

Ms. Rodríguez Pineda (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We congratulate Spain on this successful meeting on the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). We welcome the new global study on women and peace and security, which was drafted by Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy and her team. We also thank Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, for her efforts.

Properly implementing resolution 1325 (2000) requires unwavering political will on the part of all relevant Government agencies. That will is demonstrated by clearly defined budgetary allocations both in our national budgets and in the contributions made by the international community. Governments and civil society must work together and complement each other's efforts.

Women play a crucial role in conflict prevention and resolution, the promotion of justice, the promotion of reconciliation and the rebuilding of national institutions — all essential pillars for the consolidation of lasting peace. The involvement of women in decision-making processes at all levels is important.

Broad-based sustainable development can contribute to addressing the underlying causes of conflict. By definition, such development requires that women be included. We therefore welcome the inclusion of Goal 5, on the empowerment of women and girls, in the sustainable development agenda.

We reiterate that the prevention of, and protection against, gender-based violence and sexual abuse requires the involvement of men and boys. It concerns everybody.

We strongly condemn the reported cases of sexual violence, which continues to be used as a strategy for intimidation and terror. Furthermore, we condemn the incidents of violence and sexual abuse in peacekeeping operations. We demand the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy.

Security forces must recognize that women play a vital role in the national reconciliation dialogue. Those forces must ensure their safety and integrity as an important aspect of the peace and security equation.

We will not rest until we see that the special needs of women and girls in the field are receiving the attention they deserve. That will be achieved with the active involvement of all the various agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and Member States, and with the support of regional organizations and civil society, in particular women's organizations.

We recognize the important work undertaken by UN-Women in advancing the gender perspective in all activities of United Nations field missions. We urge that office to

continue to provide their valuable contributions to our efforts to meet the challenges now facing us.

We reiterate that the review of the peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes should include the commitments relating to the women and peace and security agenda. We need to improve the existing cooperation and establish synergies between peacekeeping operations and country teams. That is the only way we can exploit the mutual comparative advantages of both.

We must improve access to justice and strengthen the participation of women in the drafting of national legislation. Through joint and coordinated efforts, we can achieve peaceful and inclusive societies for all. In that regard, we would like to emphasize the complementarity of the women and peace and security agenda with the mandate of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its review of the national reports submitted by States parties.

The Rome Statute constitutes the most progressive international legal framework on gender-based crimes to date. It should be incorporated into the national context so that States have a comprehensive framework for investigating international crimes of sexual violence and gender-based crimes, with specific procedures to support victims and witnesses, and with programmes to teach women the laws concerning them. Each of those components has a significant effect on women's access to justice.

In conclusion, we support resolution 2242 (2015), which was adopted today and which we sponsored. We urge all the members present to take advantage of this important opportunity to move forward towards a stronger and more substantial commitment to gender equality and to ensure that the empowerment of women and girls is one of the cornerstones of peacebuilding.