

Mr. Khiari (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the French presidency for having convened this meeting in order to take stock of the achievements made and prospects for the holistic and full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The resolution is indubitably a cornerstone in many regards, by acknowledging the critical role of women in the promotion of the culture of peace and resilience within our societies and the critical nature of their participation in drafting and implementing post-conflict strategies. Successively adopted resolutions by the Security Council and the General Assembly contributed to further fine-tuning the prospects provided by the main resolution, in terms of women's leadership during peacebuilding processes and the assured added-value provided by civil society actors and others on the whole.

There is no need to recall the devastating repercussions of war and conflict on people, especially on the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, we see that on virtually a daily basis. Women and children are the principal victims. Despite the progress that has been achieved since 2000, which has been reflected in an active participation in peace movements and a growing role in post-conflict rebuilding, women remain essentially absent in negotiations and institutions for peacebuilding. That consistently hampers the process of conflict resolution. In our view, women's involvement remains critical. Over the long-term, that will make possible a gender balance in public institutions and with regard to legal reform. That was an observation made in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/861). Tunisia thanks him for the quality of the assessment and recommendations contained therein. In particular, we welcome the initiative to assess how well women are represented in peace processes, as part of the reform project. We welcome that initiative because that approach recognizes the important role played by women in mediation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. In addition, my delegation would like to recognize the efforts undertaken to implement resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, in connection with the prevention of violent extremism. Nothing highlights the validity of the gender approach as much as the development of measures aimed at combating radicalization, or rehabilitating or reintegrating women returning from conflict zones.

My country's delegation also welcomes the publication of the Secretary-General's strategy on gender parity at the United Nations. The recommendations developed are not solely focused on management issues, but also promote the need to revisit the role of women in peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we support the call made by the Secretary-General to the members of the Security Council to continue to pay special attention to women's issues in the area of peace and security when "new crises arise, others worsen or when the Council focuses on counter-terrorism or the deployment of contingents".

Turning again to Tunisia, the Code of Personal Status was adopted in 1956 and was indeed the foundation of modern Tunisia, perhaps even more so than the country's first Constitution, which was adopted in 1959. That illustrates the importance of women's empowerment in developing a modern citizenship based policy for Tunisian society since the establishment of the first Republic of Tunisia. That reform momentum was reflected in the new 2014 Constitution, which

guarantees and protects women's rights. It should be recalled that women were on the front lines during the fight for democracy. They continue to be change agents for long-term stability.

In line with resolution 1325 (2000), the Tunisian Parliament recently unanimously adopted a historic law to eliminate all violence against women. That text is the outcome of the joint efforts of the Government and human rights organizations and associations. It is important to adhere to international instruments and standards in the area of violence against women, and, for the first time, to recognize threats posed to women's economic rights as gender-based violence against women. Tunisia has underscored that the adoption of that law was complemented by the establishment of a committee made up of renowned intellectuals and academics, tasked with studying the issue of individual freedoms and equality in all areas. Those new approaches only serve to underscore the irreversible nature of our efforts to eliminate all forms of gender based violence.

One of the goals of the annual debate on the women and peace and security agenda is to assess the progress made in the various countries in developing national action plans on resolution 1325 (2000). My delegation would like point out that a three-year project undertaken under the auspices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the support of UN-Women and other partners, is under way. That project, which is participatory in nature and involves various Tunisian stakeholders, aims to implement a national action plan for Tunisia on the women and peace and security agenda.

According to the poet Louis Aragon, the future of men is women. To that end, a catalyst for resilience and development is required in the societal model to ensure that peace is maintained and progress visible and measurable. It reflects the vital nature of everyone's commitment to promoting the women and peace and security agenda.