

Mr. Olguín Cigarroa (Chile) (spoke in Spanish):

We welcome the initiative of the Russian Federation in convening this open debate on woman and peace and security.

We acknowledge and express our appreciation for the briefings by the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Women, as well as the statement made by the representative of Slovenia on behalf of the Human Security Network.

We also align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of resolution 1325 (2010).

The women and peace and security agenda is a priority of Chile's multilateral foreign policy. We therefore promote strengthening cooperation at regional and global levels and establishing public policies at country level. In the global context, we would like to point out our co-sponsorship of Spain's initiative to create a network of national focal points on women and peace and security. As a founding member of the network, Chile reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting and developing women's participation in decision-making in all spheres.

Accordingly, Chile is currently implementing its second national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) under the coordination of a tripartite inter-ministerial network to promote gender mainstreaming in all predeployment training for peacekeeping personnel from our country. The inter-ministerial bureau will soon be joined by citizen observer, whose task will be to monitor the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Chile, with the participation of various stakeholders including civil society.

Furthermore, Chile is committed to increasing women's participation in various United Nations missions. We are convinced of their contribution and undeniable role in establishing effective ties in restoring the confidence of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. This year we have deployed a senior officer in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and, before 11 November, Chilean women will participate as observers in the United Nations Mission in Colombia. As of 2017, women's access will be ensured to all military professions. That will be extended in 2018 to include the navy and the air force. That will enable Chilean women to be deployed in various areas of peacekeeping missions.

At the regional level we highlight Chile and Argentina's bilateral plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) through the Joint Peace Force of the Southern Cross.

In another area, Chile appreciates the recommendations concerning the global study on resolution 1325 (2000) set out in the latest report (S/2016/822) of the Secretary-General. We emphasize the importance of enhancing the participation and leadership of women as a central aspect of peace and security initiatives.

We should not just think about the numerical increase of women in peace operations, but should also include a gender perspective in the planning and conduct of missions. As noted by the Secretary-General in his report, the participation of women should not be limited to certain phases; it is necessary throughout the conflict cycle to achieve sustainable peace.

Finally, women are agents of change and contribute to building more just and egalitarian societies. We must therefore take advantage of their rich potential. As

noted by the Secretary-General last year during his visit to Chile, empowering women and girls is the smartest investment that the international community can make to ensure a future of justice and peace for all.