

**Mr. Kamau (Kenya):** Kenya commends France for convening today's important open debate.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women and Peace and Security.

We also welcome the 2017 report (S/2017/861) of the Secretary-General and its recognition of the fact that the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and facilitates sustained peace and the prevention of conflict.

On 8 March 2016, International Women's Day, the Government launched Kenya's national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Aptly entitled *Kuhusisha wanawake ni kudumisha amani*, which means "involving women to sustain peace," it has been very well received in our country. The plan draws on relevant national, regional and international instruments to address the intersecting areas related to security, peacebuilding and conflict resolution, as well as to ending impunity for violence against women, promoting gender mainstreaming and protecting human rights.

With regard to participation and promotion, Kenya is ranked first in the world among troop-contributing countries in its deployment of military female officers. I am happy to report that today our deployment of women in peace support operations stands at 19 per cent, surpassing the United Nations-recommended percentage of 15 per cent. Efforts aimed at increasing female professional advancement and improving gender balance in our military leadership have led to many women being promoted to the ranks of brigadier or colonel.

Kenya's gender policy guides the integration of gender and resolution 1325 (2000) into all our military operations. It is behind our project for engendering peacebuilding activities in Kenya, which is now the basis for our establishment of a national conflict earlywarning and early-response system. On prevention, the Government has established an international peace support training centre for enhancing the capacity of both women and men as meaningful participants in peacebuilding, negotiations and preventive diplomacy at the community and national levels. On protection, we have launched a country-wide campaign, *Jitokeze* — which means "speak out" — aimed at breaking the silence on gender-based violence.

Among my Government's efforts to promote countrywide sensitization to the gender dimensions of peace and security are its formulation of a 2016 bill on access to public information and a review of our national information and communications technology policy. Our establishment of a toll-free number, the Gender Helpline, and revitalization of various platforms for peace dialogue and online reporting have increased the number of users accessing early-warning and early-response systems throughout the country. The Government's efforts have been complemented by various non-State actors, including the media. A network of 150 journalists are permanently engaged with the Kenya national action plan to build media capacity on gender- and conflict-sensitive reporting through training workshops.

With regard to the relief and recovery pillar, the Government's efforts include establishing, first, clear guidelines on referral pathways within medical facilities for sexual and gender-based violence survivors; secondly, national guidelines and standard operating procedures for the psychosocial management of survivors and forensic management; and thirdly, gender-based violence recovery centres within health facilities, which help to create access to justice for survivors, with noted improvements in the investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence cases.

In September 2016, the President launched a national strategy for countering violent extremism that incorporates women into its county security and intelligence committees, which are also linked to local peace committees and community policing initiatives.

The rapidly changing nature of terrorism and the limited research available on it is a major concern for us. Kenya's priorities for future action in these areas include climate change and its impact on women and peace and security; disarmament for nomadic populations where illicit small arms proliferate; the increased insecurity that results from regional instability and growing border conflicts; the radicalization of young people; the emerging forms and dynamics of cyber- and technology-led crime, including electronic violence against women, which is becoming more prevalent; the mobilization of funding for women and peace and security initiatives, including closing the gap between research and practice. We are also working on establishing a strong monitoring system for the Kenya's national action plan for women and peace and security and, lastly, we are setting up a central depository for peace and security data that can be accessed by everyone.

In conclusion, Kenya remains committed to implementing the women and peace and security agenda in full measure. We support the reinforcement of the United Nations Trust Fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women and the United Nations Fund for Gender Equality. We continue to call for further support and increased funding for UN-Women.