

Mr. Al Mazrui (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to thank France for having convened this open debate on women and peace and security. We join others in thanking the Secretary General's Chef de Cabinet and the Executive Director of UN-Women. We pledge our continued support to UN-Women for its role in advancing this agenda.

Two years have passed since we marked the 15-year anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). The Security Council also unanimously adopted resolution 2242 (2015), which was co-sponsored by the United Arab Emirates. As a sponsor of the resolution and a strong advocate of the women and peace and security agenda, the United Arab Emirates is committed to building a strong framework for action to realize the full implementation of this agenda.

Since 2015, the United Nations has taken important steps to implement this agenda. The Security Council established the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security and launched the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network, of which the United Arab Emirates is a founding member. The Network is responsible for coordinating and implementing the women and peace and security agenda at the national level. However, such implementation remains a challenge owing to a number of threats, including the rise of terrorism and violent extremism and the targeting of women and girls in conflict zones, as well as the protracted nature of the displacement crisis.

The United Arab Emirates recognizes the range of challenges that prevent the full implementation of this agenda, and we are doing our part in preventing conflict and promoting sustainable peace, which are critical to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

We have focused on the protection and empowerment of women as one of the three key pillars of our external assistance strategy. Respect for the rights of women and girls underpins every aspect of our country's approach to this global response. The United Arab Emirates considers its partnership with UN-Women a key part of its strategy to implement the women and peace and security agenda. Accordingly, the United Arab Emirates has supported UN-Women since its inception. In this regard, I would like to announce that we have contributed \$15 million to support its critical work over the next three years.

As a result of this strong partnership and under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the United Arab Emirates and UN-Women launched a liaison office in Abu Dhabi that will enhance and strengthen collaboration so as to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a core part of the women and peace and security agenda in the region.

The UAE also recognizes that a strong research base is required so that our policies can be data-driven and effective. That is why our country contributes to this research base by supporting UN-Women's global programme on women and peace and security in order to promote conflict-resilient societies through prevention efforts. This global programme has

furthered gender-sensitive research and data collection and revealed the drivers of extremism and the impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women's rights and women's organizations.

The United Arab Emirates is aware of the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. That is why the United Arab Emirates has supported the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict in the development and implementation of an action plan on conflict-related sexual violence as well as in the establishment of prevention and response mechanisms in Somalia, of which accountability is a central element.

In closing, the United Arab Emirates recognizes that the international community will achieve sustainable peace only by placing women's participation at the core of our global peace and security efforts. We will continue to advocate for the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of senior leadership and decision-making, and we will work towards the effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.