

Mr. Plasai (Thailand) (*spoke in French*): I thank the French presidency for having organized this important open debate.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) 17 years ago, the women and peace and security agenda has increasingly been recognized as a main pillar of maintaining global peace and security. However, in term of implementation, women's role and participation in this area in all capacities remain low and fragmented. On the positive side, we note that in addition to resolution 1325 (2000) and the other seven Security Council resolutions on the women and peace and security agenda, there are a number of newly established frameworks to push forward this agenda, such as the informal expert group on women and peace and security, and the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network.

The Kingdom of Thailand believes that it is the responsibility of the international community as a whole to strengthen the implementation of this agenda. In so doing, we must find ways to further promote gender equality and women's rights, while increasing the number of women in peace and security leadership positions.

On our part, in 2016 Thailand adopted national measures and guidelines on women and peace and security that encompass the aspects of prevention, protection, capacity-building and empowerment. This document emphasizes the significant role of women in addressing political and social conflicts at the domestic and international levels. The national economic and social development plan of Thailand also underlines the concept of women's rights, as enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

We strongly believe that women can play an important role in and increase the efficiency of peacekeeping operations, and has worked increase their participation. Among the Thai military and police personnel now serving in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 24 per cent are women. We also believe that Member States can and must do more to improve the global level of female participation in peacekeeping, which now stands at fewer than 4 per cent of all Blue Helmets, and in conflict prevention and resolution. According to UN-Women, between 1992 and 2011 only 4 per cent of signatories to peace agreements and fewer than 10 per cent of peace negotiators were women.

To address that deficit, we must first ensure that the women and and peace security agenda is mainstreamed across the entire spectrum of the work of the United Nations. Secondly, in our work we need to constantly remind ourselves that women are not just victims but rather effective agent of change. Mechanisms and programmes should be created to increase their meaningful participation in various sectors of the United Nations. Thirdly, the rhetoric must go beyond promoting the role of women in merely providing a sense of security to other women and children, as we need to stop perpetuating the stereotyped views of women as gentle pacifiers. In addition, more efforts must be made in all countries, including Thailand, with regard to

increasing the role and the number of women engaged in national and local politics, particularly in the political decision-making processes. I concur with the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/861) that an inclusive process and women's meaningful participation in peace and security must be the norm, not the exception. Thailand is committed to continuing to do our part at home and stands ready to work with others to genuinely advance this important agenda.