

Ms. Jaquez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am grateful to France for convening this important annual debate, which offers us a very good opportunity to evaluate the progress and challenges of the agenda on women and peace and security.

Mexico aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Turkey on behalf of the group made up of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia.

It has been 17 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), which represented indisputable progress in the way in which we understand the disproportionate consequences of armed conflicts on women and girls, as well as the way in which we conceive women's participation in the reconstruction of societies and promoting the gender dimensions of peace processes.

Today we confirm that women are a central piece in attaining sustainable peace. Women are key to preventing conflict and maintaining inclusive societies with a healthy social fabric. Women and girls, who represent more than half the world's population, have a central role to play in the prevention of conflict and building peace. Mexico fully agrees with the findings of the Secretary-General in his report (see S/2017/861). The effective and cross-cutting application of that agenda throughout the system contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, preventing conflicts and achieving sustainable peace. We support the Secretary-General's commitment to integrate the gender equality component as a central part of his approach to conflict prevention, as well as the United Nations management reform initiatives.

Mexico is convinced that the international community must continue to promote a greater presence of women in peace negotiations, more female candidates for high-level positions in political and peacekeeping operations, the establishment of gender agendas for those negotiations and the design of peacebuilding processes with a gender perspective.

At the national level, Mexico supports and encourages the full participation of women in all areas of public life. There is no doubt that gender equality and the empowerment of women are necessary to achieve societies that are more peaceful, fair, equitable and inclusive. The participation and empowerment of women allows us to strengthen sustainable peace.

Through its bodies and agencies the Government of Mexico promotes equitable representation of women in all sectors and levels. The participation and the involvement of a pluralistic civil society, including feminist organizations and defenders of women's rights, are essential to guarantee the fulfilment of those commitments and advance our agenda on the progress and empowerment of women and girls.

The eight resolutions adopted by the Security Council in this area have contributed to strengthening the norms of this agenda, but the challenge lies in achieving its effective, coherent and cross-cutting application throughout the Organization's system in order to

eliminate the marginalization of women that still exists in decision-making on peace and security. The Security Council must continue to promote efforts to mainstream that agenda in its work, particularly in other thematic agendas, as well as including gender and women's protection advisers in peace operations.

In line with my country's commitment to make progress in the fulfilment of this agenda, Mexico deployed, in 2016, the first four Mexican military women to United Nations peace operations. We will continue to expand the participation of female personnel in the near future. Likewise, given the escalation of violence currently occurring on the international scene — and in recognizing that crises are not neutral from the gender perspective and that armed conflicts affect particularly women and girls — Mexico joined the Secretary-General's initiative on the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations personnel on the ground.

Sustainable peace has a woman's face. Let us make the necessary efforts to empower women and girls, and pay special attention to the women in those societies with deep problems in which conflicts can be unleashed. Let us invest in women and girls as essential promoters of peace and security.