

Mr. Jaime Calderón (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

El Salvador is pleased to participate in this important open debate focused on the theme of women and peace and security. We wish to express our commitment to the work of the Council on this agenda item.

El Salvador, as a country that overcame an armed conflict through negotiation, is a faithful advocate for the commitment to peace and development. We are convinced that the consolidation of democracy and its institutions is a determining factor in the development of our peoples. In recent years, El Salvador has made important advances in its protection of women's rights legislation and architecture because of its belief that gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental conditions for development, governance, peace and democracy.

Likewise, for El Salvador it is important to recognize the role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the consolidation of peace, as recognized in resolution 1325 (2000). We therefore consider it essential to give attention to the violence against women by including the problem as an important component of public policy. That is why in July, El Salvador launched its national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which bolsters our commitment to women in different areas, particularly in building peace and security.

The plan represents the efforts made on this issue since 2014 with the establishment of a national committee for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. It is a pioneering document in the Central American region, and includes in its five pillars measures to promote the inclusion of women in peace consolidation processes, especially in the area of citizen security. Furthermore, the actions set out in the national action plan transcend the security issue by outlining innovative actions that address other aspects of social security, which we consider to be equally important for a comprehensive approach and implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

El Salvador is involved in an ongoing process of internal dialogue that seeks the engagement of all stakeholders of the country with a view to continuing to build upon the peace it achieved in 1992 by promoting the participation of women and their experience on gender issues, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000). We recognize the indispensable role of women and young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and emphasize the need to promote their full participation in the maintenance and promotion of peace.

Moreover, El Salvador considers it essential to guarantee the highest level of ethical conduct of personnel participating in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, and we therefore reiterate our absolute commitment to the Organization's policy of zero tolerance of sexual

exploitation and abuse. In that regard, as a country we have voluntarily joined the Secretary-General's compact to end sexual exploitation and abuse.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the measures taken by the Organization within the framework of prevention, training and assistance to victims, and we stress the importance of reviewing the progress made in that aspect and of including a focus on reducing the stigmatization of survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones. El Salvador wishes to reiterate its commitment to supporting peacekeeping operations by contributing the best trained personnel and including more women in the troops and police assigned to different missions.

To conclude, we reiterate our support for all initiatives that ensure the participation of women in various contingents, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions of the Security Council. We recognize the important work of France in presiding over the Security Council, and we thank UN-Women for its support for and technical, political and financial assistance to our national committee efforts and in the preparation of our national action plan of the resolution. I call on it to continue supporting our country's growth in such important area. We hope that by learning of our experience, other countries of the region will also be encouraged to work in greater depth on the issue of peace and security, especially from the perspective of inclusion manifested in resolution 1325 (2000).