

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Phumzile MlamboNgcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, for her valuable briefing, and I also thank the other briefers.

Over the past two decades, the experience of the Security Council has demonstrated that women's participation in peacemaking and peacebuilding maximizes the benefits of achieving and sustaining peace, as well as preventing relapses into conflict. The recommendations of the 2015 Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 are of the utmost importance. However, they remain a dead letter and have not been implemented. In the context of the follow-up of implementing the recommendations of the global study, we would like to stress the following points.

First, Egypt values and supports the new United Nations system-wide strategy for gender parity. We believe that the strategy is an integral part of the reform of the Organization. We stress the importance of ensuring women's effective participation and leadership, reinforcing gender-based knowledge and providing the required funding for promoting gender equality and the women and peace and security agenda.

Second, we support visits by United Nations officials, focusing solely on women and peace and security, to conflict and post-conflict areas, such as the visit headed by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ms Mohammed briefed the Council on the visit during Egypt's presidency last August (see S/PV.8022). In that regard, we stress that the scope of the women and peace and security agenda should be limited to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Third, we take note of the Secretary General's intention to focus his report (S/2017/861) on the participation of women in peace operations. Egypt calls for going beyond merely evaluating the level of participation to developing concrete recommendations aimed at ensuring a more effective participation of women. In that connection, Egypt seeks to increase the number of female peacekeepers as it deploys more Blue Helmets to peacekeeping missions.

Fourth, it is not enough to only adopt action plans on women and peace and security, as such plans and their commitments need to be adequately funded. Egypt therefore believes that it is critical to assist States by building their capacity in that area.

Fifth, we are concerned that there has been a setback in the meaningful participation of women, as detailed in the Secretary-General's report, despite the existing legal and institutional framework to enable such participation.

Sixth, the suffering of women and girls is exacerbated by terrorism in conflict areas. Furthermore, women continue to suffer under occupation.

Seventh, we advocate the need to strictly adhere to the delivery of the women and peace and security mandate. Any deviation from the mandate to other topics would undermine the agenda's purpose and implementation. We must strike a balance between the two key pillars of the women and peace and security agenda, namely, protection and participation.

We must consider the specific cultural and social character of every country when implementing the agenda so as to increase the participation of women in conflict and post-conflict areas. There must be co-payment mechanisms in place involving donors and implementing entities so as to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the agenda. All of that must be carried out while at the same time stressing national ownership and joint implementation with national authorities.

Egypt spares no effort to assist in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. With regard to combating sexual exploitation and abuse, in response to the Secretary General's zerotolerance policy, we have introduced an intensive and comprehensive training module on awareness related to sexual exploitation and abuse into the predeployment training of our peacekeeping troops. Furthermore, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding has published a manual entitled "Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations", to be used by Egyptian peacekeeping troops. The manual is available to all troop-contributing countries, and it has been translated into English and French.

With regard to training programmes, the Cairo Center and Egypt's National Council for Women, in partnership with the Crisis Management Center Finland, organize basic training courses on the role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Participants have included members of the military and the police, as well as civilians from numerous Arab and African States. In the near future, the Center will collaborate with its counterparts in other countries. Moreover, the Center has developed a first-of-its-kind training manual in the Arab region on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as it relates to peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the Arab world.

We call for renewed political and ethical commitment to empowering women in post-conflict areas and countries. Women are a main pillar in the process of the transformation from conflict to development, and from conflict-torn societies to sound ones, capable of achieving sustained peace.