

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka: I wish once again to express our great appreciation to Spain for having convened this very rich and informative dialogue. I also wish to express my gratitude for the contribution of the United Kingdom, which also made it possible for resolution 2242 (2015) to be adopted unanimously. We thank members profusely for that achievement. We also thank the individual Member States that have presented their efforts and initiatives to us here and who were not shy about highlighting many of the problems they face, while emphasizing the fact that a paradigm shift is needed and that, as the representative of the Netherlands said, there should be more action and less talk.

We want to emphasize, with respect to regional organizations, whose presence is highly appreciated, that in resolution 2242 (2015) the role of regional organizations is mentioned at least seven times, further pointing out the important role of such organizations. Mass displacements caused by conflict frequently spill across borders and have prompted an increase in the need for regional approaches to the prevention of conflict and to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We therefore welcome the collaboration within the United Nations that we have experienced with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), NATO and the Pacific Island Forum and such subregional organizations as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). I hope that this greater collaboration will strengthen our joint efforts in relation to the women and peace and security agenda and the recommendations that have come out of the global study.

The adoption of regional policies and action plans on women and peace and security by ECOWAS, the EU, IGAD, NATO and the Pacific Islands Forum have a knock-on effect in encouraging an even greater number of national action plans, which improves the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We also see that the knock-on effect means that countries can depend on each other for support.

We have seen that regional plans are effectively implemented when there is widespread consultation with civil society, when there is political will, when there are adequate financial, human and technical resources and when there is a strong framework for monitoring and evaluation. We are also encouraged by the appointment of high-level envoys, some of whom were mentioned today by speakers from various countries and regions, and we welcome the appointment of women envoys within NATO and the AU, whose collaboration we are already fully enjoying.

We also welcome the appointment of senior agenda advisers by the EU and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and others, and we encourage that trend.

The global study tells us that it can have a positive impact when we appoint envoys who are able to assist in driving the implementation of regional plans. Both the NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security and the AU Special Envoy played a key role in facilitating regional consultations for the global study. We thank NATO, the EU, the AU and OSCE for their support in organizing such regional consultations.

We look forward to our ongoing work in partnership with the EU. And we look forward to our discussion as we pursue our three-year review and as we work to ensure that our way forward on the women and peace and security agenda will assist us in taking collective actions that will have an impact in all areas that we all feel strongly about.

I also want to highlight the importance of appointing mediators. Many countries are already doing that, appointing and supporting networks of core women mediators, whose numbers are increasing, and the participation of women in tackling conflicts and in peacemaking is increasing.

I would like to conclude by highlighting the fact that today, as we continue this discussion, has to be seen as a day of a paradigm shift. There was a time before the 15-year study and there will be a time after the 15-year study. That means that we are changing gears in the manner in which we are doing our work, and we support the work of the women and peace and security agenda. We need strong, decisive, united action in order to make sure that 16 years after the adoption of the resolution, 17 years after the adoption of the resolution, but long before we have reached 30 years after the adoption of the resolution, we will be able to talk about having achieved a great impact in the implementation of the resolution and the active participation of both men and women in peacemaking and in conflict prevention.