

Ms. Bavdaž Kuret (Slovenia): I would like to begin by sincerely thanking Spain for organizing today's Security Council meeting. My thanks also go to the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Women, particularly for the global study, which is an excellent overview of the challenges of making the women and peace and security agenda a reality and the achievements won.

Slovenia supports the statements to be made later today by the observer of the European Union (EU) and by the representative Thailand, who will speak on behalf of the Human Security Network. Slovenia also joined in sponsoring resolution 2242 (2015), which I am certain will further mainstream gender in the peace and security agenda.

The anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) presents us with a unique opportunity to reflect upon our activities over the past 15 years and to renew our commitments. Slovenia has been active in promoting the women and peace and security agenda in various forums. We are a member of the informal group of friends of resolution 1325 (2000) within NATO and of the EU informal task force for its implementation. In 2014, Slovenia hosted the third seminar of the Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean, which addressed the role of women in mediation. In September, the Bled Strategic Forum discussed ending sexual violence in conflict. Most of Slovenia's activities on the women and peace and security agenda have been carried out as part of the implementation of the 2010-2015 national action plan for the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

The political representation of women in Slovenia is very good — 47 per cent of the Government and 34 per cent of the Parliament. Significant improvement was made in women's equal participation in the armed forces. The percentage of female members of Slovene armed forces is now approximately 15 per cent, which ranks Slovenia among the top countries in the world. I would like to highlight the following with regard to Slovenia's future commitments.

We will continue to promote the women and peace and security agenda in our activities in international and regional organizations and to strengthen cohesion among them. Slovenia will continue to raise this agenda item in the Human Rights Council, in particular when addressing country situations and within the scope of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. We will promote the role of women in the international peace and security agenda and will strengthen efforts for their protection in conflict situations. That is also one of the goals of our new national programme on equal opportunities for women and men for the period 2015-2020.

Slovenia will continue to pay particular attention to training and education on women and peace and security in the military, police and judiciary. In 2016, we plan to develop a

strategy on gender equality in international development cooperation, which will also take into consideration women and peace and security issues. We will also continue to give financial support to relevant projects carried out by the Slovenian non-governmental sector.

In conclusion, I concur with previous speakers that the women and peace and security agenda must be addressed comprehensively. I call upon all stakeholders to harmonize their activities in the implementation of this agenda of universal importance.