

Ms. Kofler (Germany): At the outset, I want to point out that Germany aligns itself with the statements to be delivered by the observer of the European Union and the representative of Canada, the latter of whom will be speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

But let me first of all thank France for hosting today's open debate, and especially for putting a renewed focus on the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

I would also like to thank the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Women for their insightful briefings. I thank Ms. Mina-Rojas for speaking about the participation of women in the Colombian peace process. We also greatly appreciate Ms. Jean's provision of practical examples of women's leadership. It is very much welcomed that the International Organization of La Francophonie is participating in this debate.

Today's debate places a much welcome focus on concerting action and commitments. I would like to put forward four specific ideas on how we can step up implementation of the agenda of resolution 1325 (2000).

First, we need to support practical initiatives to translate the rhetoric about women's participation in peace processes into action. As the Executive Director of UN-Women mentioned — and I want to thank her for it — Germany has decided to back the African Union in developing a network of African women leaders that provides women leaders from across the continent with a platform for exchange with respect to their experiences. The network, launched in June in New York, and is already producing results. Women leaders from across Africa are starting to share experiences about their respective activities and initiatives through the network. Its next meeting will take place in Addis Ababa next spring.

Germany fully backs the initiative led by Ghana and the African Union to establish a Group of Friends of the African Women Leaders Network in New York. The network needs our political support, and the Group can play an important role in that regard. We also welcome the fact that, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, several women leaders conducted their first joint African Union-United Nations solidarity mission this summer, to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We hope that more such solidarity missions will follow in future.

Secondly, we need to continue the international discussion on the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda between the annual open debates. Spain has set up a network of capital-level focal points on women, peace and security, and it is encouraging to see that more than 60 countries from all regions have appointed focal points. Germany will take over the chairmanship of the network in 2018, followed by Namibia in 2019, and we will host its next meeting, in Berlin, next spring. We hope that many delegations will be able to send a focal point to Berlin and use the opportunity to continue today's discussion.

The Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security of the Security Council has become an indispensable tool here in New York in keeping the Council's attention on women and peace and security between the open debates. It has already looked into four specific situations in 2017. We commend Sweden, Uruguay and the United Kingdom for their work in leading that Group and encourage it to continue its approach of looking at individual situations more than once, thereby following up on implementation.

Thirdly, we can do better in linking up the implementation of the Security Council's agenda on women and peace and security with other agendas, most important the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This year, Germany adopted its second-generation national action plan for the period 2017-2020, and we have tried to emphasize some of the interlinkages. For instance, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women general recommendation No.30, our new action plan further strengthens the qualitative involvement of civil society organizations. Civil society representatives have strongly contributed to our second action plan, and we have created new consultation mechanisms for our engagement with civil society.

Finally, we need to take specific action to prioritize the implementation of the women and peace and security in United Nations peacekeeping. Peacekeeping missions need to have the necessary human-rights and gender expertise. Having gender expertise integrated into all mission components is not only nice to have, but is at the core of mandate-implementation and lasting peace and security. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to launch a United Nations senior women talent pipeline.

However, as Member States, we must also do more to inform, motivate and nominate women for peacekeeping missions. Germany recently awarded five female peacekeepers for their outstanding service in peace operations. Their contributions to the success of those missions are essential, whether as the captain of the German frigate training the Lebanese Armed Forces as part of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, or as the military officer overseeing reconnaissance in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali or as human resource officers in Colombia. We also provide gender-sensitive and gender-specific training to third countries, for instance in Accra, and support United Nations police in their work to implement resolution 1325 (2000).

The Security Council's women and peace and security agenda remains a priority for Germany in the United Nations. The Council can count on Germany's support in putting the rhetoric on women and peace and security into action.