

Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia): I welcome the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015), of which Estonia was a sponsor. I align myself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union.

Resolution 1325 (2000) was a game-changer for women and peace and security. I want to thank you, Mr. President, and the Secretary-General for organizing today's debate to underline the importance of the issue.

The year 2015 has given the international community an unparalleled opportunity to reiterate the importance of the implementation of women's and girls' rights. We are celebrating today 15 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and, recently, 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. In addition newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (resolution 70/1) encourage us to take a look at how women are affected by each of the 17 Goals.

The parallel review of resolution 1325 (2000) and United Nations peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding efforts has led to an invaluable opportunity to create a more holistic approach to conflict prevention. Paired with more focused attention on the role of women in society as well as in peace and security, the international community has a unique opportunity to effectively address the challenges the agenda faces.

Much has changed in the world during past 15 years. The number of conflicts has increased significantly, and we face new threats. One of the key challenges we face is the implementation gap. The Security Council should strengthen its own commitment to the effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. However, it is the primary responsibility of each Member State to make sure that women are included from the very beginning in conflict prevention, peace operations planning and conflict resolution.

Estonia is committed to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and is currently in the process of adopting its second national action plan. Changes do not happen overnight. We therefore have to focus on raising awareness on the women and peace and security agenda from the grass-roots level to that of international cooperation. We strongly support the inclusion of the gender perspective in the mandates of the operations and missions, and their implementation and evaluation, in the international organizations of which we are members. In parallel, we must continue to fight against impunity, especially against sexual violence in conflicts.

Estonia continues to support the rights of women and girls within the framework of development cooperation, with special attention being paid to women's access to education and health care. Empowered educated women are more likely to be active in local communities and participate in peace processes and conflict prevention. This year

provides us with a unique opportunity to give an additional impetus to realizing our previously set goals — let us not lose the momentum.