

Mr. Tumysh (Kazakhstan): I thank the French presidency for putting the spotlight on the women and peace and security agenda, and the Secretary General for his astute recommendations. We would like to express our warm appreciation to Executive Director Mlambo-Ngcuka and her team for their leadership and groundbreaking work on the issue. We also thank Ms. Ribeiro Viotti, Ms. Jean, and Ms. Mina Rojas, the representative of civil society, for their insightful briefings.

The women and peace and security agenda, as first outlined in resolution 1325 (2000), should be increasingly used as an important tool for conflict prevention and resolution, as well as a source of transformational change across all three pillars of the United Nations. Providing support to newly created United Nations mechanisms — such as the Council's new Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security; the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund; the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Points Network and the Peacebuilding Commission's gender strategy — will further accelerate the implementation of this agenda. Council resolutions and presidential statements should make increasing use of the language of the women and peace and security agenda in order to bring a new paradigm into the thinking of the Council, the United Nations system, Member States and police- and troop-contributing countries. Kazakhstan is committed to continuing the excellent practice of inviting representatives from women's organizations to brief the Council. We must still persist with efforts to bridge the gap between spoken commitments and actual action, especially when the participation of women is still lacking, in times of peace as well as conflict.

A more proactive role for women in preventing and resolving conflicts is a priority for Kazakhstan. We should diligently support the Secretary-General's reforms focused on keeping gender at the centre of prevention efforts and a firm commitment to gender parity at the highest levels across the United Nations, as well as supporting his work to reform the Organization's peace and security architecture. That requires improving the collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UN-Women, both in the field and at Headquarters, as well as on the new United Nations initiatives aimed at doubling the number of women in military and police contingents by 2020. All peacekeeping operations should have strong mandates on women and peace and security, with gender specialists in the areas of the rule of law; human rights; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; internally displaced people; refugee returnees; rehabilitation; livelihood services and trauma counselling. We need stronger and more systematic gender mainstreaming to help prevent violent extremism and asymmetric conflict situations.

Funding for areas related to the women and peace and security agenda, especially in protracted conflicts, remains a concern. We must provide the necessary funds to ensure that missions have sufficient expertise, authority and capacity. Part of that funding gap can be overcome by expanding reforms and improving the streamlining and coordination of strategies through the United Nations system and its collaboration with other partners. Global processes are much more effective when they are firmly established on the ground and when each Member State and region plays its role.

In support of multilateral efforts, Kazakhstan has begun the process of integrating all four pillars of the women and peace and security agenda into its national legislation, including formulating new, strong pro-women policies. Commitments on women and peace and security have been included in the Republic of Kazakhstan's family and gender policy for the period from 2016 to 2030, with the goal of ensuring women's engagement in policy- and decision-making in all spheres of national governance and gender-equality training for the armed and security forces, as well as women's deployment in peacekeeping operations.

Zero tolerance for gender-based violence is a definitive part of our national policy, inspired by resolution 1325 (2000). Throughout the world, the perpetrators of such violence must be brought to justice, and that justice must be transformative. Sustainable Development Goal 5 focuses on women, but investments in women are also critical to truly fulfilling the other 16 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Secretary-General's new agenda for peace. Women and young people are central to the entire cycle, from conflict prevention to conflict resolution and from peacebuilding to development. Both groups should be seen as important links in the security-development nexus.

We welcome the fact that the Peacebuilding Fund has surpassed its 15 per cent target again this year, and we are focused on achieving the target of earmarking 15 per cent of our official development assistance for gender mainstreaming. We applaud the Swedish delegation and Foreign Minister Wallström for highlighting the case of Afghanistan in her statement. We, too, are focusing on Afghanistan through our KazAid programme, with a multidimensional approach based on conflict prevention and resolution, as well as recovery, reintegration and humanitarian assistance. Last year, in cooperation with Japan and the United Nations Development Programme, Kazakhstan launched a project to promote gender equality in Afghanistan, including by providing policy support and capacity development. National efforts must be reinforced by regional and subregional commitments to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which is what Kazakhstan has been attempting to accomplish in Central Asia through the United Nations Women Multi-Country Office in Almaty.

In that context, we believe that the first-ever African Union-United Nations joint mission to African countries on women and peace and security, led by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in July, which did so much to create awareness, should become a regular practice. We commend regional organizations for implementing the women and peace and security agenda in their regions, and we especially commend the African Union for its progressive gender mainstreaming within the African Peace and Security Architecture. We acknowledge civil society's important role in improving women's access to leadership and participation in peace processes, and we encourage all Member States to strengthen their engagement with civil society organizations, including women and youth groups. Kazakhstan is committed to continuing the good practice of inviting representatives from women's organizations to brief the Council.

Lastly, enhanced data collection and reporting are also very important for the success of the women and peace and security agenda. We see stagnation in certain indicators and therefore call for enhanced gender analysis of countries' situations. We need expanded and more timely and accurate national gender-disaggregated data and progress reports on the implementation and monitoring of those commitments.

Kazakhstan pledges its unfailing support to the women and peace and security agenda, with the goal of seeing all societies develop new possibilities and potential for human well-being through the empowerment of women and girls. Today Ambassador Fodé Seck of Senegal mentioned that women are a majority of the world population. In that regard, I would like to read a short extract from a poem by a famous Kazakh writer, Mukaghali Makatayev.

“Today women are a majority of the population. We need to support that strength because women mean beauty. Let us add beauty to our planet”.

I would like to conclude by saying that only women, in their wisdom, beauty and leadership, can save our fragile world.