

Ms. Germán (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Dominican Republic, I should like to thank the Council for organizing today's debate.. This high-level meeting is eloquent testimony to the great interest shown by the Security Council, and particularly the Kingdom of Spain, in promoting women's rights and their role in the field of international peace and security. These topics are of crucial importance in a world where it is important to further develop a culture of protection and solidarity with women, adolescents and girls.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on 31 October 2000, we have seen genuine progress in protecting women in conflict situations and in moving towards their full and total participation in equal conditions in international peace and security processes. We welcome the progress that has been made in implementing resolution 1325 (2000), but we understand that we need to coordinate action in implementing the resolution in order to achieve a more global approach.

The United Nations system has a crucial role to play to that end. We must promote truly effective actions that will allow women to become the main actors in implementing the resolution and not depend on the decisions of others. Focusing attention on the situation of women is even more urgent when we note that women and their families are those most affected by civil wars. They are the targets of kidnappings, they fill the makeshift boats that cross the waters of the Mediterranean, and they remain in conflict zones while their husbands flee persecution and repression.

It is important to recall that we have just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1). This year we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations and the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which laid the foundation for the women and peace and security agenda. We are also celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), which confirms the importance of working for the participation of women in conflict- prevention, conflict-management and rehabilitation from conflict.

We have an historic opportunity to continue to promote the development of a focused agenda that prioritizes the value of women's participation as an invaluable driving force to achieve sustainable peace and security. The main role played by women in social, economic and political development in our societies

makes equal economic and political rights between men and women logical and correct, especially with respect to preventing and resolving international conflicts. We believe that if women have opportunities, they can contribute at every stage of a peace process, including peacebuilding.

We support the formal designation by the Secretary-General of UN-Women as the coordinating entity within the Secretariat for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. We believe that the Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security must revitalize and revitalize United Nations action against sexual violence in conflict, including the prevention of sexual violence, accountability and the provision of assistance to victims. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should also have a strategic plan to enhance women's leadership and participation. We understand that the women and peace and security agenda must become a full part of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, given the role that women play as victims, drivers and agents of change.

The Dominican Republic trusts that the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will be a unique opportunity to formulate an agenda of global policies on women, peace and security at the political and operational levels so that we can work together, focused on action that will make it possible to redesign appropriately financed strategies to move forward with this agenda.

In the Dominican Republic, fortunately, there are no armed conflicts. However, the President is working for gender equality and for the empowerment of women in order to guarantee their economic, physical and political independence. To that end, we decided that all plans and projects being considered in the context of the national development strategy to 2030 must include gender equality. We have also adopted a programme to ensure that as of 2016 the respective budgets of all State institutions must include resources earmarked to achieve gender equality and non-discrimination against women. In this year, the Dominican Republic adopted a new law creating a comprehensive system to guarantee prevention, detection, comprehensive care, prosecution, punishment and follow-up with respect to to all forms of violence against women.

We therefore trust that today's debate we will lead to concrete commitments to ensure that women will be respected comprehensively as a permanent priority in maintaining and promoting international peace and security, which the Dominican Republic supports fully.