

Ms. Agladze (Georgia): Let me first express our gratitude to the French presidency for convening today's debate on the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the observer of the European Union. Let me add few remarks in my national capacity.

As we approach the seventeenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we once again underscore the importance attached to the issue of gender equality, women's empowerment and the protection of women's rights. Over the past years, that landmark resolution has established a complex agenda for States Members to further empower women and promote their rights and increased participation in peace and security efforts. Following the adoption of the resolution, the importance of women's role has gradually increased, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution, and in maintaining peace and security. However, more has to be done to achieve the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and the relevant resolutions.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/861), which underlines the crucial role of women's increased participation in peace and decision-making processes at all levels. As stated in the report, efforts aimed at achieving peace and security, sustainable development and human rights must be linked not only in words but also in practice. It is obvious that the sustainability of peace depends directly on women's engagement in peace processes, politics, governance, institution-building, the rule of law, the security sector and economic recovery, and that the level of gender equality and the security of women are among the most reliable indicators of peace.

Georgia adopted a national policy framework and action plans for the effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda early on. At present, the Government is in the process of drafting its third national action plan aimed at implementing resolution 1325 (2000) for the period 2018-2020. The new action plan, just like previous ones, is being developed in broad consultation with civil society together with national partners from line ministries, State institutions responsible for its implementation and women's organizations. The whole process is highly inclusive and transparent.

As an illustration of its strong commitment to improving and advancing gender equality and ensuring women's empowerment and the full protection of women's rights, Georgia recently ratified the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, and established an inter-agency commission for gender equality and ending violence against women and girls at the executive branch. The commission represents the domestic coordination and monitoring mechanism envisaged by article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, and its work focuses on human rights, domestic violence, and women and peace and security.

While underlining the significance of strengthening protection measures with regard to violence against women and women's empowerment, our persistent concern relates to the women living in the occupied regions of Georgia — Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Women in the occupied territories continue to suffer grave violations of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including but not limited to the freedom of movement, among many others. The situation in the occupied territories is particularly alarming, given the absence of international monitoring missions. As we seek to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and deliver on the promise to leave no one behind, the rights of women living in the occupied regions of Georgia are of great concern for us.

We support the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and share the view that existing commitments need to be translated into practice. In that context, let me once again reiterate Georgia's readiness to join global efforts aimed at better implementing the women and peace and security agenda.