

Mr. Charwath (Austria): Let me begin by thanking France for convening this very pertinent open debate.

Austria aligns itself with the statements made earlier on behalf of the European Union, the Human Security Network and the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security.

As the President pointed out, we need to focus more on the implementation of the agenda. Austria is convinced that regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have a crucial role to play in translating our political commitments on the global level into concrete action and impact on the ground. As a consequence, we have put the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and its successors high on the agenda of the Austrian OSCE chairmanship this year. Based on our experiences, let me share just three short points that we take away from our work in the OSCE.

First, there can be no sustainable solution to a conflict without the participation of women. In April, we organized a high-level retreat on effective peace processes and the inclusion of women, and we were able to collect concrete recommendations on how to increase women's meaningful participation in them.

Secondly, another key element is gender-responsive journalism and the protection of female journalists. While women are often portrayed only as victims, gender-responsive journalism can transform gender stereotypes, promote women's empowerment and raise awareness of the critical role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. We will take this discussion forward in the OSCE on 3 November through an event on the role of the media in implementing the women and peace and security agenda.

The third point I would like to highlight is that regional organizations are ideally suited to building a bridge between the global framework and its national and local implementation. Therefore, Austria has repeatedly called for the adoption of an OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security, which would be a useful tool in this regard. Unfortunately, to date no consensus on the adoption of such action plan could be reached.

Having said this, we believe that the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna in December will provide a good opportunity to strengthen and reaffirm the OSCE commitments in this regard. We hope that the OSCE participating States will be able to support us in this endeavour and adopt the two draft decisions that we have tabled.

Finally, let me stress that Austria remains committed and will continue to promote women's rights, gender equality and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in the OSCE region and beyond.