

Mr. Nina (Albania): We appreciate the opportunity to take part in this open debate on the review of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing the resolution. We also welcome the adoption by consensus yesterday of resolution 2242 (2015), which we were very pleased to co-sponsor.

We would also like to thank the Spanish presidency of the Security Council for the very interesting concept note (S/2015/749, annex) issued in preparation for the debate.

As pointed out in the concept note, we concur with the view that Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of the global commitments and obligations in the context of the women and peace and security agenda.

Albania is not a post-conflict country. It has been striving, however, to achieve higher standards in facing new challenges and emerging asymmetric threats on our path to consolidating democracy, peace and security, and respect for human rights.

My Government is convinced that peace and security cannot be achieved without joint efforts by both women and men, given the inextricable links between gender equality and international peace and security.

In implementing resolution 1325 (2000), the Government of Albania identified and focused its efforts on several key objectives that take account of the need to enhance women's leadership; increase the participation of women in political and public decision-making; increase the participation of women in the police and armed forces; and enhance the relevant programmes for professional training on gender issues and violence against women.

Recent legal acts such as those entitled "Protection from Discrimination" and "Military Discipline in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania" provide for appropriate legal and disciplinary measures in cases of sexual harassment, sexual violence and gender-based violence committed by military personnel in discharging their duties. All military structures under the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence have their own gender equality focal point. There are currently nine focal points altogether: seven women and two men.

On the normative framework, the national action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), adopted in 2011, provides for enhanced institutional gender capacities, which made it possible, starting that year, for eight women to participate in international peacekeeping operations.

The 2013 directive from the Ministry of Defence provided for gender equality and gender mainstreaming as annual priorities, achieving later that year the objective of 17.7 per cent representation of women in the armed forces.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), significant threats to global peace and security have emerged, the most prominent of which is the rise of violent extremism. The Balkans Regional Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, held in Tirana on 19 and 20 May 2015, recognized that women are both vulnerable to radicalization and have an important role to play in countering violent extremism.

The Summit further committed to integrating women into efforts to counter violent extremism and underscored the need to work together in the region to better understand the precise nature of violent extremist threats at the local and regional levels, including by promoting research, analysis and information-sharing on the drivers of violent extremism in all of its forms for all segments of society, including women and youth, and on how best to counter those drivers.

Civil society has also played a very important role in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). In recognizing this role, my Government has systematically engaged and supported women's organizations in the implementation of the 1325 agenda. We emphasize in this context the importance of developing and implementing the relevant national strategies and plans of action, in close cooperation with civil society.

In concluding, allow me to underline the need for the Security Council to strengthen its commitment to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda through a more coherent and systematic approach. Let us not forget that resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted following a decade of terrible failures in protecting women, including on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. This fifteenth anniversary of the resolution should mobilize us in addressing key challenges of the women and peace and security agenda, including the lack of consistent implementation.