

Mr. Jinga (Romania) (*spoke in French*): Since its adoption, resolution 1325 (2000) has become a valuable tool in the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, and in particular for the implementation of the concept of sustaining peace.

Romania associates itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would now like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

The past 17 years have demonstrated that women are key actors in promoting peace. Nonetheless, only half of the peace agreements concluded contain provisions relating to women. The presence of women in peacekeeping missions has a positive effect on the local female population, allowing women to ensure that they are not only perceived as victims but also as providers of security. They also serve as a model of inspiration for women and girls to play a more active presence in society.

We welcome initiatives by the United Nations since 2015 that have contributed to gender equality and to the increasing role of women. In that regard, Romania greatly appreciates the personal commitment of the Secretary-General. However, more remains to be done. We can see that there is a great need for more women in command-level posts in peacekeeping operations. We appreciate the initiative of the Police Division to launch a training course exclusively for female staff candidates for leadership positions, including within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Romania is a strong proponent of the integration of women into the troop contingents deployed in United Nations missions, and we are proud that a female Romanian police officer has been awarded the title of International Female Police Peacekeeper for 2015. Currently, another Romanian policewoman occupies the post of Chief of Operations at the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

In implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), the Romanian Ministry of Defence adopted a plan of action to implement the women and peace and security agenda, and currently 40 Romanian military women are involved in United Nations missions or of other international organizations, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, the Balkans and Georgia. It is also important to involve more women in processes related to the promotion of lasting peace. Romania therefore joined the network of women and peace and security national focal points officially launched in New York on 23 September 2016. I would like to add that, on 13 and 14 June 2017, the Romanian Ministry of Defence organized a regional conference in Bucharest on gender mainstreaming in security and defence, and Romania joined the United Kingdom and Peru in an event organized for the opening of the current General Assembly session on the presence of women in peacekeeping operations.

Our representatives also participate in the United Nations Senior Missions Leaders Training Course, which is currently taking place in Dakar and is being organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. Romania is also involved in the

Female Military Officers Course, co-organized by UN-Women in Nairobi. Our resolute commitment to realizing women's enormous potential is also reflected in the fact that, on 1 and 2 November, we will organize in Bucharest a conference of the women of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

Building and keeping peace is a ongoing process that requires the broadest possible popular support and the participation of all segments of society, among whom women play an essential role. Romania is resolutely convinced that all the players — States, regional organizations, civil society and the media — should continue to work together for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.