

Mrs. Kassangana-Jakubowska (Poland) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Spanish presidency for having organized this timely debate to mark the fifteenth anniversary of and the global review on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

My delegation aligns itself with the declaration made by the observer of the the European Union. I take this the opportunity to make some observations from our national perspective.

(spoke in English)

Fifteen years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we now have sufficient momentum to confirm our determination to implement our national commitments with regard to the women and peace and security agenda. We would therefore like to thank Spain and the United Kingdom for preparing resolution

2242 (2015), which was just adopted and which Poland proudly co-sponsored.

We fully understand that there can be no durable and sustainable post-conflict recovery without meaningful reconciliation and without the restoration of true confidence in justice. In particular, there can be no peace and security without addressing the consequences of violence against women, and no long-term stability and prosperity without providing justice and ensuring that such crimes are not repeated. Poland is committed to ending impunity. We will continue to support the work of the International Criminal Court, both by sharing our expertise and by contributing financially to the Court's Trust Fund for Victims.

Poland attaches the utmost importance to the practical involvement of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping. One of the ways to engage them in decision-making is by strengthening their participation in the legal system. Accordingly, we support the candidature of Ms. Agnieszka Klonowiecka-Milart to a judgeship position on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal based in Nairobi. With her 17 years of experience within the United Nations as an international judge for the United Nations on the Supreme Court of Kosovo and the Supreme Court Chamber in Cambodia for the Khmer Rouge trials, as well as an expert in legal reform in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Kosovo, she will, we believe, set a good example for other women aspiring to make a difference in conflict and post-conflict areas.

(spoke in French)

Poland supports the candidature of a woman for the office of the next Secretary-General. We are convinced that that would contribute to bolstering the participation of women in

peacebuilding and peacekeeping, as well as the advancement of women at all levels of decision-making.

(spoke in English)

From 2011 to 2013, Poland trained professional experts in the field of gender equality to advise the commanders of Polish contingents abroad. Since then, they have supported the Polish commanders in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Poland will also take measures to combat the under-representation of women within national civilian contingents for peacekeeping operations, with a view to increasing their number and to ensuring that higher positions as well are filled by women candidates.

Last but not least, we recognize the indispensable role of women's participation and empowerment as a key component of lasting peace and sustainable development. As the lessons from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau have taught us, sustainable peace and security can be achieved only through the full participation of all sectors of society, in which the contribution of women is fundamental.

We would also like to stress that combating sexual violence against women in armed conflicts remains an important issue for the Polish Government. We welcomed the anti-sexual-violence initiative of the British Government as a timely and necessary initiative aimed at addressing the culture of impunity. As a member of the UN-Women Executive Board, Poland stands ready to cooperate further in that regard.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that Poland has decided to earmark a minimum of 15 per cent of all our future funding for the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund to be dedicated to women's specific needs, and in particular to advancing gender equality in post- conflict situations. Already this year, in partnership with UN-Women, we have initiated a project involving the innovative employment of Ukrainian internally displaced women with children. That pilot project will continue to grow in the coming years.