

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to thank France for convening this open debate on women and peace and security, on the occasion of the seventeenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), which Argentina supported as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2000.

Argentina aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends on Women and Peace and Security.

I would also especially like to welcome the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/861), which shares with Member States his views on the central role of women in conflict prevention and sets out his commitments to implementing the women and peace and security agenda. Argentina shares and supports the Secretary-General's vision for reforming the Organization with a coordinated, robust and holistic approach to prevention that is based on gender equality. From the beginning, Argentina has embraced the new emphasis given by the Secretary-General to conflict prevention and the development of the concept of sustainable peace, or upholding peace, a narrative in which women and young people play a fundamental role.

In that regard, we would like to emphasize that achieving sustainable peace will be facilitated by increasing the participation of women as stakeholders in all stages of the peace process, in particular as military, police and civilian personnel in the Organization's peacekeeping operations. As has been said, this is not solely a matter of equity, but also of effectiveness in fulfilling the mandates of those missions.

In that context, we underscore the fact that Argentina has reached the United Nations goal of 15 per cent participation of women as military observers and officials in peace operations, and is therefore above the general average. We will continue working to deepen that commitment through the implementation of the national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, which is as an overarching instrument of all national bodies regarding the issue of women and peace and security.

The strength of resolution 1325 (2000) has been acknowledging the important role that women play as key actors in peace processes. The inclusion of women must remain our priority in defining the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as Security Council peacebuilding efforts, by integrating specialists in gender issues, gender violence and sexual violence in the various Security Council missions and mediation teams. In addition, we consider it crucial that specific provisions and gender commitments be included in peace and ceasefire agreements.

Argentina welcomes the highly appropriate proposal of the Secretary-General to strengthen the mediation and good offices agenda of his Office, using a gender perspective to reach solutions. Argentina therefore also supports his recommendation to create and strengthen national and regional networks of female mediators.

Argentina strongly believes that more equitable and egalitarian societies that respect the rights of women are more peaceful societies. For that reason, and to conclude, I would like to reiterate Argentina's continued support for various mechanisms and platforms that contribute to complying with the commitments assumed in the framework of the revision of resolution 1325 (2000), particularly the Justice Rapid Response initiative, the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network and the promotion of the Oslo Safe Schools Declaration.