

Ms. Jones-Bos (Netherlands): I would first like to congratulate the Security Council on its adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), 15 years ago, and of resolution 2242 (2015), of which we are proud to be a sponsor, today. I would like to thank Prime Minister Rajoy Brey and the Spanish presidency of the Council for this chance to reaffirm the commitments we made 15 years ago to women and peace and security. I would also like to express our appreciation for the work of Radhika Coomaraswamy and her colleagues. They have produced an outstanding report (S/2015/716) that shows how right the Security Council was to adopt resolution 1325 (2000) in the first place. Wherever it has been implemented, the thinking behind it has proved correct.

The great value of the report I have just mentioned lies in the evidence gathered on the ground from men and women who face the bitter reality of conflict on a daily basis. And I salute the women who are here today and whom we heard this morning, some from countries such as Iraq, Libya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, the Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi and other conflict-affected countries. They are the true experts, and we look to them to shape our agenda. Like the partners who came to the Netherlands for our February conference, they shared their stories, best practices and contributions, often made at the risk of their own lives.

There is clear evidence that increasing political participation by women results in better negotiations, better and more sustainable agreements, better governance, more wealth, distributed more equitably, more and better conflict prevention and ultimately, therefore, more peace and security. The Kingdom of the Netherlands works with women's organizations on peace, justice and development, and empowering women and girls is crucial in all those areas. But huge challenges remain. Conflict is still rife, and we are confronted with ever more extreme violence. In such situations, women do badly. And when women do badly, the world suffers. Guns take over, and the result is violence, impunity and spiral of more poverty and conflict. One appalling example of that was the assassination of one of our partners, the Libyan lawyer Salwa Bugaighis, on 25 June 2014.

It is urgent that we break that spiral, and resolution 1325 (2000), we believe, contains the key to addressing these challenges. The thinking behind the resolution lies at the very heart of current Dutch policies on aid, trade, security and human rights, and it is paramount

for our partnerships for peace, justice and development. Before the end of this year, we will issue our third national action plan, the product of a unique platform on which the Government has worked with more than 50 civil society organizations. We are providing €4 million a year to carry out the plan, supporting organizations on the ground that work to protect and politically empower women in conflict situations. We provide both

diplomatic and financial support to Syrian women's efforts to present their views on their country's future in international forums. Women take centre stage in our vision of the future.

But over the next 15 years, the world's fate will be largely determined by whether or not women succeed in taking their rightful place in history. Do we want to achieve our global goals? Fight inequality? Create lasting peace? We need the women of the world to do that. Let us therefore all step up our support to organizations like Karama, a regional non-governmental organization based in Cairo that works throughout the Middle East in coalition with hundreds of partners to end violence against women.

Fifteen years ago, the Netherlands, as a member of the Security Council at the time, was one of the main advocates of resolution 1325 (2000). I was personally involved then and feel very strongly about it. Now we are aspiring to become a Security Council member again, partly in order to support increasing the pace of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and its successor, resolution 2242 (2015). We think we have something to offer — the desire and the capacity to stand up and invest in women who are the drivers of change. It is time, as Elvis Presley put it in one of his many classic songs, for “A little less conversation, [and] a little more action”.