

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, my delegation would like to thank France for organizing this open debate during its presidency of the Security Council, on an issue that is of the utmost importance to Morocco — women and peace and security.

The historic adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) represented international recognition of the role played by women in peace and security, not only as victims but also as agents of change and essential players in restoring, maintaining and consolidating peace. Maintaining peace and security requires the integration of the gender perspective into all peace efforts, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) and the other resolutions that followed in that regard.

Women's participation in negotiation processes increases the chances of settling conflicts and sustaining peace. That finding was confirmed by a UN Women-led global study in 2015, which revealed that the presence of women in peace negotiations promoted the sustainability of peace agreements, and that 35 per cent of agreements negotiated by women lasted more than 15 years. That means that the presence of women in peace negotiations is a great help for the sustainability of peace agreements.

On 7 September, 2016, Morocco organized an international conference on the topic of women and peace and security. It contributed to the international debate on the role of women in peace processes and the implementation of national plans of action to promote collective action on implementing resolution 1325 (2000). It was an occasion to reaffirm the international community's consensus on the need to strengthen women's participation in negotiations and agreements concerning the settlement of conflicts and peacebuilding, as well as to renew the United Nations commitment to the issue of the inclusion of women and gender equality in all peacebuilding and conflict prevention strategies.

During the conference, debates focused on three areas: the role of women in mediation and conflict-prevention processes, the role of women in deradicalization and the lessons learned and best practices in the prevention of sexual violence in conflict. At the conference, my country announced the creation in Rabat of an independent regional centre, a think-tank, dedicated to studying the role of women in peacekeeping operations and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. The centre could serve as a space for reflection, a think-tank and a source of independent thought regarding the role and place of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in conflict zones. It is in keeping with the priorities of the Security Council in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality in the establishment of peace and international security, the dissemination of the culture of peace, ensuring access to justice and the protection of civil rights.

Women and girls have special needs in the postconflict period, such as health services, livelihood, land rights and property rights and employment. They must also participate in decision-making and the development of national strategies for postconflict economic recovery. Unfortunately, women are often underrepresented in the decision-making process associated

with economic recovery and public governance in the post-conflict phase. They are not included in formal decision-making structures, including key economic sectors, such as infrastructure, extractive industries and commercial agriculture. To that end, the preparation of an approach based on gender and development in a post-conflict context is imperative in order to ensure that, from the beginning of the reconstruction process, there is sustainable and equitable development where both women and men share resources, opportunities, decision-making and power.

In that context, the Kingdom of Morocco takes this opportunity to commend the work of UN-Women to promote the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, particularly with regard to economic recovery and reconstruction through the three areas of intervention: post-conflict planning, economic recovery and governance restoration.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has placed great emphasis on peace, including the prevention of conflict and the elimination of its root causes through Sustainable Development Goal 16, which seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The universal 2030 Agenda, which advocates a cross-cutting incorporation of gender in all Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizes the need to redouble efforts to prevent conflict and help countries emerging from conflict, while ensuring that women are involved in peacekeeping and reconstruction. In that sense, the Goals demonstrate that gender, peace, security and development are interconnected, interrelated and inseparable from one another