

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the French presidency of the Security Council for convening today's open debate, which is highlighting the responsibility that States have in ensuring the full and meaningful participation and leadership of women in all efforts to maintain peace and security, including those to prevent conflicts.

The Security Council has adopted eight resolutions on the subject since 2000. Despite the progress and good practices that have been developed in the past 17 years, there are still barriers to the effective implementation of this agenda. Peru is convinced that the participation of women is essential for the resolution of conflicts and the maintenance of peace and for peacebuilding, since they offer different perspectives that enrich peace negotiations. As the Secretary-General has pointed out in his latest report on this subject (S/2017/861), improving women's access to meaningful leadership and their participation in peace efforts begins with active collaboration with civil-society organizations, especially organizations run by women.

Accordingly, we are pleased to see the trend of systematically incorporating a gender perspective in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, as well as the incorporation of women as actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and the importance of providing specialized training on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and girls in situations of conflict. That is why my country has been increasing the participation of female personnel in each of the six peace missions to which we contribute.

Peru has also carried out other measures to implement the women and peace and security agenda, such as the creation of a registry of displaced persons, which has allowed for the adoption of measures to protect the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Similarly, in 2005, a comprehensive reparations programme for victims of violence that occurred between 1980 and 2000 was established. The Ministry for Defence has also created an internal committee for gender equality, with the objective of coordinating, articulating and overseeing the incorporation of the gender perspective into policies and institutional management of the defence sector, including the peacekeeping missions in which Peru participates.

Peru strongly believes that the women and peace and security agenda should be a central element of the process to reform United Nations peacekeeping operations, and we will work hard to make that possible. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council as of 2018, we commit to making further progress in gender equality in peacekeeping operations, and in all areas related to that agenda, especially through our participation in the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, which we will co-Chair with Sweden as of 2018.