

Mr. Shen Bo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China is grateful for the briefings by Ms. Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General; Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women; and Ms. Jean, Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie. We also listened attentively to the statement by the representative of civil society.

Women are an important force behind human progress, and their cause and that of human development are closely linked. Since the Council's adoption of the first-ever resolution on women and peace and security, resolution 1325 (2000), the international community has built a strong framework for fostering a greater role for women in peace and security and has achieved important results and positive progress.

At the same time, we must recognize the increasing challenges and complexities of the international security landscape, in which we see regional conflicts come and go like a game of whack-a-mole. More often than not, women bear the brunt of those conflicts and suffer the most. Much remains to be done by the international community to protect the rights of women in situations of conflict. Further effort needs to be made by the international community.

First, we must intensify our efforts to prevent and suppress armed conflicts. China supports the efforts of the Security Council, within the limits of its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, to actively encourage Member States at the political level to settle their disputes through dialogue and consultation, and to continue to play a greater role in preventing conflict and maintaining peace, thereby providing a solid foundation for the protection of women. The international community should embrace the concepts of peaceful development and win-win cooperation, heed the voices and aspirations of women at all stages of the peace process and ensure women's effective participation in those processes so as to take advantage of their unique role.

Secondly, we must resolutely combat violations of women's rights in conflict and work diligently to protect women's legitimate rights and interests. The international community should prioritize leadership on the part of host countries, assist them in the full implementation of the relevant Council resolutions, pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, and focus on ending sexual violence in armed conflict. The international community should respond to the threat of terrorism appropriately, work constructively to explore effective ways to promote international cooperation on counter-terrorism and take comprehensive measures to protect women from terrorist and extremist forces.

Thirdly, we must sharpen the focus on protecting women's rights and interests during post-conflict reconstruction. The international community, with an eye to a broader horizon and a longer view, should provide development assistance and technical support to efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries, with the goal of eliminating the root causes of conflict and fundamentally safeguarding women's rights and interests. We should actively help the countries concerned, promote economic and social

development and ensure that the dividends of development benefit the entire population, including women, while women's groups and civil society should be guided to enable them to play a catalytic role to that end.

Last but not least, we must ensure that United Nations agencies exploit their respective expertise and strength and work together with all parties in synergy. The Council has adopted a series of resolutions on women and peace and security that embody consensus and should therefore be effectively implemented. The relevant United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and UN-Women, should improve their coordination of their respective mandates and cooperate fully with regional and subregional organizations in areas such as the exchange of experience, training, in-country capacity-building and financing, so that existing mechanisms can be fully utilized, their potential exploited and their effectiveness enhanced.

China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to continue pursuing the goals of women and peace and security and to make greater efforts to promote greater development of the global women's cause.