

Mr. Plasai (Thailand):

It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is made up of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and my own country, Thailand.

ASEAN wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2016/822), as well as the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the representative of civil society for their informative briefings. We also wish to thank the Russian Federation for convening this timely debate, which comes one year after the conclusion of the high-level review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in which Member States reiterated their commitment to effectively implementing that milestone resolution.

It is encouraging to witness the growing awareness around the world of the indispensable role of women and their perspectives in the areas of peace and security. Nevertheless, as rightly pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, the subject of women and peace and security is not being sufficiently utilized to prevent conflict, and much remains to be done at all levels. In that regard, ASEAN would like to update Security Council members on the progress made in our region as a result of resolution 1325 (2000), confirming its validity.

As ASEAN implements the early stages of its post-2015 Community, it continues to underscore the increasing role and participation of women in all three ASEAN pillars: the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Women-related issues and the gender perspective are addressed through several key ASEAN mechanisms and frameworks. Among others, allow me to mention the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. The ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women was adopted to promote the equitable and effective participation of women, wherever possible, in all fields, as well as to integrate the specific concerns of women and their roles as active agents in peace, security and development into member States' national plans. The adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children provides another concrete example that reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to tackle violence against women in all forms. During the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane in September, ASEAN leaders tasked the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children to continue its efforts in implementing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on that issue.

At the second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women, held in Manila on 23 October 2015, all ASEAN sectoral bodies and member States were encouraged to promote gender responsiveness and integrate gender mainstreaming into their respective activities and initiatives. The Meeting also adopted the 2016-2020 Work Plan of the ASEAN Committee on Women, which focuses on six key priority areas: the promotion of women in leadership, non-gender stereotyping and social norm change, gender mainstreaming across the three pillars, the elimination of violence against women, the economic empowerment of women and the protection and empowerment of women in vulnerable situations. Those priorities are comprehensive and very much in line with the key aspects of resolution 1325 (2000).

ASEAN recognizes the constructive role and valuable contributions of female peacekeepers, and we therefore support the call for an increase in their number. Several ASEAN members have already provided, and will continue to provide, well-trained female peacekeepers in response to that call. We strongly hope that ASEAN's holistic approach to addressing women-related issues will be complementary to global endeavours to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security.

Please allow me to say a few words in my national capacity. Like other Member States, the Kingdom of Thailand attaches great importance to the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which requires collective international efforts. We therefore welcome the establishment of the women, peace and security national focal points network, proposed by Spain and the United Kingdom, as an important step towards that goal, and we have gladly joined the initiative.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize the need for all of us to ensure the universal implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Thailand, together with other ASEAN members, stands ready to work closely with the international community in that respect.