

**Mr. AlMunayekh (Kuwait)** (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the French presidency for convening this important debate. I would also like to thank Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, as well as Ms. Charo Mina-Rojas and Ms. Michaëlle Jean, for their important briefings.

The women and peace and security agenda has become a key pillar of international relations and a crucial tool for strengthening United Nations efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and to provide humanitarian assistance. This agenda allows us to fulfil two essential conditions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Seventeen years have passed since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). In adopting it, the international community reaffirmed the important role of women in preventing and resolving conflict. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's commitment to the principles set out therein. My country is firmly convinced that gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the protection and promotion of women's rights, are important elements in sustainable development and conflict prevention.

The meaningful participation of women in resolving conflicts, in humanitarian efforts and in peacebuilding are crucial to sustaining peace. In this regard, I would like to thank Secretary-General António Guterres for his annual report on the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2122 (2013), on women and peace and security (S/2017/861). The report highlights recent developments in the implementation of resolution 2242 (2015) by focusing on the contributions that women can make in terms of implementation. We also welcome the recommendations contained in the report, as gender equality and women's empowerment are sine qua non prerequisites for conflict prevention and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16, as outlined in the report. This will allow us to effect genuine change in the context of the three pillars of the United Nations, security, human rights and development.

My country is committed to involving women in development plans, decision-making and civil society. Moreover, women in Kuwait participate in decision-making at the highest levels and occupy high-level posts. They are ministers, deputy ministers, members of parliament, and ambassadors and representatives in diplomatic missions worldwide. We call for further efforts to be made for women's empowerment and their inclusion in society.

We have also undertaken efforts to promote the role of the United Nations, and, in cooperation with the Organization, we have developed a number of projects for women's empowerment. We have also reviewed and updated all legislation relating to women in Kuwait. Thus we have put an end to all forms of discrimination against women and established a mechanism to protect women from all forms of violence, both in society and within the family, and established a national centre for that purpose.

The eight resolutions adopted by the Security Council in this area have made clear that this agenda requires greater commitment in order to be comprehensively implemented. We will undertake additional efforts to integrate these resolutions in the global agenda of the United Nations and in the work of the Security Council in particular. The past two decades have made clear that the meaningful participation of women can strengthen protection, economic recovery and peacebuilding efforts.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Kuwait's commitment to acting in favour of women's empowerment and promoting the role of women in sustaining peace and security. Participation by women and girls must be at the top of our priorities.