach to security, the women and peace and security agenda is a common thread throughout all our work, not only in the political and military fields, but also in economic and environmental issues, and in the promotion of human rights and democratic institutions.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is active in all phases of conflict, from prevention to conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding. The inclusion of a gender perspective is essential in all those phases. The OSCE approach aligns closely with the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support our participating States in fulfilling their gender-equality commitments and in enhancing comprehensive security. We recognize that formal political processes provide, unfortunately, little access and space for women.

There is a clear need to increase the meaningful inclusion of women in all phases of the conflict cycle, so that we give more recognition to the central contribution of women, in particular at the grassroots level. For example, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine makes sure, in its monitoring work, that the experiences of women and men from the conflict-affected populations are heard and are making their way into the daily public reports. We need to further invest in improving the gender balance among our monitors in order to ensure mixed patrols that reach out more effectively to the local population.

Allow me to share with the Council some examples of progress achieved over the past year by the OSCE. A total of 31 countries members of OSCE have adopted national action plans on resolution 1325 (2000), an increase of three since last year. OSCE continues to build the capacity of participating States to develop and implement their national action plans, by exchanging experiences and by providing targeted support at the national level. Just last week, the OSCE secretariat conducted the second National Action Plan Academy for five countries, and there are several more in the pipeline.

We welcome the development and implementation of localized action plans at the subnational level in Ukraine. We will be supporting that initiative, which presents a unique opportunity and potentially good practice. OSCE field operations, institutions and our secretariat work to build women's leadership at the national and local levels, through mentoring and supporting their networks and capacity development. For example, the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe offers specialized training for women border guards.

We continue to work on gender-inclusive mediation processes. In April this year, we organized a high-level mediation retreat with heads of mission and special representatives. Building on that

meeting, OSCE is preparing an analysis of our OSCE-led mediation processes and practical guidance.

OSCE political-military bodies, such as the Forum for Security Cooperation and the Security Committee, increasingly incorporate gender perspectives in their agendas, and the High-level Planning Group has mainstreamed gender in its work plans. The OSCE has been at the forefront in ensuring that a gender perspective is included in its efforts to prevent violent extremism and radicalization, which may lead to terrorism. The new Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism project specifically includes women community leaders and young women and men. Strong leadership is essential if we are to achieve progress. We have therefore introduced the executive gender coaching programme for the Secretary General and secretariat Directors so as to provide them with the necessary skills and tools to mainstream gender into their work.

Within our organizations, we recognize that more efforts are needed to implement a sustained and systematic approach aimed at improving women's participation in peace processes and at preventing and effectively responding to conflict. The OSCE will continue building stronger synergies and linkages and participating in key initiatives, such as the Woman, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network and the regional acceleration initiative. We look forward to developing even closer partnerships with the United Nations and other organizations.