

Mr. Tuy (Cambodia):

Allow me to congratulate the Russian Federation on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. We thank you for organizing this open debate on women and peace and security.

Cambodia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this morning.

In the twenty-first century, it is more evident than ever that women play an integral part in our global efforts in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and providing humanitarian response. This is reflected in the resolution 1325 (2000), supported by the reports of the Secretary- General and other United Nations resolutions.

Women are an integral part of global society and therefore should be no longer overlooked. We are currently witnessing changes in how peace is defined. Peace does not mean only the absence of war, but can also be sustained through a more inclusive political process that includes the upholding of justice, reconciliation and the promotion of human rights. In this regard, it is worth looking at the analysis and recommendations in the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Women represent a strong link in the chain that supports the most vulnerable members of society. Women's perseverance and kind virtues take their role beyond the home as they play an important role in peacebuilding processes. It is unfortunate that women and girls have been recent targets in many areas of conflict. The more we lack key female participation, the more our chances to sustain peace are diminished. Therefore, it is mandatory for the United Nations to look into the overall aspects of peacebuilding, including female key players. The significance of these criteria mean that their adoption should be a prerequisite for the implementation of the common agenda on women and peace and security.

In the President's concept paper (S/2016/871, annex), we are asked to share experiences and information regarding the efforts of Member States and relevant entities in response to the 2015 high-level review and global study. In light of this, I wish to highlight the following points from the perspective of Cambodia.

Member States with women having suffered from violence must be given the right support for their basic needs so that women and their dependent children can be reintegrated into the society, with consideration for increased investment in the educational needs of girls and women. Health-wise, specific physical, mental and psychological health services should be provided to violence-stricken women so as to restore their dignity and establish a collective memory.

In recognizing women as the backbone of the country, it is important to build and strengthen international norms conducive to giving women equal rights in order to encourage their full participation in all spheres of activities, including political, economic, social and cultural pursuits through the integration of international legal instruments by the respective Member States.

In order to enhance our efforts to end gender-based discrimination, stronger national and regional legal instruments should be strengthened so as to provide a greater number of high-level posts for women. Empowering and protection are not only in the interests of women themselves, but also in the interests of the common good. Cambodia has therefore ensured a greater number of women are employed in positions of influence, particularly in the civil service and State institutions, with a shift

from 20 to 50 per cent in female employment in those areas in 2016. Cambodia has also pursued ways to increase its female recruits, as we recognize that their professional skills and talents can benefit peace processes in the world, and we are increasing their participation, thereby advocating equal participation, in international forums. Since 2006 we have deployed 142 women out of our 3,800 Cambodian United Nations peacekeepers.

In conclusion, Cambodia strongly commits to increasing momentum in the area of gender equality, empowering women and realizing their rights. We are continuing to work closely with the relevant ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as with our development partners.