

Ms. Hrdá (Czech Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like first of all to thank the Spanish Presidency for organizing this debate, which is so important to all of us here today. For there to be more than 110 names on the list speaks for itself. I would also like to thank all those who participated in the preparatory process.

(*spoke in English*)

Resolution 1325 (2000) was definitely a visionary document, which perfectly recognized the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peace negotiations, in peacebuilding and peacekeeping, in humanitarian response and in post- conflict reconstruction. We have before us, 15 years after its adoption, a global study on its implementation that shows remarkable progress according to specific indicators and identifies gaps to be filled, emerging trends and priorities for action.

The Czech Republic takes the agenda in resolution 1325 (2000) very seriously, and we have tried hard to implement it, both nationally and internationally. At the national level, our Government recently approved its first long-term framework document for gender equality, and the Czech Ministry of Defence adopted an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which will require a considerable effort on the part of the Ministry, both to meet its obligations pursuant to the resolution and to inform experts from the public and the organizations concerned about the measures adopted to implement the resolution.

Internationally, the Czech Republic became the lead nation of a programme requested as part of a partnership for cooperation in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), with a focus on training female Jordanian soldiers in explosive ordnance disposal. In more general terms, the Czech Republic seeks to strengthen women's position in society through development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The goal is enshrined in our strategy of multilateral foreign development cooperation, and in fulfilling those priorities we cooperate with the relevant United Nations agencies, in particular UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. In the field of humanitarian aid, we pay special attention to the victims of gender-based violence.

Gender perspective continues to be taken into account also as a cross-cutting target within projects in countries such as Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Syria and Ukraine. In addition to traditional means of foreign policy, the Czech Republic uses a financial instrument aimed at supporting democracy and human rights, the so-called transition promotion programme, which makes use of our recent experiences with the social transition and democratization of the country. Gender mainstreaming belongs to the cross- cutting principle reflected in that programme.

In recent years, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, we have implemented a number of projects in more than seven countries, including Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Palestine and Egypt, focused especially on protecting women's rights and on enhancing their participation in public life. The study comprehensively demonstrates that the participation of women at all levels is the key to the operational effectiveness, success and sustainability of peace-process, peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts. That is one of the reasons why the Czech Republic has negotiated several times in Geneva a resolution on equal political participation that urges all States to eliminate the barriers that limit the full and effective participation of all segments of society, including women, in political affairs. The resolution has always been adopted by consensus and sponsored by a large number of countries.

I look forward to the day when resolutions such as 1325 (2000) and others concerning equal participation, which have been so widely recognized and supported, will become obsolete because all their principles have been fully and globally implemented and are, of course, fully respected.