

Mr. Grant (Canada) (*speak in French*): Canada commends Spain for having convened this high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security. In particular, we applaud the adoption of a fittingly ambitious resolution on women and peace and security (resolution 2242 (2015)), which Canada was proud to co-sponsor.

Enhancing the empowerment of women and girls, respect for their human rights and dignity and the promotion of their well-being have long been priority issues in Canadian foreign policy. We see these as elements critical to realizing safe and secure communities, development and prosperity.

Resolution 1325 (2000) and the subsequent seven resolutions that compose the women and peace and security agenda highlight how emergency and conflict situations seriously exacerbate threats to the human rights, dignity and welfare of women and girls, and the vital role of the meaningful participation of women and girls in furthering international peace and security.

(*speak in English*)

Women around the world continue to face an onslaught of violence in situations of conflict, as we have witnessed in the deliberate and systematic campaign of sexual violence undertaken by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Boko Haram. While these groups publicize their crimes, such atrocities also take place in other conflicts behind a curtain of silence and shame. Accountability, let alone true justice, remains elusive. Women's rights defenders, serving as a voice for the voiceless, are themselves often targeted. The United Nations itself has witnessed shortcomings, with instances of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and staff.

In response to these situations, Canada supports projects to address the specific needs of women and girls in conflicts and emergencies. We are mounting a strong response to sexual violence in conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Iraq and Syria. Our programming includes providing access to justice for survivors and holding perpetrators to account, including through the deployment of Justice Rapid Response experts. This work is undertaken within the context of Canada's national action plan on women and peace and security.

Canada remains a staunch supporter of the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Bangura, whose courage and tenacity have been an inspiration to us all. We are proud to be providing \$3 million in support of her Office over the next three years, recognizing that financing is key to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

As we reflect on the past 15 years, the ravages of war, displacement and violent extremism should only push us to redouble our resolve. Canada pledges to be relentless in our pursuit of peace, justice and prosperity for women worldwide.