

Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to thank the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, for presiding over our meeting this morning. I would also like to thank the Secretary- General and the Executive Director of UN-Women for their briefings. We warmly welcome the adoption this morning of resolution 2242 (2015), of which we were a sponsor.

Over the past two years, there has been an increase in violence against women in the context of conflicts. Such massive violations of human rights are carried out by terrorist organizations and authoritarian regimes. There have been cases of forced marriage and sexual slavery, which deprive women of their right to a life of dignity. When addressing this issue, we must first and foremost put in place mechanisms to protect women and ensure that the existing international instruments to protect women in times of conflict are in fact implemented.

It is of great concern that the parties responsible for such violations of human rights are not prosecuted and brought to justice. It is therefore important that the Security Council use all the means available to ensure that they face international criminal justice. Such crimes must not go unpunished. In that connection, we would like to commend the efforts being made by Justice Rapid Response with regard to sexual and gender-based violence. That organization provides important support to the international community. We have contributed to its efforts by deploying experts in criminal law and by hosting meetings of the group.

We have undertaken various initiatives to allow women to play their full role in all areas of life. That includes efforts to ensure that we prevent conflicts, extremism, violence and terrorism. Along with Italy, Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we have also addressed this issue in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, whose adoption included the participation of many countries, organizations and experts. We have also organized a high-level group to take up the issue of combating extremism, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Saudi Arabia and Jordan and including the participation of the United Nations and Columbia University. Those are significant contributions to ongoing discussions with regard to combating extremism and radical thinking.

Finally, we reiterate our commitment to ensuring gender equality and protecting human rights. We will continue to support any initiative to that end, as well as all initiatives that take into account the humanitarian aspect and the rule of law.