

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): Let me first thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/861) and acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat, UN-Women and you, Madam President, in keeping the women and peace and security agenda alive. My delegation is pleased to be associated with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women and Peace and Security.

I am honoured to be able to participate in the Security Council's open debate on resolution 1325 (2000). Jamaica has had a long history of association with that resolution and fondly recalls the deliberations that culminated with its adoption in 2000 during our tenure on the Security Council. We continue to regard it as seminal to our efforts to advance international peace and security. Jamaica believes that women must be recognized for the invaluable role that they can play in restoring broken communities and sustaining peace.

It is against that background that we share the views of the Secretary-General that more needs to be done to ensure women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the actual implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. However, we note with concern that we continue to fall short on implementation and are particularly worried about that fact, given the increasing challenges to peace and security around the world. We therefore concur with the view that preventative measures need to move beyond addressing the imminence of crisis to tackle structural and root causes, including gender inequality.

For its part, the Government of Jamaica has developed a national policy for gender equality to ensure that the principle of equality between men and women is advanced in both the public and the private spheres in Jamaica. The policy is aligned with our national development policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal 5, Jamaica launched the HeForShe campaign in July 2016 as part of the wider global solidarity campaign created by UN-Women. The campaign was launched as a platform with which both men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality, as well as to end violence against women and girls. Additionally, as recent as July of this year, a national strategic action plan to eliminate gender-based violence (2017-2026) was approved by our Cabinet.

We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that effective mechanisms should be established to ensure the meaningful measurement of results with respect to women and peace and security. My delegation would go even further to suggest that such mechanisms should take account of the cooperation and support that needs to be provided to ensure the attainment of the requisite results. Financing will be central to that endeavour. Jamaica therefore welcomes the fact that the Secretary-General has addressed this issue in his report. We fully concur with his assertion that we need

“to reprioritize spending patterns, effectively coordinate funding instruments and explore innovative forms of flexible financing” (S/2017/861, para. 97).

Such efforts must supplement long-standing commitments that would guarantee adequate, predictable and sustainable financing.

We share the view that the focus on women and peace and security should, of necessity, take account of the role that young people and young women, in particular, can play as peacebuilders. We therefore value the work being done pursuant to resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security to bring this objective to fruition.

Ensuring the equal and effective participation of women and men is fundamental to building inclusive and peaceful societies. My delegation endorses efforts aimed at ensuring women's economic empowerment, promoting their participation in governance structures at all levels and enabling access to justice and security. Furthermore, women's roles in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control can also not be overstated. In that regard, Jamaica commends our sister Caribbean Community partner, Trinidad and Tobago, for spearheading the consideration by the First Committee of the biennial resolution on that issue. We are especially interested in ensuring continued progress towards addressing the gender specific effects of armed violence and ensuring women's full participation in gender-responsive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

A critical feature of that endeavour will be the engagement of civil society, which has been an invaluable partner throughout this entire process. Indeed, there can be no progress without the involvement of diverse stakeholders who are central to building confidence among local communities. It is in that regard that we commend the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Peace Research Institute Oslo for developing the Women, Peace and Security Index, which was launched just yesterday.

In conclusion, my delegation is encouraged by the Secretary-General's personal commitment to ensuring that the United Nations fulfils its obligations in support of the women and peace and security agenda. We welcome intensified efforts that would result in more inclusive participation by and engagement of women in United Nations peace and security initiatives. It is our firm belief that it augurs well for the Organization as a whole and would provide the catalytic impact necessary to ensure the effectiveness of peace processes, secure economic development and realize social prosperity across the globe.