

**Mrs. Nguyen Phuong Nga (Viet Nam) (spoke in Russian):**

Viet Nam thanks the Russian presidency for convening today's very important open debate, as it gives States Members of the United Nations an opportunity to take up the women and peace and security agenda.

*(spoke in English)*

I thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2016/822) and his briefing. I also thank the Executive Director of UN-Women for her briefing and insights.

Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Viet Nam welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report. We particularly applaud the increased participation of women and the inclusion of the gender perspective in all areas, from conflict prevention to peacebuilding and from peace processes to reconstruction efforts. Viet Nam is also pleased to see the added impetus that last year's high-level review provided for the implementation of commitments under the women and peace and security agenda. Viet Nam believes that implementation lies first and foremost with States, but real success can be assured only by establishing partnerships, especially with a better-coordinated and well-resourced United Nations.

Yet Viet Nam remains gravely concerned about the continuing violence targeting women and girls, especially those displaced by conflicts. Viet Nam condemns all acts of violence and abuse against women and girls. We call for strengthened efforts by the United Nations and Member States in addressing this issue. We urge the United Nations to strictly implement its zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

Peace can be sustained only if conflicts can be prevented and addressed at their roots. Viet Nam welcomes a sharper focus on conflict prevention, including peaceful dispute settlement and preventive diplomacy. Efforts should also focus on the socioeconomic development and post-conflict peacebuilding, recovery and reconstruction, as affirmed in resolution 1889 (2009), introduced by Viet Nam and unanimously adopted by the Security Council in 2009.

For its part, Viet Nam fully recognizes the crucial role of women in conflict prevention and settlement, State-building, sustaining peace and socioeconomic development. For centuries, Vietnamese women not only fought valiantly for the country's freedom and independence but also worked hard and contributed significantly to the recovery and development of the country towards stability, sustainable development and international integration. Today, as part of our commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, Vietnamese women officers are taking part in training and making the necessary preparations to be deployed in the near future in United Nations peacekeeping missions.