

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia would like to thank the French presidency of the Council for convening today's open debate on the issue of women and peace and security. We also wish to thank the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti; the Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; the Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, Ms. Michaëlle Jean; and the civil society representative from Colombia, Ms. Charo Mina-Rojas. For Bolivia, it is encouraging that the Chamber is full of civil society representatives.

We would also like to welcome the Ministers here with us in this meeting, in particular the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and to tell her that the words of Ambassador Olof Skoog resonate beyond this Chamber. During the Council's recent visit to the Sahel region, we heard inspiring words from women leaders, who reminded us that part of their platform and one of their tools in their fight are the resolutions that the Council adopts, with the language we debate within these walls.

Eighteen years have passed since the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000), which underscores the fundamental link between respect for gender equality and international peace and security. Since then, the United Nations has undertaken significant efforts and has made great strides in the implementation of the Council's resolutions with a view to effectively incorporating the gender perspective and ensuring the participation of women in peace processes. However, in spite of those efforts, the implementation of the agenda on women and peace and security continues to pose challenges that require political will and leadership from States, in addition to the active participation of regional organizations and the cooperation of the international community as a whole.

First, it is important to have information on the situation of women and girls in all conflict zones. While there are generalities, each country has its own reality and different challenges to tackle. That is why we must have data disaggregated by gender and other relevant criteria that allow us to systematize information and improve upon our assessments of strengths and weaknesses. That would make a better approach possible, so that the mandates of United Nations missions could address the needs of women and girls. In that regard, we welcome the initiative of Norway, Colombia and Namibia to develop an index on women and peace and security.

In that vein, taking stock of the implementation of the agenda in each country will make it possible to see in which areas we need to strengthen the participation of women. We must build capacities for monitoring and assessment in order to ensure the implementation of the agenda, with the guidance of the United Nations and other specialized organizations, at the request of the parties.

As we stated a few months ago in this Chamber, we must secure a meaningful role for women in the processes of prevention, negotiation, mediation and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding. The creation of societies that promote gender equality not only bolsters

economic development, but also ensures that peace processes are inclusive and sustainable. To that end, we believe that encouraging the political and economic empowerment of women is key, in addition to ensuring access to justice and education. Moreover, we cannot deny that the fight against impunity through accountability for crimes of sexual violence contributes to the healing processes necessary for sustainable peace.

Like our colleague from the United Kingdom, I will try to address a few specific issues, related to Bolivia's experience. Since the promulgation of the new political State Constitution in 2009, Bolivia has developed and implemented legislation for building an equitable society with equal opportunities for women, while placing emphasis on their political empowerment. The electoral system law established parity and alternation on the candidate lists for representative seats, which makes Bolivia the second country in the world with greater representation of women in parliament. In Bolivia more than 50 per cent of elected positions are held by women, not just in Parliament but in other elected bodies. Furthermore, in the economic sphere, the community-renewal agrarian reform law not only ensures the participation of women in the healing processes and distribution of land; it prioritizes the right of women to own land, thereby promoting their economic empowerment.

Those topics are closely related to inequality. Ten years ago, when we spoke of women, especially of indigenous women, we were speaking of poverty. That issue is linked to inequality, not just within countries but around the world. I believe it is worthwhile to recall that eight men have the same wealth as 360 million people, and that is one of the causes of conflict. In my country, 10 years ago 38 per cent of the population was living in abject poverty. Ten years later, that 38 per cent has been reduced to 16 per cent. What is the key to that success? It is, without a doubt, the recovery of strategic resources and the State's fulfilment of its role in wealth redistribution.

The United Nations must maintain a close relationship with regional organizations to implement this agenda. For example, working with the African Union has been very important in being able to implement the programme on women and peace and security in the African continent and to strengthen existing mechanisms. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 place gender equality and women's empowerment among their primary goals.

An example that we would like to highlight is the political leadership that Nigeria showed by establishing a national plan of action on women and peace and security in its fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. We emphasize that that initiative has encouraged countries in the region to develop similar measures.

Lastly, we commend the work of the United Nations and leadership of the Secretary-General. The Organization has a sizeable system directed at the global objectives of gender equality and implementation of the agenda on women and peace and security. It is essential that all of its agencies and offices dedicated to this issue work in a coordinated fashion.