

**Ms. Bogyay (Hungary):** Hungary aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

I thank France for convening today's open debate. Let me join others in thanking our briefers this morning for their very informative and moving reports.

In conflict-affected areas, women are agents for peace. They play a key role in ensuring family livelihoods in the midst of chaos and are particularly active in community-building and peace movements at the grassroots level. Women's talent should be fully utilized not only in political decision-making, but also in countering violent extremism. At the local, national and international levels, we support the peace initiatives of local women and hope to see the important role civil society and women-led organizations play in peace processes recognized.

We believe that the issues on the women and peace and security agenda are interrelated and interconnected, and must be addressed as such. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the women and peace and security framework at the national and international level, close and comprehensive cooperation is needed among institutions and Governments. We must ensure a holistic approach from the local to the global level, using all tools available within the United Nations system.

Hungary is an active member of the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network and continues to engage in interministerial consultations processes, with the goal of establishing a national mechanism on the implementation of the task deriving from the women and peace and security agenda. The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is now planning to organize an awareness-raising workshop on the women and peace and security agenda for the experts of the relevant ministries, the army, police, peacekeeping personnel, as well as for interested civil society organizations and academics. One of the topics of the workshop will be dedicated to women's effective participation in peacebuilding.

Hungary is deeply concerned about the growing threat and use of violence against women human rights defenders. We should step up our efforts in combating that dangerous phenomenon more effectively, and develop a horizontal and specialized response. Hungary believes that youth engagement is important to forging sustainable peace and development and we need to empower girls so that later they become strong women and active members of their societies. We also believe that women's increased participation in peacekeeping missions is of the utmost importance. Their contribution could be particularly useful in designing, implementing and assessing strategies for the protection of civilians and humanitarian assistance. We are pleased to see the continued effort of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the European Foundation Centre in building staff capacity and senior-level accountability on gender.

At the national level, Hungary is seeking to continuously increase the number of deployed female military experts and police officers in United Nations peacekeeping missions. Ending the

culture of impunity is a major contributor to conflict-prevention and sustaining peace at the national and international level, since ensuring accountability for serious crimes helps us bring about reconciliation. Stable and resilient societies address injustice, promote human rights and build peaceful societies. We highly appreciate the work of the United Nations team of experts on the rule of law and sexual violence in conflict. Moreover, Hungary is a proud contributor to the invaluable work of the gender advisers deployed in the framework of the collaboration between UN-Women and Justice Rapid Response, as well as to UN-Women's work on preventing violent extremism.