

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank Spain for having organized this high-level open debate to review the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and assess its concrete outcomes. I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement, as well as Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, and the civil society activists Ms. Julienne Lusenge, Ms. Yanar Mohammed and Ms. Alaa Murabit for their briefings and testimony. My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be made by Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security.

Resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted by the Security Council 15 years ago, and was followed by other resolutions calling for enhanced efforts to protect women and to promote their equal participation in reconciliation and reconstruction processes. The Secretary-General's global study on this issue and his most recent report in that regard (S/2015/716) reflect the significant progress that has been made at various levels in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

At the same time, however, it highlights certain serious gaps and failings. The involvement in women in conflict prevention and management and their appointment to high-level positions at the national, regional and international levels remain inadequate. In such circumstances, it would be very difficult — indeed, almost impossible — to ensure any time soon the gender equality that the international community has set as its goal. It is against the backdrop of that challenge that, at its seventieth session, the General Assembly Summit for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals decided to make gender equality a central pillar of the new development road map at all levels.

Much remains to be done in that regard, beginning with the United Nations itself, which should set the example by further promoting the recruitment and appointment of competent women to various senior posts in the Organization. For its part, the Security Council should fully embrace the commitment it undertook in resolution 2122 (2013) to uniformly implement resolution 1325 (2000) in the context of its work by putting in place a follow-up strategy for its work in that regard.

Moreover, we would like to underscore the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in achieving the goals of Security Council resolutions on women and girls. In that connection, I would like to welcome the African Union's adoption, in 2014, of its women, peace and security programme, which was an important step in strengthening efforts to raise awareness and improve the capacities of its member States with regard to resolution 1325 (2000).

In the face of the new challenges linked to sexual and gender-based violence posed by such armed groups as Boko Haram and Daesh, which carry out kidnappings, traffic in women and girls and practice forced prostitution, the entire international community and

individual States should further marshal their efforts to wage a battle commensurate with the stakes involved.

While fully acknowledging the progress made over the past 15 years, we note that, when it comes to State efforts, only about 50 countries have developed action plans, whose implementation is significantly hampered by the need for financing. In many developing countries, including Chad, the persistence of negative cultural aspects and misguided interpretations of religious principles remain genuine obstacles on the path towards achieving the commitments undertaken in resolution 1325 (2000). Those obstacles could and should be overcome via robust involvement on the part of local communities and traditional and religious leaders, whose major role appears to be ignored in favour of State institutions and non-governmental organizations in the course of seeking adequate solutions. It should be noted that perceptions among local communities have also evolved, and that it is quite possible to make a real difference using their own institutions that see themselves as the guardians of tradition. The integration and participation of women in every aspect of public and private decision-making will make it possible to eradicate negative social norms, reduce discrimination and promote gender equality.

With regard to Chad's own efforts, despite the political determination reflected in resolution 1325 (2000), to date we have not been able to complete our national plan, owing primarily to institutional and technical shortcomings and a low level of ownership. Nevertheless, since 2000, the constant efforts of our national authorities, supported by the agencies of the United Nations system, have made it possible to further integrate women at various levels in all aspects of society. In addition to boosting women's presence in the Government and the Parliament, women have been encouraged to join our domestic security services, especially the Gendarmerie and in the Garde nationale et nomade. For some time, our national police have implemented a 30 per cent quota on recruitment, thereby contributing to promoting gender equality. Moreover, this year, in the context of national women's week and the observance of International Women's Day, the focus has been on the empowerment of women. To that end, for the past four years a special policy has been in place to extend microcredit to women.

In conclusion, I reiterate Chad's commitment to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on the issue, in line with our national legislation, while giving the requisite attention to the recommendations set out in the global study on the implementation of that resolution, as set out in the report of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations and the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.

