

Mr. Komárek (Czech Republic): The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union. We would like to thank to French presidency of the Security Council for convening this open debate.

We would also like to thank Secretary-General António Guterres for his valuable report (S/2017/861) on women and peace and security, as well as for his strong commitment to implementing the agenda in terms of women's participation in the work of the entire Organization, including its security pillar.

The Czech Republic supports the special focus of the Secretary-General on the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction so as to establish sustained peace in conflict-affected countries. The Czech Republic is happy to recognize that the women and peace and security agenda has gained increased attention from the United Nations Member States since its adoption as resolution 1325 (2000) by the Security Council in 2000. The number of national action plans for implementing the women and peace and security agenda is increasing, as is the number of related projects.

On the other hand, it is a less encouraging fact that national action plans relating to the agenda have been adopted by only 68 of the 193 United Nations Member States, and that the vast majority of projects are small, short-term and underfinanced. As the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) concluded in 2015, one of the key obstacles to implementing the women and peace and security commitments has been the lack of financing.

The Czech Republic adopted its national action plan on women and peace and security in January 2017. The plan contains concrete, measurable tasks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sweden and Austria for sharing their national experiences in helping us establish the Czech national action plan. The Czech Ministry of Defence adopted its own action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000) in 2015. Based on its successful specialized projects, the Czech Republic became the lead nation of a programme dedicated to training Jordanian female soldiers in the disposal of explosive ordnance. Gender mainstreaming belongs to the cross-cutting principles of the transition and promotion programme of the Czech Republic. The aim of the programme is to promote democratic principles in countries in transition, for example by encouraging women's participation in decision-making.

In the framework of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Czech Republic has implemented a number of projects totalling \$6 million in 2016, with a strong focus on gender equality and/or women's empowerment, including projects aimed at preventing sexual violence and abuse of women and girls. Those projects were implemented in Georgia, Serbia, Kosovo, Syria, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan. Women, however, are still underrepresented in the decision-making positions in the Czech Republic, including in diplomatic posts. Therefore, an action plan for a balanced representation of women and men in

decision-making positions for the period 2016-2018 was adopted by the Czech Government in July 2016.

The Czech Republic is supporting global gender activities, including activities in the framework of the women and peace and security agenda of UN-Women, through regular voluntary financial contributions.

Let me assure you, Madam President, that the Czech Republic remains strongly committed to the women and peace and security agenda at the national and international levels.