

**Mr. Klimkin** (Ukraine) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I should like to thank the Spanish presidency of the Security Council for having convened this very important debate, which allows us to reiterate and renew our commitment to the full, timely and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security.

My colleague Foreign Minister García Margallo of Spain, in his statement in the general debate of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/70/PV.21), said that the twenty-first century would be the century of women, and I agree with him. Furthermore, I believe that 2015 is a pivotal year for gender equality and women's empowerment. We have agreed to the inclusion of a separate Goal on gender among the Sustainable Development Goals and to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective throughout the entire programme. This year, we commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

*(spoke in English)*

This year marks 15 years since the adoption of the landmark resolution establishing the basis for the women and peace and security agenda and calling for the special protection and the full and equal participation of women in all conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. Resolution 1325 (2000) and a further six relevant resolutions adopted from 2008 to 2013 continue to provide main guidelines and a real framework for Member States in the development of policy and measures in the above-mentioned areas as well as in the field of minimizing the impact of conflicts on women and girls.

In this sense, we welcome the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015), submitted by Spain, as an important instrument to reflect all the changes that have happened since 2000 and introduce a new and important perspective into the women and peace and security agenda. Indeed, women tend to suffer more hardships as a direct result of economic consequences of conflict, are at increased risk of human trafficking and of being forced into sex work, and face the acute effects of undermined health systems. Gender-based violence, including the systematic use of rape and increased domestic violence, has been widely recognized as a pervasive occurrence in conflict.

Ukraine reaffirms its support for the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers, including all civilian staff deployed to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The proper conduct by and discipline over all personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations are vital to their effectiveness. Ukraine, as an important peacekeeping contributor, welcomes the fact that the comprehensive reviews of the United Nations peacekeeping and

peacebuilding architecture are taking place at the same time as and in interaction with the women and peace and security agenda review. Of course, we strongly support international efforts aimed at addressing the full range of human rights violations and abuses faced by women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

Ukraine knows at first hand how disproportionate the impact of armed conflicts on women can be. Due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the issues covered by the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) are of particular importance to our country. A vast majority of internally displaced persons are women, many of whom become the sole caretakers of children and older relatives. As of today, around 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been forced to leave their homes as a result of Russia's occupation of Crimea and aggression in Donbas. About two-thirds of adult internally displaced persons are women.

The Government of Ukraine is undertaking a number of targeted steps to address the challenges that the ongoing foreign aggression places on women in Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities fully understand the specific needs of IDP families, and women in particular. The law of Ukraine on IDPs adopted in 2014 was welcomed by the international community, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The law is aimed at ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons, including women, and at addressing key issues in this area, inter alia, by facilitating humanitarian assistance. On 5 March, our legislation on IDPs was amended in order to strengthen their social protection, including by addressing the issue of unemployment.

The full use of the knowledge, skills and experience of Ukrainian women is vital to reaching a solution of the current situation in and around Ukraine. We can cite a number of other examples of women's engagement. They prepare, collect and distribute food, clothing and a lot more in the course of providing humanitarian assistance. Another example is our female Member of Parliament, Ms. Iryna Gerashchenko, who was appointed last year as Special Envoy of the President of Ukraine on the peaceful settlement of the situation in Donbas.

We would like especially to reiterate our commitment to ensuring that global obligations on the women and peace and security agenda are integrated into our domestic policies and laws in order to contribute to the empowerment of women and elevate the importance of women's participation and leadership in all aspects of peace and security, as well as post- conflict recovery and reconstruction.

Ukraine confirms its political will and readiness to assume the following commitments and pledges in line with the main objective of this open debate: first, to strengthen the participation of women in political life and public decision-making; secondly, to increase

women's role in ensuring peace and security; and thirdly, to elaborate and implement programmes on the assistance to women from vulnerable groups and women who have suffered from domestic violence.

The main document that will enable us to implement these pledges is a national action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The Government has already developed a draft of this document, in close consultation and close interaction with agencies of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as civil society. The action plan is aimed at promoting women's greater participation in military, political, economic and social life, the peace process, the recovery process, the prevention and combating of gender-based violence, and the reintegration of persons affected by the consequences of the ongoing aggression against my country.

Another important document is the national human rights strategy that was approved by the President of Ukraine in August. According to the strategy, ensuring equal rights for women and men; combating gender-based violence, human trafficking and slavery; and combating domestic violence are defined as key objectives of the human rights policy of Ukraine for the coming years. Among recent steps, I can also mention a local elections law signed in August. The law stipulates that in multiple-mandate constituencies at the local and regional levels, not less than 30 per cent of each party list should be represented by women or men.

In conclusion, I should like to draw special attention to the case of Nadiya Savchenko who represents the female face of what is going on in Ukraine. A political prisoner and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Nadiya Savchenko is being kept in custody by the Russian Federation with no legal grounds and despite the fact that under the Minsk arrangements all hostages and illegally detained persons must be released. I should like to reiterate my appeal to the international community to maintain its political and diplomatic pressure on the Russian Federation to cease the practice of suppressing human rights and immediately release Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainian political prisoners.