

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the delegation of France for convening this open debate and we appreciate the statements made by the briefers. We extend special greetings to the civil society representative from our region.

Chile aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Canada, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, and of Panama, on behalf of the Human Security Network.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/861) and express our support for the initiatives related to the voluntary compact to end sexual exploitation and abuse, which Chile has signed, the appointment of the victims' rights advocate, the Senior Women Talent Pipeline initiative, and the strategy for the equal participation of men and women in the Organization.

Chile was a Latin American pioneer in developing an action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2009, under the administration of President Bachelet, conscious of the important role played by women as agents of change and forgers of peace. The second national action plan is now in full implementation, with a strong emphasis on education and staff training.

The new plan includes the recommendations of the Security Council and international best practices in that area, making strides in creating indicators to measure progress on specific objectives that facilitate and promote women's access within peace operations at all levels of action and decision. We have incorporated a gender perspective in doctrine, planning and carrying out of Chile's peace operations in all four thematic areas and goals established by the United Nations: prevention, participation, protection and relief, and recovery. Chile co-sponsored resolution 2242 (2015), promoted by Spain, and is a founding member of the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network. The Network's last meeting in September reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to support and develop women's participation in decision-making in all areas.

Equal opportunity and the empowerment of women has been a key pillar of our Government's gender agenda, which has made solid progress such as the incorporation of gender equality in electoral reform, and which requires that at least 40 per cent of candidates running for Congress be women. At the international level, we promote and protect women's rights in armed conflict, especially given the need to increase women's participation in decision-making related to international peace and security. That is how we bolster women's presence in peace missions both in Haiti and in Colombia's special political mission. In the field of prevention, we are developing academic initiatives based on the women and peace and security agenda, incentivizing the inclusion of a gender perspective in sustaining peace activities.

The inclusion of women in peace operations raises awareness about women's and children's issues on the ground in such operations, and their presence has helped prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. In that context, women both in peace operations and within communities have played a central role in sustaining peace and protecting women's rights. We echo the

sentiments of previous speakers in affirming that one of the greatest challenges we face is increasing the participation of women in peace operations and, in particular, ensuring the presence of gender advisers in such operations.