

Mr. Vukašinić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important debate. Many important anniversaries converge in the year 2015, creating critical momentum and presenting us with a unique opportunity to push harder, strive even farther and achieve far more than we had envisioned for the next 15 years. This meeting comes at a decisive juncture in our year-long assessment of past actions, implementation gaps, good practices and overall accomplishments, where re-evaluating the progress made is of vital importance and the reinforcement of our dedication to the implementation of the set goals is as crucial as ever.

Fifteen years ago the Council not only recognized the urgent need to address the devastating impact conflicts have on women and girls around the world, but also the importance of the inclusion of wider gender components in the peace and security agenda. It was an official acknowledgment of women's right to participate in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and to be included in decision-making bodies at all levels of governance.

The Council followed up its action on this front with number of subsequent resolutions that build upon international and national historic commitments to women's rights and gender equality, requiring a level of commitment to their full implementation from all major stakeholders. Responsibility, however, lies primarily with Member States to integrate resolution 1325 (2000) and other women and peace and security resolutions into regional and national policies and programmes to ensure that their implementation is coherent, sustainable and results-oriented.

At this moment, the need for stronger and more complete implementation of the parameters of resolution 1325 (2000) and guidelines is disturbingly evident in long-lasting, ongoing and even newly emerged conflict around the world. It is becoming more and more apparent that the vision and agenda of resolution 1325 (2000) needs to be constantly built and improved upon, as even the substantial framework we have created has been continuously confronted with new and ever-more challenging risk factors, deteriorating humanitarian situations in the wake of conflicts, persistent disrespect and disregard for women's rights in a number of countries and the continued violence against their person, both physical and emotional.

It requires our continuous vigilance, with a sharper focus on prevention and mechanisms that place human rights at the core of the security, protection, political, humanitarian, peacebuilding and socioeconomic development work and agenda. What we note with alarm, as pointed out in this year's annual report (S/2015/716) of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security, that key findings of the global study, the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the report (S/2015/490) of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture all identify

blatant violations of human rights and humanitarian law, complex drivers of conflict, the involvement of a growing number of non-State armed actors and new technologies and transnational connections, which are changing the nature of warfare.

It is for those reasons that we welcome the high-level review and the global study on the implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000), as it further underscores the importance of gender equality, the human rights of women and girls and empowerment being systematically integrated into all discussions and future actions. Furthermore, we hope it will provide for strong and meaningful impetus for transforming efforts into viable actions on the ground, where it matters most.

We are particularly pleased that Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed constructively to the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and that regional consultations with the Balkan countries, including their experiences, challenges and recommendations, have been considered critical to charting the way towards a future commitment to the women and peace and security agenda.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, gender equality and the empowerment of women remain a priority, both at the national and international levels. We have created a solid legal and institutional framework for the advancement of gender equality, in which the State requires affirmative measures aimed at realizing gender equality. Both the national gender action plan for the period 2013-2017 and the system-wide action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) for the period 2014-2017 define priority measures for improvements and advancement in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1). That framework has been further strengthened with the adoption of the framework strategy for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, with the sole purpose of providing for consistent, high-quality and effective implementation of that Convention in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We realize that much more remains to be done in a number of identified key areas of concern, through a stronger commitment translated into concrete action. For that reason, allow me to recall the commitments undertaken by the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, held in September. There must be prompt implementation of the Framework Strategy for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which addresses three main priority areas of concern, namely, the greater inclusion of women and the reduction of women's segregation in the labour market, the prevention of domestic violence and, finally, support for the women victims of sexual violence in

conflict. Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to achieving those objectives in our joint efforts for the full realization of the women and peace and security agenda.

Finally, allow me to commend the dedication of three extraordinary women who have been at the forefront of women's empowerment and equality: Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women; Ms. Zainab Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; and the lead author of the global study, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and former Special Rapporteur on violence against women. We thank them for their ongoing tireless work.