

Ms. Krisnamurthi (Indonesia): I would like to thank you, Sir, for chairing today's debate on a topic that is difficult but nevertheless important to raise in the Council. I would also like to congratulate you assuming the Council presidency for the month of May and assure you of our support for a successful presidency.

I thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the representative of Women's Refugee Route for their statements.

Sexual violence on its own is clearly a great moral issue and is surely devastating to the victims. When used as a tactic in conflict, the demoralizing effect it has on the population is sure to exacerbate and deepen tensions. There are long-term effects that we still need to understand. However, a society thrives with individuals who are healthy in mind and body, which is one of the cornerstones of sustainable peace. For that reason, Indonesia is deeply concerned about the use of conflict-related sexual violence as a war tactic. Women and children are especially vulnerable. The international community must continue to condemn such atrocious acts requiring greater efforts to get to the root of the problem.

Indonesia applauds the efforts of the United Nations, other multilateral organizations and civil society to halt this human tragedy. The international community must remain resolute and firmly committed to upholding the principle of protecting human dignity and limiting the effects of conflict on non-combatants.

The United Nations normative framework on deterring atrocities against humankind in situations of conflict should continue to be strengthened as necessary. Four elements should be included in efforts to end the culture of impunity for sexual violence in wars: prevention, early detection, protection and punishment for perpetrators, and justice for the victims.

Indonesia has taken an active role in United Nations peacebuilding efforts and is committed to strengthening its role in the United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the moment, Indonesia has female personnel in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and we are committed to increase the number of peacekeeping troops, including the number of Indonesian female peacekeepers and women military observers.

Mandatory training on addressing sexual violence for all peacekeeping personnel should be continued and supported. The Indonesia National Defence Forces Peacekeeping Centre has included training on this particular issue and will ensure the continuation as well as the strengthening of this exercise.

Allow me to end by stressing that we should not overlook civilian expertise. The pool of civilian capacities can be broadened and deepened for peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict. One way is to involve women survivors. They should be encouraged to participate in peacekeeping operations training so that troops on the ground are aware and more in tune with the signs of sexual violence and exploitation. It should also include

countries with relevant experience in post-conflict peacebuilding or democratic transition.

The protection of women in armed conflict should be further strengthened; that much is clear. Ultimately, our aim should be the prevention of armed conflict itself. Here, the Security Council, in cooperation with regional organizations, should play its role in promoting the prevention of conflict and the maintenance of international peace and security.