

**Mrs. Hassan (Djibouti)** (*spoke in French*): My delegation thanks the French presidency of the Security Council for convening this debate on women and peace and security, as well as for the excellent quality of the accompanying concept note (S/2017/889, annex), which highlights the relevance and importance of this issue on the agenda of the Security Council and the General Assembly as we implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We also welcome the excellent report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/861) and thank Ms. Jean, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, and Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, for the quality of their briefings.

Since 2000, some eight Security Council resolutions have substantively contributed to the progressive enrichment of the legal and institutional framework dealing with the issue before us, while also being translated into closer institutional links among peace and security, development and human rights bodies.

In times of conflict, the security situation on the ground deteriorates significantly and takes a heavy toll in human lives. Civilians are the primary victims of such wars, and their lives are in jeopardy on a daily basis. It is obviously no coincidence that women always pay the highest price. Day after day, if nothing is done, their lives become a never-ending string of misfortunes, accompanied by a lack of access to water, health care and adequate food. Any hope of a quiet and peaceful life is obliterated, and they face abject poverty, pain and misfortune as they gradually become deprived of any means of subsistence. Indeed, the resulting insecurity takes a high toll on their daily lives, filling them with despair and making their future increasingly uncertain. The precarious security environment creates a fertile breeding ground for terror and terrorism.

Much progress has been made under the women and peace and security agenda, but much remains to be done. We note with satisfaction that the framework of preventative diplomacy and preventive action in various areas — such as demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, security-sector reform and human rights aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts — can support complex political transitions and maintain peace among national stakeholders.

In that context, there is a clear trend towards increasing women's participation. As such, those tools have the immediate goal of mitigating the triggers and impacts of violent conflict, while seeking to build peace and move towards the long-term objectives of prevention and lasting peace. In that respect, we believe that women's participation is crucial in order to increase effectiveness. We also commend the efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

We welcomed the launch of the African Women Leaders Network in May in New York. We also reiterate that we are pleased to see the high degree of integration of the issue of women into the peace and security architecture of the African Union. Indeed, commendable efforts have been made in the African Union to integrate objectives relating to women and peace and security into

its mechanisms for security and human rights protection, as well as its crisis-response and peacebuilding strategies, including, inter alia, the promotion of women's access to positions such as peace mediators, election observers and gender advisers.

Djibouti has long worked to adopt measures relating to women's economic empowerment, governance and justice. Many sectoral public policies in that regard have been implemented and featured in the national programme on gender. Article 1 of our Constitution establishes equality between men and women with respect to civic and political rights. Since 2013, our Parliament has had a 12 per cent representation of women. In public administration, thanks to a legal framework and the political will for equal participation, women now represent some 25 per cent of the workforce. Finally, Djiboutian women are participating in peacekeeping missions, in particular in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the African Union Mission in Somalia.

As affirmed by the Beijing Declaration in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

“Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.”

Currently, we in Djibouti are initiating the preparation of a project aimed at the creation of a gender observatory. That project consists, on the one hand, of collecting, analysing and disseminating data relating to gender equality, and on the other, of making recommendations that will inform decision-makers in their decision-making and, consequently, the development of public policies to promote and improve the situation of gender equality in our country.

To conclude, the topic debated today — about which predictions indicate that the road ahead is fraught with difficulties, but also that the obstacles are by no means insurmountable — provides us with an excellent opportunity and means of eradicating the root causes of conflicts and strengthening conflict prevention. We can and must collectively work with vigour to implement the elements and recommendations of the global study in that regard.