

Mr. Milanović (Serbia): I am greatly honoured to address the Security Council at this meeting convened to mark the 15 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and to express my gratitude to Spain and personally to you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting. This is an opportunity to review the implementation of the resolution over the past 15 years, but it also a chance to see what still remains

to be done and how we can better deliver in the future. In that regard, we welcome the recommendations of the global study on women and peace and security, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the issue (S/2015/716). In my statement, I shall outline some of the most important experiences of the Republic of Serbia in implementing the resolution.

Based on its firm commitment to the goals and objectives of the resolution, in 2010, my country adopted a national action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security in the Republic of Serbia over the period 2010-2015. Its seven chapters, encompassing seven general goals, 15 specific goals and 106 activities, have been successfully implemented over the past five years. The action plan established a structure of gender-equality institutions and mechanisms, such as the Government's political council, the governmental multisector coordination body, the National Assembly Committee on Gender Equality, analytical groups and research teams, counsellors and ministers/directors for gender equality, which have been established, for the time being, only within the defence and security system. It also established a colleague-assistance mechanism, called a "person of trust". The structure incorporated the standards of the United Nations, European Union and NATO Partnership for Peace programme in the field of gender equality.

Along with the progress made in building a more democratic society and in protecting human rights, a significant step towards laying the foundation for a better and more humane and secure future for women has been made in the field of gender equality as well. The action plan is currently being evaluated, and the extension of its implementation in the coming mid-term period, 2016-2020, is being considered.

Figures show clearly the progress achieved. Compared to 2010, when women made up 27.4 per cent of the defence and security system in the Republic of Serbia, in 2015, women now account for 31.47 per cent. Women held 14.47 per cent of the management/command positions in 2010, whereas in 2015, that percentage has risen to 19.68 per cent. More so than in administrative positions, the percentage increase tended to occur in operational positions — the so-called women-in-uniform posts in the military, police and the customs and correctional services. In addition, women make up 10.06 per cent of the total staff complement of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior and Serbia's armed

forces deployed in 11 multinational operations. Seven of those operations are under United Nations auspices.

In order to further the normative and effective protection of women, in particular protection against violence in partnership and family relations, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media and other stakeholders have instituted a number of projects aimed at taking preventive measures to reduce violence against women and children. Projects have also been devised in the field of education, both by the Government and by civil society, and are being implemented in Serbia and the region. My country has maintained intensive cooperation with international actors, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme/South-Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, NATO, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Two years ago, the 2014 Swiss and 2015 Serbian OSCE Chairmanships identified gender equality as one of their priorities in the joint workplan for their consecutive Chairmanships. In June 2014, the first- ever OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference took stock of progress in the implementation of the 2004 OSCE General Action Plan, as well as a number of follow-up Ministerial Council decisions. It identified implementation gaps, challenges and lessons learned since the adoption of the Action Plan in 2004. The current Serbian OSCE chairmanship is working on the adoption of an addendum to the Action Plan at the meeting of the Ministerial Council in Belgrade, in December, in order to update the Gender Action Plan and operationalize the recommendations developed during the 2014 Gender Review Conference. Over the past decade, the OSCE has made important strides in implementing measures to achieve gender equality in its policies and programmes, including in the political-military dimension. That development goes hand in hand with a steadily growing global awareness of the importance of the women and peace and security agenda.

The Serbian OSCE Chairmanship is committed to strengthening the role of women in peace and security by building on the many efforts already undertaken by OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures. However, multiple challenges still lie ahead, and considerable efforts will have to be invested at the

global, regional and local levels in order to make much more effective progress than has been made so far.