

Baroness Verma (United Kingdom): I would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and civil society speakers present here today for their leadership on this agenda. We welcome resolution 2242 (2015), which was adopted today. It makes clear that leadership and accountability for implementation are required by all actors. We echo our thanks to the Spanish Prime Minister for working with us on this important resolution. I strongly echo the call for everyone here to make meaningful and practical commitments to fully implementing resolution 1325 (2000). The United Kingdom firmly believes that the fifteenth anniversary must represent the start of a new era on women and peace and security. Let us begin that change today. I will, therefore, announce eight areas where the United Kingdom will act.

First, in arranging all future peacebuilding events hosted by the United Kingdom, we will identify women involved in the conflict and shine a torch on them to ensure that their voices are heard. We will promote the active participation of women in such peacebuilding discussions through political and/or financial support. We will also provide support, including lobbying, at the highest levels, to ensure that women's voices are represented in wider peace processes, negotiations and State-building. We will also provide support at the local levels so as to build the capacity of women to participate effectively.

Second, the United Kingdom will contribute \$1 million of start-up funding to the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action to help address the global deficit in funding for the implementation of the resolution. We will also provide additional funding of over \$800,000, each year for two years, to support new research at the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the London School of Economics, bringing total Government funding from the United Kingdom for the Centre to over \$3 million.

Third, the United Kingdom will ensure that all future relevant military doctrine is gender-sensitive. By November 2016, all United Kingdom troops deployed

on overseas missions will receive training on women and peace and security and on preventing sexual violence. We are reviewing the external training we provide through our peace support operation training centres with a view to delivering additional training on women and peace and security and on preventing sexual violence to overseas troop-contributing countries. The review will also help to develop train-the-trainer packages, which can help further disseminate this work. We are expanding and strengthening the pool of gender advisers within the Ministry of Defence.

Fourth, conflict prevention and early warning remain at the heart of this agenda. The United Kingdom will ensure that, by September 2016, all our early warning and joint conflict analysis and assessment tools are fully gender-sensitive. Next, over the next five years, the United Kingdom will drive forward the preventing sexual violence in conflict initiative. We will tackle impunity for sexual violence crimes, while ensuring widespread implementation of the international protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict.

Fifth, we will encourage greater support for survivors, including children and men, and we will work with other Governments to deliver a more effective multilateral response.

Sixth, the United Kingdom will champion the road map to action to protect women and girls in emergencies and help secure positive outcomes for women and girls at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

Seventh, the United Kingdom will continue to provide technical and other support to help other Governments develop, implement and measure the impact of their own action plans on resolution 1325 (2000). We will also help Iraq and Afghanistan implement their action plans.

Finally, the United Kingdom will ensure that our overseas work to counter violent extremism includes upstream activity targeted specifically at women. Women will be at the centre of the delivery of programming of overseas extremism work, both nationally and locally.

We strongly support the recommendations for the United Nations on women and peace and security set out in the three major reviews this year, and we will work with others to ensure that they are implemented. Just as we, Member States, must deliver on our responsibilities, the roles of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and many other United Nations entities are critical to move matters forward at Headquarters and in the field.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom will pledge to update the Security Council on our commitments at the annual debate on this agenda item and, to that end, I call on others in the Chamber today to join in our ambition and do likewise.