



# Security Council

Eightieth year

**10011**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Monday, 6 October 2025, 3 p.m.

New York

*Provisional*

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| <i>President:</i> | Ms. Zabolotskaya. . . . .                                | (Russian Federation)    |
| <i>Members:</i>   | Algeria. . . . .                                         | Mrs. Messaoud           |
|                   | China. . . . .                                           | Mr. He Mao              |
|                   | Denmark . . . . .                                        | Ms. Sørensen            |
|                   | France . . . . .                                         | Mrs. Segovia            |
|                   | Greece . . . . .                                         | Mr. Rakinias            |
|                   | Guyana . . . . .                                         | Ms. Daw                 |
|                   | Pakistan. . . . .                                        | Mr. Gohar               |
|                   | Panama . . . . .                                         | Mrs. Carrizo David      |
|                   | Republic of Korea . . . . .                              | Ms. Eunseo Park         |
|                   | Sierra Leone . . . . .                                   | Ms. Spencer-Coker       |
|                   | Slovenia. . . . .                                        | Mrs. Ponikvar           |
|                   | Somalia . . . . .                                        | Mr. Abdullahi Ali Yusuf |
|                   | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . | Mr. Bassett             |
|                   | United States of America. . . . .                        | Ms. Lewis-Kirkwood      |

## Agenda

Women and peace and security

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*The meeting resumed at 3 p.m.*

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

**Mr. Adrianzén Olaya** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the invitation of the Russian Federation to participate in this important debate and assure it of every success in its work as President of the Security Council this month.

This year we are working on a new review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in which we can already see a convergence of objectives aimed at recognizing the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in pre-conflict mediation efforts.

We agree with the Secretary-General's most recent report on women and peace and security (S/2025/556), in the sense that such an assessment should be reflected in a comprehensive approach that ensures the nexus between humanitarian action, development and peace, and in which women exercise leadership in political processes aimed at achieving sustainable peace. Peru believes that investments aimed at promoting and capitalizing on women's participation in peace processes must take into account the fact that capacity-building to build resilient institutions is essential. In this context, one essential challenge is the eradication of extreme poverty, requiring our commitment to be aligned with the recognition that human dignity and social cohesion are fundamental. We must take into account the important contribution of women in endeavours to promote human dignity, human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Government of Peru supports the women and peace and security agenda and the implementation of the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028. In recent years, we have been exceeding United Nations targets for the deployment of military staff officers and observers, as well as for the deployment of contingents. We have been implementing this commitment both domestically and internationally.

Peru has achieved a 40 per cent participation rate for women personnel in military observer and staff officer positions and 14 per cent in our contingent deployed in the Central African Republic. However, we aim to reach 20 per cent in the near future. As far as the deployment of police personnel is concerned, the proportion is 50 per cent.

Women must be active participants in decision-making processes related to conflict resolution and prevention. Such participation must be full, equal and meaningful.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Peru's political will to continue to promote a culture of dialogue, tolerance, respect for diversity and mutual understanding, in which the active participation of women in decision-making is promoted.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

**Mr. Oehri** (Liechtenstein): We meet today at a critical juncture for the women and peace and security agenda. Twenty-five years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we must acknowledge that many of our commitments remain unfulfilled. According to the Secretary-General's most recent report (S/2025/556), the past five years have seen stagnation, and even regression, across many goals of this agenda, in a context of rising authoritarianism and proliferation of conflict. In 2024, women represented on average only 7 per cent of negotiators and 14 per cent of mediators

in peace processes worldwide. Even in United Nations-supported processes, women's participation rarely approaches the one-third minimum target stipulated by the Secretary-General, let alone the parity called for by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Women civil society organizations continue to face inconsistent access to peace talks, despite their proven track record in sustaining dialogue and driving inclusive solutions. Encouraging initiatives, such as the Secretary-General's Common Pledge to Increase Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes, and the inclusion of commitments on women mediators in more than half of all national action plans, point the way forward. But progress has been incremental, when what is required is a radical shift. Women's equal, meaningful and safe participation is not aspirational, it is a matter of legitimacy and effectiveness in peace processes.

In addition to further advancing the role of women in peace and security, we must also redouble our efforts to ensure the safety and dignity of women and girls in conflict situations. Conflict-related sexual violence has surged by 87 per cent in only two years, and the number of women and children killed in armed conflict has quadrupled compared to the previous period. According to data released by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, seven out of 10 women killed in conflicts worldwide died in Gaza. Women human rights defenders, peacebuilders, journalists and community leaders continue to be targeted, while schools and health facilities are deliberately attacked, depriving millions of civilians of their most basic rights. These are not tragic by-products of war, they are systematic violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The Council must enforce a zero-tolerance approach to gender-based violence, strengthen accountability through national and international mechanisms and ensure that perpetrators face consequences, including through targeted measures when necessary.

Civilian harm in armed conflict is never gender-neutral. The experiences of harm — its nature, frequency and impact — are shaped by gender norms and roles within households and communities. Integrating gender perspectives into civilian harm mitigation frameworks is therefore imperative both in order to uphold international humanitarian law and to strengthen the protection of women and girls in conflict. To this end, Liechtenstein has partnered with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance on a new initiative aimed at advancing the synergies between the women and peace and security agenda and international humanitarian law. This project will equip militaries and policymakers with model language and good practices, providing a practical repository to ensure that gender perspectives are systematically reflected in military doctrine and effectively translated on the ground. This is but one step to ensure that rhetoric is matched with action and that we seize the momentum of this anniversary to move the women and peace and security agenda forward.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

**Ms. Joyini** (South Africa): We extend our appreciation to Russia for convening this high-level annual open debate on women and peace and security. This open debate amplifies the women and peace and security agenda and also provides an opportunity for us to measure our commitment and take stock of progress on this important agenda item.

On this twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have championed this agenda throughout the years. In particular, we wish to single out Namibia for pioneering this seminal resolution, which is arguably one of the most prominent thematic resolutions adopted by the Council.

South Africa commends the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for apprising Member States on the implementation of this agenda by all relevant stakeholders.

The Secretary-General's latest report (S/2025/556) highlights slow but steady progress on women's involvement in peace processes and in uniformed roles, including in leadership positions. While there has been notable progress in advancing the agenda since its inception in 2000, it is concerning that there has been stagnation and even regression across some of the women and peace and security agenda goals in the last five years, as reported by the Secretary-General.

Member States, the international community at large and all other stakeholders must work in concert to reverse this downward trend. We therefore agree with the call in the Secretary-General's report for the next five years to deliver measurable results. It is for this reason that we align ourselves with some of the recommendations proposed by the Secretary-General, which are also long-standing positions of South Africa.

First, we agree with the proposal of setting targets and quotas to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women across all processes related to peace and security. Targets and quotas are an integral part of South Africa's affirmative, transformative and restorative policies, including those on gender equality.

Secondly, we support a zero-tolerance approach to targeted violence against all women and all sorts of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. Perpetrators of these egregious crimes must be held accountable, including through sanctions. Victims and survivors of these crimes must be accorded unconditional support and necessary assistance, without discrimination.

Thirdly and lastly, we align ourselves with the call for an urgent need to invest in women's economic security during conflict and in post-conflict situations. This is one concrete way of driving women's empowerment, resilience and gender equality in post-conflict societies. We propose that the Peacebuilding Commission consider prioritizing this area in its engagements with affected countries and regions.

To add to this list is the need for steady partnerships among all stakeholders and early warning mechanisms for the agenda's adaptation and continued relevance.

For meaningful, impactful and measurable progress to be made, political will remains vital. The goals of the women and peace and security agenda can only be attained with the requisite political, material and financial support. These measures were underscored by resolution 2493 (2019), which South Africa championed, to accelerate the implementation of the agenda.

As I conclude my remarks, it is incumbent on all of us to seriously ask ourselves if we are indeed fully committed to the women and peace and security agenda. Our commitment should not merely be to meeting every October to commemorate this agenda, but rather should demonstrate adequate, visible and tangible results that leave no room for doubt. Let us heed the call of the Secretary-General for the international community to match rhetoric with action.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

**Mr. Miarka** (Poland): Poland aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union, as well as with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

We thank the Secretary-General for his latest report (S/2025/556), however sobering it might be. Never before have so many women and girls lived so close to

armed conflict. Conflict-related sexual violence is rising at an alarming pace, and those who defend the rights of women and girls are increasingly being silenced.

As we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), we are confronted with a disturbing paradox. This important debate is being convened today under the presidency of the very country whose actions embody everything the women and peace and security agenda was created to prevent. Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues to produce systematic, well-documented violations of international law, including the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war.

The 2024 report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2025/389) recorded verified cases of rape and sexual torture committed by Russian armed and security forces against both civilians and prisoners of war. Russia has consistently refused access to United Nations monitors, obstructed independent investigations and intimidated survivors.

These are not isolated crimes. They form part of a deliberate strategy of terror aimed at breaking individuals and communities and at undermining social resilience. The forced transfer of Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation under the guise of evacuation violates international humanitarian law and represents yet another dimension of violence. Furthermore, Russia has weaponized disinformation and State-controlled media to stigmatize survivors, spread false narratives about humanitarian actors and delegitimize the work of the United Nations.

And yet, while Russia seeks to erase dignity, Ukrainian women embody resilience. They stand on the front lines as defenders, medics, humanitarian leaders, volunteers and documenters of war crimes. Their courage, determination and leadership exemplify what the women and peace and security agenda was meant to achieve: peace that is inclusive, resilient and just.

Poland's own commitment to the cause is clear. We are preparing our next national action plan on women and peace and security, informed by our close cooperation with Ukraine in responding to Russia's aggression. It will focus on the health dimension, with an emphasis on mental health and psychological resilience in crisis response; the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts; the inclusion of veterans — both women and men — in reintegration programmes and peacebuilding efforts; and lastly, the new front line of conflict — the digital sphere — where disinformation and online abuse fuel violence instead of stability.

On this anniversary, let us renew our commitment to truth over propaganda, accountability over silence and leadership over fear, so that women and girls can shape the peace they deserve.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates.

**Mr. Abushahab** (United Arab Emirates): I congratulate the Russian Federation on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I thank Secretary-General Guterres and the briefers for their remarks. I also wish to congratulate Executive Director Bahous on her reappointment at the helm of UN-Women.

For decades, women's potential as architects of peace was unrecognized by the Council — until resolution 1325 (2000) fundamentally challenged the existing notions of women in peace and security. The United Arab Emirates remains fully committed to advancing the women and peace and security agenda and was, in fact, one of the first in its region to adopt a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This plan informs our domestic and foreign policies, as well as guides our gender-responsive laws and strategies.

On this milestone twenty-fifth anniversary, we should all reinforce our support for the implementation of each of the four pillars of the women and peace and security agenda. On the participation pillar, Member States must systematically increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation across all sectors and at all levels.

One way the United Arab Emirates is promoting this is through the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak women and peace and security initiative, in partnership with UN-Women. With its fifth cohort launching this week, the programme continues to train female cadets from across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and in doing so, strengthens their roles as agents for peace in their national security sectors.

However, women's ability to participate in all aspects of life is fundamentally tied to their safety, and it is nearly impossible for them to do so without the second pillar: protection. Given the persistent use of conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of war, the international community must ensure that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are held accountable. The Council must use all tools at its disposal to this end.

On the relief and recovery pillar, we must respond with truly inclusive efforts, in particular those that support women's economic empowerment and agency. Indeed, while the United Arab Emirates served on the Council, during our March 2022 presidency we convened an open debate that spotlighted the critical role of women's economic inclusion in sustaining peace (see S/PV.8989). However, as reiterated in the Secretary-General's most recent report (S/2025/556), the relief and recovery pillar remains woefully underprioritized.

Finally, the prevention pillar must remain a top priority to extinguish the flames of conflict before they ignite. This demands women's participation across the peace continuum. They must be included at all stages, at all levels and in all sectors, and not only during times of conflict.

If we want to achieve sustainable peace and security, we cannot just speak of it. We must build it, side by side with women and girls.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

**Ms. Clase** (Sweden): I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden.

I thank the briefers, and I thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2025/556).

This month marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). We recall Namibia's pivotal role in securing the adoption of this landmark resolution, which affirms that women's leadership and participation are prerequisites for lasting peace. We reaffirm that the promotion of gender equality and the upholding of international law, including human rights law, are essential for international peace, security and development. At a time when the number of armed conflicts has reached a historic high, the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda is more urgent than ever.

In Ukraine, Gaza, Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Sudan and many other contexts of war and conflict, we stress the responsibility to protect. We are deeply concerned that sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, continues to be used systematically against women and girls as a tactic of war, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. Impunity must end. Perpetrators must be held accountable, and survivors must have access to justice and comprehensive support.

In this context, let me pay tribute to the essential work of UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to their tireless efforts to advance the rights of women and

girls, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are elemental in conflict contexts as well. This is our responsibility not only to survivors, but also to societies in which the scars of such violence remain long after conflict has ceased. In this regard, we underline the vital role of United Nations gender advisers and women's protection advisers in the field.

The women and peace and security agenda is not only about protection. It is equally and fundamentally about participation. The evidence is clear: the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women leads to more sustainable peace. Women must form part of peace negotiations and national dialogues, ceasefire agreements, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, along with transitional justice and accountability processes.

Beyond peace and security, the empowerment of women drives democratic progress, fuels economic growth, sparks innovation and strengthens resilient societies. Women and girls make up half of the world's population and therefore at least half of its potential. When women and girls have equal access to education, decent work, finance and resources, and when they participate in political decision-making, entire communities and nations rise.

The women and peace and security agenda remains central to advancing peace, sustainable development and human rights. We stress the importance of ensuring that women and peace and security is safeguarded as a core element of a United Nations that is fit for purpose, and we expect that future reform proposals will strengthen both the mandate and the capacity of the United Nations to deliver at the country level.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bulgaria.

**Mrs. Beshkova** (Bulgaria): Bulgaria aligns itself with the statements to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

We thank the Secretary-General for his annual report (S/2025/556). On this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the women and peace and security agenda, we recognize its achievements: stronger legal frameworks, increased awareness of the need to have peacebuilding that takes into account the needs of both men and women, and the growing leadership of women peacebuilders. Yet, as the report underlines, progress is fragile, and regression is evident. Women remain excluded from decision-making processes or often are not included in a meaningful and consequential way. They face mounting discrimination, endure shocking levels of conflict-related sexual violence and suffer most, as wars around the globe, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, exacerbate job losses and unpaid care burdens and widen gender gaps in earnings and access to resources. We strongly condemn all violations and regret the setbacks caused by armed aggression. While conflict prevention must be central, justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators must not be delayed.

We also underline the indispensable role of UN-Women, and support for the agency's mandate is one of the highlights of Bulgaria's current term as member of the UN-Women Executive Board. Their expertise and presence on the ground are vital for advancing participation, protecting civic space and ensuring that the women and peace and security agenda remains a United Nations priority. Furthermore, we welcome the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a centre of excellence on women and peace and security as part of the UN80 reform package.

Bulgaria remains firmly committed to the women and peace and security agenda, advancing it through our national action plan and the national strategy for promoting equality between women and men through 2030, which together serve as

practical road maps for empowering women in leadership, enhancing their role in peacebuilding and ensuring equality across all spheres of life. As a current member of the Human Rights Council, we have made the participation of women and girls in all spheres of political and public life a long-term national priority. Bulgaria pairs robust national frameworks with strong international cooperation, actively engaging with partners and civil society to advance the women and peace and security agenda. In today's complex geopolitical environment, we rely on diplomacy as a powerful instrument in the pursuit of peace and development, and we take pride in the fact that women make up half of our diplomatic service, with 40 per cent in senior positions — an inspiration for the next generation of women leaders and mediators.

The women and peace and security agenda must also evolve to respond to global challenges, such as climate change and the risks posed by digital technologies. Closing civic space and online harassment make digital platforms both essential and dangerous for women peacebuilders. Better protection measures are urgently needed. We stress that women's participation in peace processes, mediation, transitional justice and peacekeeping must be full, equal, meaningful and safe, supported by national action plans and predictable resources.

In conclusion, Bulgaria reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the women and peace and security agenda and will continue to cooperate with partners around the globe in order to ensure that it is responsive to needs on the ground, capable of adapting to the evolving challenges, well resourced and accountable to local communities.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

**Mrs. Zalabata Torres** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I stand here in the belief that the women and peace and security agenda continues to be one of the most transformative agendas of multilateralism, while being one in the most urgent need of protection and consolidation.

Resolution 1325 (2000) marked a historic milestone in its recognition of the fact that peace and security are not sustainable without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity. Nevertheless, 25 years on, colossal challenges remain. The world is confronting a proliferation of conflict, surging military spending and a rollback of rights gained. Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be used as a tactic of war, and women remain underrepresented in peace processes.

In Colombia, our experience has taught us that without women, change is impossible. Our national process has shown that the inclusion of women and feminist organizations not only enriches, but also guarantees the sustainability of, agreements. Our first national action plan under resolution 1325 (2000) was the outcome of an unprecedented participatory process. More than 1,500 women from all walks of life contributed to the plan's design, reflecting our belief that peace and security policies must be developed from the local level upwards and with those who are experiencing the reality of violence and insecurity. Our feminist foreign policy seeks to transform the systems that replicate inequality and discrimination and is an invitation to rethink security from a feminist, an intersectional and a humanist standpoint. Security is thus seen not as a privilege of the few but as a collective right that is tied to social and environmental justice and the dignity of all people.

Today, I would like to underscore three messages.

First, the agenda demands political will and resources. We must guarantee funding for monitoring mechanisms and concrete actions that protect women's rights in the context of conflict.

Secondly, there is an urgent need to protect women human rights defenders, women social leaders and Indigenous and Afrodescendent women, who continue to put their lives on the line for peace and justice in their territories. Their security must be a priority for the Council and the entire international community.

Thirdly, we need to counter regressive tendencies that seek to exploit gender with a view to curbing rights and silencing voices. Defending this agenda also entails defending multilateralism, human rights and democracy.

Colombia reaffirms its commitment to promoting a more humane, just and sustainable vision of security through the Council and other multilateral forums. Peace cannot be built without women. Security cannot be sustained by excluding half of humankind, and the women and peace and security agenda cannot be a rhetorical pledge; it must instead be a transformative practice.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

**Ms. Del Águila Castillo** (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the convening of this annual open debate on women and peace and security. We commend the speakers for their briefings and take note of the Secretary-General's report (S/2025/556), which brings to the fore both progress and persistent shortcomings, reminding us that, 25 years after its adoption, resolution 1325 (2000) remains an essential road map.

Guatemala acknowledges the importance of women's full participation in peacebuilding. Our experience shows that when women play an active part, agreements are more lasting and societies more resilient. This has been illustrated in Huehuetenango, a post-conflict territory, where women are spearheading community processes that promote justice and social reconstruction. The Sepur Zarco case represents a historic watershed in accountability and reparation for victims of sexual violence and a living example of the application of resolution 1325 (2000). Accordingly, we wish to underscore the invaluable efforts of civil society organizations, particularly those with a local presence, which are the first to provide centralized care to survivors and to rebuild the social fabric.

Guatemala supports the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in peace operations' mandates, the retention of women's protection advisers and the policy of zero tolerance for conflict-related sexual violence. We welcome the fact that the Council has recognized that these crimes constitute grounds for individual sanctions, marking a significant stride towards accountability. Resolution 1325 (2000) must continue to inspire the international community. It is crucial to take concrete measures to promote gender equality in conflict-affected settings, in recognition of the essential role that women play in preventing and resolving conflict, in promoting justice, in fostering reconciliation, in supporting disarmament, demobilization and social reintegration and in rebuilding institutions — all mainstays of the consolidation of genuine and lasting peace — while recognizing the importance of international funding to continue supporting this goal.

We regard the cross-cutting work being accomplished within the United Nations system as important so as to have analyses of data on gender, which facilitates the development of policies and strategies at a national level and vis-à-vis humanitarian interventions. In this connection, it is important for partnerships and the efforts of the international community to be pursued so as to address information gaps, in particular in crisis situations.

We reiterate our appeal for the rights of women and girls to be upheld, safeguarded and guaranteed, including through accountability processes.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to Mrs. Samson.

**Mrs. Samson:** I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Türkiye, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union thanks the Secretary-General for his report (S/2025/556), and we also acknowledge the essential role of UN-Women in leading in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

The women and peace and security agenda is among the key tools to prevent wars and violent conflicts before they start, to end those that rage, to build peace that lasts and to secure justice for victims and survivors. One year ago, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, which, inter alia, calls for the accelerated implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, and this year we commemorate the agenda's twenty-fifth anniversary.

As wars and crises multiply, this agenda is more indispensable than ever to preventing and ending conflicts, to sustaining peace and to ensuring justice. That is why the EU considers women and peace and security as essential to its external action, including as an integral part of the EU Commission's third Gender Action Plan. And our commitment is given not just in words. We are embedding women and peace and security into every strand of our Common Security and Defence Policy and have placed it among the commitments of the eight security and defence partnerships established with third countries. We have also joined the Secretary-General's Common Pledge to Increase Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes.

On the ground, we support the national action plans on women and peace and security in both Chad and Colombia, contributing €6 million and nearly €10 million respectively. In Colombia, this also funds gender-responsive peace agreement measures. In several countries, EU programmes put victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence at the centre of peacebuilding. We also welcome the opportunity to work with other countries on similar initiatives.

Supporting women's rights organizations and women's networks, both internationally and locally, is a core priority for us, as we recognize their fundamental role. Heeding calls by the United Nations, the EU has more than tripled its support during the past three years, from €56 million to €169 million.

We are equally focused on the significance of the digital space, which often becomes the last avenue for women to voice their concerns and to organize. Improving sex-disaggregated data collection on access to safe information spaces for women and girls is crucial to strengthening efforts to counter disinformation campaigns designed to undermine women and peace and security principles.

The EU will continue to advance the women and peace and security agenda, in partnership with the United Nations, its Member States and civil society — financially and politically. The full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in these efforts and processes can contribute in crucial and lasting ways to the cause of peace.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

**Mr. Gort** (Canada): Canada has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 63 member States of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, representing all five regional groups of the United Nations and the European Union.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), its achievements deserve recognition and demand renewed commitment. We have seen progress:

stronger legal frameworks, growing global consensus on the importance of gender-responsive peacebuilding and more efforts to increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation at the peace table.

However, it is still not enough. Women and girls continue to face discrimination and conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. Women are excluded from decision-making. We urge that all peace and security mechanisms — from negotiation to mediation, national dialogue and transitional justice, as well as peacekeeping — reflect gender perspectives and achieve gender parity. Women's participation and leadership cannot be merely symbolic; it is a condition for achieving a lasting and inclusive peace.

The women and peace and security agenda must be inclusive of women and girls, including those in vulnerable situations, and respond to global challenges such as climate change and risks posed by digital technologies.

We encourage Member States and the United Nations system to meet United Nations funding targets and prioritize direct, predictable and flexible support to women's rights and feminist organizations, with gender equality as a main outcome. Member States should adopt, fund and implement national action plans on women and peace and security that are regularly monitored, tracked and transparently reported.

Accountability must be central. To end impunity, perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, must be brought to justice, including through national and international courts and, where appropriate, in accordance with international law. We must also ensure that victims and survivors have access to essential services and rights, including water, sanitation and hygiene, sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support and legal assistance.

We need to protect those who promote peace. Women peacebuilders, human rights defenders, humanitarian personnel and, in particular, nationally and locally recruited personnel face targeted violence. We must also go further: post-conflict recovery must include women and promote their meaningful economic inclusion by reforming donor practices, removing barriers to access and advocating for women's economic and property rights.

The Group of Friends remains steadfast in its commitment to the women and peace and security agenda. We will continue to bring women to the table, address their specific needs and invest in their safe, full, equal and meaningful leadership.

We must build on progress — not rest on it. In a time of increasing divergence, we must lead with courage and responsibility. The international community must demonstrate that our commitments are not rhetorical — they are real, they are resourced, and they are results-driven.

I beg your indulgence, Madam President, and now turn to Canada's national statement.

Twenty-five years ago, the Council affirmed a simple truth: peace without women is no peace at all. When women are sidelined, we are less resilient, sovereign and secure.

Yet the commitment to women and peace and security has never received the resources or the political will required for its achievement. Now, we are forced to spend precious time defending progress against pushback at the very moment when the women and peace and security agenda is needed most to address global threats, including technology-enabled violence, disinformation and climate insecurity. Even as sexual violence as a weapon of war rises, women human rights defenders and women environmental defenders, including youth and Indigenous women, are being silenced.

*(spoke in French)*

Far from being optional, the women and peace and security agenda is a fundamental enabler of security. It sharpens our understanding of threats, strengthens our responses and enhances our ability to deter, detect and defend.

Canada has expanded funding for women peacebuilders, supported community-level efforts and advanced the Elsie Initiative to increase the full, equal and meaningful participation of uniformed women, thus making peace operations more effective. Our task now is to put the women and peace and security agenda where it has always belonged — mainstreamed into the centre of peace and security.

On this anniversary, Canada pays tribute to the women in civil society from around the world who brought this agenda to the United Nations, carry it forward daily and bear the greatest cost when we fail to deliver.

**The President** *(spoke in Russian)*: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

**Mr. Yamazaki** (Japan): While this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), Japan is deeply concerned about the growing backlash against women's rights, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's 2025 report on women and peace and security (S/2025/556). Women continue to face structural barriers to full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery efforts. In this regard, we recognize the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission's written advice, which offers concrete recommendations to advance the women and peace and security agenda.

Japan is honoured to serve alongside Norway as co-Chair of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network for 2025. In this capacity, Japan co-hosted three meetings, including a side event during the recent high-level week, which demonstrated ministerial-level commitments from all regions. Japan will continue to engage with the Network to foster inclusive dialogue, share best practices and strengthen international cooperation.

Japan also highlights the importance of addressing emerging challenges such as post-disaster social instability and cybersecurity within the women and peace and security framework. Under Japan's third national action plan on women and peace and security, women's participation in disaster preparedness and response is being strengthened through an across-the-Government approach and in partnership with civil society.

Furthermore, Japan contributes to enhancing the efforts of women and peace and security national action plans in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2025, Japan has allocated approximately \$2 million to support the formulation of such plans in the region.

Japan also contributes to the acceleration of the women and peace and security agenda in Africa. Japan supports the African Union Commission in enhancing women's engagement in strategic peace platforms and analysing women and peace and security-related data, with the goal of empowering women in peacebuilding efforts.

Japan has begun implementing initiatives to foster youth leadership in championing the women and peace and security agenda. This December, Japan will host the Gender Next Generation Forum in Tokyo, contributing to the development of young leaders who will advance the women and peace and security agenda over the next 25 years. Japan remains deeply committed to ensuring women's active participation and leadership in all areas of peace and security.

**The President** *(spoke in Russian)*: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

**Mrs. Buenrostro Massieu** (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico thanks the Russian Federation for convening this open debate on the twenty-fifth anniversary of a resolution that transformed the international narrative, which had previously viewed women solely as victims of conflict, to recognize them as indispensable agents in the building, consolidation and maintenance of peace.

While resolution 1325 (2000) led to the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda, significant challenges remain. I will refer to those we consider most pressing.

First, we must increase the substantive participation of women in peace negotiations and processes, an urgent commitment considering that there are more open conflicts today than at any other time since the Second World War in which women and girls are the most affected.

Secondly, we must eradicate sexual violence in conflicts, which is heartbreakingly used increasingly as a weapon of war.

Thirdly, we must ensure the financing of the women and peace and security agenda. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the work of UN-Women's Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations in accelerating change in security institutions and promoting greater deployment of women in uniform.

Fourthly, we must align this agenda with other multilateral processes and promote the participation of young people, a key element in expanding and enriching spaces for dialogue and trust.

In 2021, Mexico adopted its national action plan to mainstream gender equality in all conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Three follow-up reports have been submitted, and the second plan, for the period 2026-2030, will soon be ready. In line with its international commitments, Mexico has increased the participation of women in uniform to 55 per cent of personnel currently deployed in peace operations, compared to the initial 22 per cent.

Furthermore, our feminist foreign policy is the guiding principle of our international action, and we promote female leadership in our geographical region through the Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators, chaired by Mexico. Domestically, the Weavers of the Nation model involves 60,000 women across the country, demonstrating that peace is built from the community level.

Lastly, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to this agenda and makes an emphatic call to honour the legacy of resolution 1325 (2000), not only by remembering its historical significance, but also by building a world in which women are the undisputed protagonists of the peace that we all seek.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

**Mr. De Wolf** (Belgium): Belgium aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security and thanks the Russian Federation for organizing this debate.

I would also like to explicitly thank Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN-Women, for her briefing. I also thank Ms. Uskova and Ms. Erakat for their insights.

I have the honour to deliver the following statement in my national capacity.

It is now 25 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). Though we are proud of the strong knowledge, tools and mandates that exist on women and peace and security, we remain concerned, as the gap in implementation remains huge. Today we face more conflicts, deeper instability, a decline in democracy and targeted attacks on gender equality.

In 2025, it is regrettable that the women and peace and security agenda and its vision of peace and equality is under unprecedented threat.

The Secretary-General's report recognizes the critical role of gender data and analysis in preventing and responding to conflict and crisis. We fully align with this view.

And today we also wish to specifically underscore three priority areas: advancing women's participation, promoting girls' leadership and protecting civic space.

First, to prevent and end conflicts, sustain peace and ensure justice, women must have a direct and meaningful impact on decision-making at the highest levels. This is not a matter of inclusion. It is a matter of necessity. While progress stalls and crises continue to unfold in Gaza, Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Haiti, the Sudan, Syria and Yemen among others, the urgency is clear. Belgium calls for renewed and intensified commitment and prioritization of this key pillar of the women and peace and security agenda. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all stages of conflict resolution, including de-escalation and ceasefire negotiations, is not optional. It is essential.

Secondly, we must recognize and elevate women's leadership in peace processes, including when it is informal or outside traditional track-one negotiations. Regrettably, girls and young women remain disproportionately affected and frequently overlooked in armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. Their access to education, healthcare and mobility is often curtailed, while risks of forced marriage, exploitation and abuse escalate. Yet, girls and young women are not merely victims. They are agents of change and leaders in waiting. We must ensure their voices are heard and their rights upheld by actively including them in all stages of decision-making processes and providing the support they need to thrive. This is not only about meeting their immediate needs. It is also about empowering them to shape their futures, pursue education and gain their independence.

Thirdly, let us recall that the women and peace and security agenda stands today because of the efforts of countless women, women's rights organizations, grassroots organizations, women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders. They have been driving the agenda forward, often at great personal risk.

Belgium is deeply alarmed by the increasing restrictions on civic space through censorship, surveillance, reprisals, intimidation and violence. We must do more to support women and protect their working space, both offline and online. The women and peace and security agenda is central to tackling the defining challenges of our time from climate change and terrorism to arms control, sustainable development and information manipulation. We must bring the women and peace and security agenda to the heart of global decision-making. The rights of women and girls are not optional to peace and security. They are foundational.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

**Mrs. Mimran Rosenberg** (Israel): Israel aligns itself with the statement delivered by the co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

This debate takes place on the eve of a solemn anniversary marking two years since the horrific 7 October 2023 Hamas terror attack, when Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups brutally murdered more than 1,200 women, men and children in cold blood. Women and girls were not spared. They were raped, tortured and mutilated, their bodies used as a tool of terror.

The Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2025/389) confirmed that there is clear and convincing information that some hostages taken to Gaza were subjected to various forms of conflict-related sexual violence during

their time in captivity and also found reasonable grounds to believe that sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, occurred during the attacks of 7 October in multiple locations.

The Secretary-General's 2024 report on conflict-related sexual violence highlights the alarming 87 per cent rise in conflict-related sexual violence and calls on all Member States to hold accountable those responsible for all acts of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based persecution. We join that call, and we must act on it.

It is time for the Council and the wider United Nations system to apply the same standards to all perpetrators. The listing of Hamas in the Secretary-General's report is a long-overdue recognition of their crime. We therefore urge the Council to take the next step: designate Hamas as a terrorist organization under the relevant international criteria. Accountability cannot be selective. Failure to hold Hamas accountable for its atrocities against Israeli women undermines the very essence of the women and peace and security agenda.

Today 48 hostages remain in Gaza, including the body of one Israeli woman — Inbar Haiman. Israel is prepared for the implementation of the first stage of President Trump's plan for the immediate release of all hostages and will continue to work in full cooperation with the President and his team in order to bring the war to an end in accordance with the principles set forth.

The proposed plan by President Trump has received vast support from many Member States worldwide and reflects a broad coalition for peace. These halls should be used to advance peace, not criticize attempts to achieve it. They should not be used as a forum for a politically motivated agenda, which does not assist the Palestinian people, but only supports the extremist and deadly terror organization of Hamas.

The women and peace and security agenda is deeply embedded in Israel's national identity. From our very founding, gender equality was enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence. Israel was one of the first countries to legislate equal rights for women, and today we maintain a women and peace and security national focal point at the ambassadorial level and are active members in the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

Israel must, however, express its profound dismay that the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security, which covers developments during 2024, makes no reference whatsoever to Israeli women who were held hostage in Gaza during that period.

Despite the horrors of war, Israel continues to promote women's participation and leadership in all spheres, and we are proud that Israeli women serve as senior officials in diplomacy, security and public and private sectors.

Following the 7 October 2023 attack, the Government of Israel adopted a decision on assistance to women in times of emergency, establishing a national information centre to coordinate governmental and local efforts supporting women in emergencies. This measure, alongside new programmes for the economic empowerment of displaced women, reflects how Israel integrates women and peace and security principles in real time, even during conflict.

Israel also welcomes the forward-looking goals outlined in the Secretary-General's report — the call for a gender data revolution to close information gaps and inform policy, to note one. In this spirit, Israel's Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, together with our Central Bureau of Statistics, has developed a national gender-based violence data system — the first integrated framework of its kind worldwide, which consolidates data from multiple Government ministries and

civil society partners into one cohesive, evidence-based tool. The system not only supports national policy planning but also ensures transparency and the accessibility of data to the public. We see this initiative as a model for how countries can operationalize the Secretary-General's vision for better data in peace and security.

This coming November, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Israel will hold an international virtual round table to showcase this new tool and related best practices, and we invite other Member States to join us and share best practices.

We will not address the attempts by some speakers today to create false narratives. These misrepresentations not only desecrate the memory of victims and trample the dignity of the survivors and mourning families but also proliferate the violent misinformation about my country.

Two years after the 7 October 2023 attack and the war that followed, Israeli women continue to lead — as survivors, as leaders, peacebuilders and defenders of human rights. Israel remains steadfast in its commitment to the full, equal and meaningful participation of women — not just in peace and security, but across every aspect of society.

Let us make this year, marking 30 years for Beijing and 25 years of the women and peace and security agenda, not merely commemorative but transformative. Let us match our rhetoric with action to ensure accountability for all perpetrators, protection for all survivors and participation for all women everywhere.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Malta.

**Ms. Gatt** (Malta): Malta thanks the Secretary-General for his report and the briefers for their insightful remarks. On such an occasion, it is important to recall that resolution 1325 (2000) was the result of extensive collaboration spearheaded by Namibia between all the members of the Council, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies.

Malta aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

Today, the world is being confronted by a series of unprecedented challenges. We are witnessing widespread conflicts across various regions, growing threats to international humanitarian law and international human rights law and a troubling gender backlash.

Against that backdrop, as we mark 25 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and the launch of the women and peace and security agenda, we are reminded that women and peace and security must remain a shared priority as it is more relevant and necessary than ever. Women and girls continue to be subject to exclusion, discrimination and gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence. The Secretary-General's report highlights Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar, the Sudan, Gaza and Ukraine as places that exemplify the most urgent, widespread challenges and trends affecting women and girls.

Malta has continuously called for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in peace processes. Throughout our tenure on the Security Council and during our term as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe last year, we have demonstrated political leadership by strengthening women and peace and security elements across geographic and thematic agenda items, while ensuring that women's voices everywhere, including among civil society organizations briefers or human rights defenders, are given a platform to be heard.

Moreover, this year, we have also contributed to work in the women and peace and security field through funding directed towards UN-Women and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Malta has also been appointed as the Focal Point on Gender Provisions for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Through this role, which we will occupy until December 2026, Malta will be highlighting the importance of gender perspectives in the implementation of the TPNW and operationalizing the gender-related articles of the Treaty.

Currently Malta is finalizing the drafting of its second women and peace and security national action plan, following a wide consultation process among Government, academia, civil society and young people. The aim was to create a national action plan that is ambitious yet implementable, while being flexible and adaptable to changing realities.

Malta remains steadfast in its commitment to the women and peace and security agenda and its implementation. We emphasize a zero-tolerance approach to any violence against women peacebuilders and human rights defenders and call for accountability for the heinous actions often committed with impunity. Protection must be at the centre of our women and peace and security agenda.

In conclusion, 25 years on, it is essential to reflect on the progress made and the work that still lies ahead to fully realize the purpose of the women and peace and security agenda. If the past 25 years have taught us anything, it is that without women there can be no peace. Let us then ensure that women are at the table, that space is made for them and that women are at the centre of peace processes.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

**Mr. Ćurić Hrvatinić** (Croatia): I would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women and the civil society briefers for their insights.

Croatia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Despite the ambitious commitments that followed the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325 (2000), progress has stalled in implementing the women and peace and security agenda. Women are still ignored in discussions on peace, while continuously experiencing high levels of sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts. Global instability and increasing disregard for international law have further undermined women's human rights. For all these reasons, today's debate must serve as a call to action, otherwise we risk losing the progress we have fought hard to achieve. Croatia is fully committed to promoting and implementing the women and peace and security agenda. We have so far implemented two national action plans and are finalizing our third, with stronger monitoring and evaluation to ensure measurable impact. Croatia has hosted United Nations-certified predeployment training for female officers from around the world and promoted women to a number of leadership positions in the military and security sectors.

Building on our commitments in the Pact for the Future, at this point, it is crucial to demonstrate political will by supporting the existing tools and instruments that prioritize women's safety, effective inclusion and full-fledged participation within the broader women and peace and security agenda. This includes supporting survivors, civil society and women's organizations, especially at the local level. Their role is critical in advocating for peace, long-term development and justice. We also underline the importance of collecting high-quality gender data to enhance the monitoring of progress and evidence-based policymaking.

And lastly, ensuring predictable and sustainable funding is crucial. It reflects not only our dedication to delivering on the promises made but also our credibility as Member States to enable the implementation of the initiatives we supported. In this regard, we wish to highlight the Peacebuilding Commission and its important role in supporting peacebuilding processes in fragile countries, with a particular focus on women's participation. To maximize its impact on the ground, we encourage all Member States to support sufficient and predictable financing of the Peacebuilding Fund and its gender-sensitive programmes.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nepal.

**Mr. Thapa** (Nepal): At the outset, let me thank the presidency of the Russian Federation for convening this very important debate. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General and the briefers for their insightful and comprehensive presentations.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) — a landmark recognition of women's role in peace and security. We reaffirm that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Their leadership strengthens peace processes, protects rights and builds resilient societies. Yet despite progress, implementation remains uneven. Women's participation is often symbolic, financing is limited, conflict-related sexual violence is rising, and accountability mechanisms remain weak. This is a moment to reflect on our achievements and shortcomings and to renew our collective resolve to implement the women and peace and security agenda fully.

Nepal remains deeply committed to the women and peace and security agenda. In 2011, we became the first country in South Asia and the second in Asia to adopt a national action plan to implement resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). Our second plan, launched in 2022, focuses on supporting women and children affected by Nepal's armed conflict. As a leading troop- and police-contributing country and the top contributor of female peacekeepers, Nepal upholds the highest standards of conduct. Our female peacekeepers engage with communities, build trust and protect civilians. At the recent United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial in Germany in May this year, Nepal pledged to strengthen the integration of the women and peace and security agenda through gender-responsive leadership training, the deployment of engagement platoons with 50 per cent female representation and the establishment of a dedicated women-led formed police unit.

Let me highlight six key priorities.

First, we must ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all stages of peace processes and political decision-making, from early warning and mediation to post-conflict recovery and governance. Women bring lived experience, trust and a deep commitment to social justice, education and community welfare — priorities that lead to more inclusive and enduring peace. Their leadership in peacekeeping and reconstruction must be elevated through mentorship, training and equitable deployment.

Secondly, we must prioritize gender-responsive conflict prevention by integrating gender analysis into early-warning systems, peacebuilding efforts and risk assessments. Gender-responsive training across all ranks is essential, with a strong emphasis on civilian protection and the prevention of sexual violence. It is equally vital to integrate more women into security forces, which enhances operational effectiveness and community trust.

Thirdly, we must guarantee protection from all forms of gender-based violence, including in conflict and post-conflict settings. This requires robust accountability

and monitoring mechanisms to track progress, ensure implementation and close the persistent gap between policy and practice.

Fourthly, increased financial support is urgently needed to implement women and peace and security policies and action plans. Sustained and predictable funding is essential to move from rhetoric to results. We must scale up investments in women-led peacebuilding, strengthen institutional capacity and ensure measurable impact. Structures must be reinforced to support women's expertise and foster deeper collaboration with civil society and women peace actors.

Fifthly, women's digital and technological capacity must be harnessed to protect and promote their voice and participation. Technology can amplify leadership, expand access to decision-making spaces and safeguard contributions in fragile contexts. We must invest in digital inclusion, strengthen online protection and support innovation that empowers women peacebuilders.

Finally, strengthened international cooperation is vital to building national capacities, including through funding and technical assistance to implement women and peace and security commitments effectively.

In conclusion, the women and peace and security agenda is not peripheral — it is foundational to building inclusive, resilient and lasting peace. When women lead, peace agreements are more durable, institutions more trusted and communities more resilient. Let us act with commitment and with conviction to build peace that is inclusive in design and enduring in impact.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

**Mr. Mythen** (Ireland): Ireland aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

This year marks 25 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) — a landmark moment that placed women's participation and leadership at the heart of peace and security. And yet, a quarter of a century on, the women and peace and security agenda is not only stalling but, in some places, is in retreat. Women remain excluded from peace processes, conflict-related sexual violence continues with impunity for perpetrators, and the organizations led by women continue to be chronically underfunded. Today's conflicts continue to fall disproportionately on the shoulders of women and girls. In Gaza, pregnant women give birth without clean water, electricity or medical care. In the Sudan, women fleeing violence face heightened risks of sexual violence. And in Afghanistan, women and girls face appalling exclusion and persecution. In refugee camps, in bombed-out hospitals and at food distribution points, women hold families and communities together, often invisibly, always indispensably. And yet, even as they carry these burdens, they are excluded from the peace tables that shape their futures.

When the fighting ends, it is often women who step forward to reconcile, organize and restore hope. Ireland has seen first-hand that peace is stronger, more inclusive and more durable when women are meaningfully involved.

We highlight three priorities to uphold the women and peace and security agenda in principle and in practice.

First, women's full, equal and meaningful participation must be guaranteed in all peace and political processes. This means dismantling barriers that exclude women, leading to influence, not only presence.

Secondly, local, women-led civil society organizations must be sustainably resourced. These groups are often the first to respond and the last to leave.

Thirdly, the international community must strengthen its efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Survivors must be placed at the heart of our response, and accountability cannot be an afterthought.

Ireland recently launched its fourth national action plan on women and peace and security. Grounded in the core pillars of the women and peace and security agenda, it speaks to the realities of today's threats and tomorrow's peacebuilding needs. The plan has a focus on intersectionality and intergenerational inclusion. It recognizes that women and girls affected by conflict are not a homogenous group. Young women, women with disabilities, migrant women and others face overlapping forms of discrimination and these have shaped the plan from the beginning.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, Ireland reaffirms its commitment to stand with women and girls in all their diversity, to amplify their voices, to support their leadership and to remain accountable to the promises we have made to them.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

**Mr. Arafat** (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Lebanon congratulates the Russian Federation on its presidency of the Security Council for this month, and we also thank the Republic of Korea for their leadership last month.

We welcome the convening of this open debate on women and peace and security, especially as we are commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000).

Lebanon believes in the essential role of women in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and in contributing to post-conflict reconstruction. Women are far from being merely affected by the consequences of conflict, they play an active role in conflict resolution and in shaping the future of our societies based on justice, equality and human dignity. That is why we are committed to implementing the women and peace and security agenda, including by continuing to work on our national action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan will be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval by the end of this year.

In addition, we have established a new 2025–2028 action plan, developed by the National Commission for Lebanese Women, which complements the national strategy for Lebanese women for 2022–2030 in order to address various forms of long-standing inequalities and to respond to urgent challenges facing Lebanon today. Lebanon strives to involve women in all stages of decision-making, including within military and security institutions. We are strengthening legal frameworks that protect the rights of women and girls, prevent all forms of violence and enhance the role they play in society.

The most recent report of the Secretary-General shows that women and girls are among the most vulnerable to risk and challenges, particularly during wars and armed conflicts. Wars do not discriminate among victims. However, they place a disproportionate burden on women. Lebanese women continue to suffer from the consequences of conflicts and wars, and most recently from the ongoing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Nevertheless, Lebanese women have once again showed their resilience, and they participate actively in relief and reconstruction efforts on the political and institutional levels, and through civil society organizations and local initiatives.

The reality we face today obliges us to reaffirm the importance of resolution 1325 (2000). Twenty-five years after its adoption, it is now time to pool our efforts, both nationally and internationally, to fully implement the provisions of the resolution. We renew our commitment to work with all our national and international partners to advance this path and ensure that women remain at the heart of the global peace and security agenda.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

**Mr. Gómez Hernández** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Russian presidency for convening this open debate that marks the beginning of the month-long celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), which established the women and peace and security agenda.

Spain aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, of which it is a member.

In the past five years, the advancement of the rights of women and girls has stagnated and even regressed. Gender discrimination has increased and structural barriers of inequality against women remain in place. The most shocking example is the current situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, where their most basic rights have been curtailed since the advent of the Taliban regime.

For this reason, the women and peace and security agenda continues to be a priority for Spanish foreign policy. On this anniversary, Spain holds forth a firm conviction: to be a benchmark in the defence and promotion of this agenda in order to continue making progress in its full implementation, as there is still a long way to go. And on this anniversary, Spain is concluding the drafting of its third national action plan, with a financing framework that will ensure its implementation.

At a time of constant violations of international humanitarian law, in Palestine, Ukraine, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other contexts, the retreat on international humanitarian law, organized annually by Spain, focused this year on the interrelationship between international humanitarian law and the women and peace and security agenda, as well as on the challenges in the implementation of the existing international framework.

Let me share a few observations on how we can move forward on the women and peace and security agenda.

First, the agenda rests on the pillar of prevention. The defence of women's rights and gender equality are preconditions for creating fairer and more resilient societies in the face of potential conflicts.

Secondly, we must actively promote women's participation in decision-making processes in all phases of a conflict because women's participation in such processes guarantees compliance with and the sustainability of agreements.

Thirdly, it is essential to support the work of civil society organizations, which are on the front line caring for women and girls, carrying out tasks related to protection, reparation and training. Spain contributes resources to various United Nations programmes that promote the women and peace and security agenda in civil society, including the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. It has supported UN-Women since its establishment, with a total contribution of €7 million this year.

Fourthly and lastly, Spain stresses the importance of accountability for crimes committed against women and girls. Spain supports international efforts to ensure accountability for these crimes, among which the International Criminal Court stands out as a standard-bearer in the fight against international impunity. In December 2024, together with several countries, Spain sent a letter of referral to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Spain has made many efforts to promote the women and peace and security agenda. Its Foreign Action Strategy 2025–2028 once again places feminist foreign policy at the heart of our international action, convinced that gender equality is an

indispensable requirement for building peace and justice, and an essential element for the prevention, protection and reparation of the enormous harm caused by violence against women, specifically because they are women.

As the Secretary-General's report indicates, this twenty-fifth anniversary must be a turning point so that, in the next five years, we can achieve tangible results. We owe it to half of the world's population. Without women in decision-making in peace processes there will be no lasting peace, and without lasting peace there will be no peaceful future for humankind.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

**Mr. Larsen** (Australia): Twenty-five years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the transformative potential of the women and peace and security agenda remains largely unrealized. This anniversary must be a call to action.

We meet today against the backdrop of devastating conflict, democratic erosion and deepening inequality. Australia is deeply concerned by deliberate efforts to reverse global progress on gender equality. Around the world, women and girls remain excluded from peace processes and underrepresented in the institutions charged with upholding peace and security. They are disproportionately targeted by sexual and gender-based violence and denied access to justice and economic opportunities.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban continues to demonstrate its contempt for the human rights of women and girls, banning girls' education above sixth grade, confining women and girls to their homes and restricting access to essential medical services. Australia calls on the Taliban to comply with Afghanistan's international legal obligations. Earlier this year, the European Court of Human Rights found that Russia was responsible for a pattern of manifestly unlawful conduct on a massive scale in Ukraine, including the use of rape as a weapon of war. In Myanmar, there are reports of the junta perpetrating sexual violence and deliberately obstructing access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. Some 220,000 women face high-risk pregnancies.

The erosion of women's and girls' rights undermines peace and security. It impedes our collective ability to prevent conflict and build resilient, inclusive societies. I wish to highlight three areas where Australia is driving progress on the women and peace and security agenda.

First, guided by our national action plan on women and peace and security, Australia invests in women's leadership in conflict prevention and peace processes. The data is clear: when women participate, a peace agreement is 35 per cent more likely to last more than 15 years. Through our support for initiatives like the Southeast Asia Women Peace Mediators Network, Australia has helped to facilitate historic cross-border dialogues between communities in Timor-Leste and displaced groups in West Timor, catalysing a community-led road map for reconciliation.

Secondly, Australia is strengthening its support for women in peacekeeping. Partnerships, including with the Elsie Initiative Fund and UN-Women, have proved effective in reducing barriers to deployment. While the pace of change remains slow, the data tells an encouraging story: more women are now deployed in United Nations peace operations than ever before. Australia will continue to invest in the next generation of women leaders.

Thirdly, Australia is investing \$1.5 million in the Global Survivors Fund to support victim- and survivor-led interim reparative measures and to demonstrate leadership at a time when global investment in women and peace and security is declining.

We are horrified by the 87 per cent increase in documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence over two years. Behind every verified case are countless survivors whose suffering remains invisible. Accountability must be non-negotiable, perpetrators must be brought to justice, and survivors must have access to the full range of reparative measures they deserve.

The women and peace and security agenda is not a box to be ticked — it is a prerequisite for durable peace grounded in justice, inclusivity and human rights. Twenty-five years on from resolution 1325 (2000), we call on Member States to redouble, not walk back, their commitment to the women and peace and security agenda and to ensure that women and girls are not only protected but positioned as agents of peace.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of India.

**Mr. Parvathaneni** (India): At the outset, I congratulate Russia on assuming the presidency and thank the Russian Federation, as President of the Council, for holding today's open debate on the topic of women and peace and security. I thank the Secretary-General and other briefers for their presentations.

As we gather today to mark a quarter of a century since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), we celebrate not merely an anniversary but a transformative moment that fundamentally reshaped our understanding of peace and security, recognizing that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women.

India's commitment to this principle, however, predates this resolution by several decades. India has consistently contributed to United Nations peacekeeping as an expression of our commitment to global peace. What distinguishes India's peacekeeping legacy is not merely the scale of our contribution, but our pioneering recognition of women as indispensable agents of peace.

As early as the 1960s, long before the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), India deployed women medical officers to the Congo, marking one of the earliest instances of women serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. This was not merely a symbolic gesture but a practical acknowledgment that women's perspectives, skills and presence are essential to effective peacekeeping.

This early commitment found its more pronounced expression in 2007, when India deployed the first-ever all-female formed police unit in the history of the United Nations to Liberia. This groundbreaking initiative went far beyond enhancing security. It catalysed a transformation in Liberian society, inspiring local women to join law enforcement and participate actively in rebuilding their nation. The unit reduced crime rates while simultaneously demonstrating that women could serve as both protectors and role models. This initiative was indeed a game changer.

India's leadership in championing women peacekeepers is exemplified through the appointment of Kiran Bedi, the first woman officer of the Indian Police Service, as the first-ever female Police Adviser and Head of the United Nations Police Division in 2003.

Today, more than 160 Indian women peacekeepers serve in the field, and all-women engagement teams have been deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Abyei in the Sudan and South Sudan. The recognition accorded to Major Suman Gawani, who received the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2019 for her work in South Sudan, and to Major Radhika Sen in 2024 for her contributions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo are testaments to India's unwavering commitment to the women and peace and security agenda.

We believe it is no longer a question of whether women can do peacekeeping, but rather whether peacekeeping can do without women. Through these deployments, India has demonstrated the profound impact of women peacekeepers in peacekeeping operations. They build trust in communities and give hope to vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. Most critically, they help address gender-based violence and ensure that peace processes reflect the needs and perspectives of all segments of society. They inspire women in conflict zones by example, showing that they too can be leaders and protectors. In the words of our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaishankar, women peacekeepers are messengers of peace.

Recognizing that this transformation must extend beyond our contributions, India has invested significantly in capacity-building, particularly for women peacekeepers, especially those from the global South. The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping, established by the Indian army in New Delhi, has become a centre of excellence, training more than 12,000 troops annually. In 2016, the Centre launched a special course for female military officers, training 72 women officers from 39 different troop-contributing countries that year. This flagship course equips women peacekeepers with essential skills in operational planning, protection of civilians, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender-sensitive leadership. We have also dispatched mobile training teams to several nations worldwide.

I am happy to recall that in February 2025, India hosted the International Conference for Women Peacekeepers from the Global South, bringing together women peacekeepers from 35 nations. This two-day gathering examined the evolving challenges facing women in peacekeeping operations, from addressing sexual exploitation and abuse to leveraging technology for enhanced effectiveness. The conference was not merely a forum for discussion but a platform for developing actionable strategies to increase women's participation and their impact in future peace missions. More recently, in August, India hosted the United Nations Women Military Officers Course, which saw participation from 15 countries.

Every year we are unfortunately fated to listen to the delusional tirade of Pakistan against my country, especially on Jammu and Kashmir — the Indian territory they covet. Our pioneering record on the women and peace and security agenda is unblemished and unscathed. A country that bombs its own people and conducts systematic genocide can only attempt to distract the world with misdirection and hyperbole. This is a country that conducted Operation Searchlight in 1971 and sanctioned a systematic campaign of genocidal mass rape of 400,000 women citizens by its own army. The world sees through Pakistan's propaganda.

As we look ahead, India remains unwavering in its commitment to the women and peace and security agenda. We stand ready to share our expertise with partners, in particular those in the global South, fostering collective solutions to shared challenges.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

**Mr. Tammsaar** (Estonia): Let me start by welcoming this very topical open debate, and I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Executive Director Sima Bahous and Ms. Erakat for their valuable insights.

Estonia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf the European Union, and I would like to add the following.

This year, we mark two important milestones: the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) and the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. As we celebrate these achievements, we must also recognize with deep concern the global backsliding on women's rights and gender equality.

Our message must be clear: we need to accelerate, not just reiterate, our commitment to the women and peace and security agenda. Estonia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing the women and peace and security agenda across all peace and security efforts. Gender equality is not only a matter of fairness, but a cornerstone of resilient democracies and a vital element of foreign and security policy. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation is indispensable to building sustainable peace, preventing conflict and ensuring long-term stability.

Accountability must remain at the heart of our efforts. Ending impunity is essential to upholding the rights of survivors, deterring future crimes and strengthening the credibility of the women and peace and security agenda. Perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, must be brought to justice before national and international courts. On that note, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the country presiding over the Security Council in October is itself responsible for systematic torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war, many of them women, as documented in the Secretary-General's report (S/2025/556). Russia's actions are not compatible with its status as a permanent member of the Security Council and are undermining international peace and security and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

In the past five years, Estonia has taken structural steps to advance gender equality. We strongly believe that digital transformation can accelerate progress in this regard. Estonia will continue to promote women's voices in media and technology, including artificial intelligence, and to strengthen international cooperation in this field. Enhancing digital rights is also one of our priorities as a candidate for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028. Additionally, Estonia is currently preparing its fourth national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000), ensuring that the women and peace and security agenda remains embedded both in its domestic agenda and in its international policies.

Gender equality must extend to the highest levels of leadership. With elections coming up for the position of the next Secretary-General, Estonia strongly encourages Member States to nominate women candidates, because true equality can be achieved only when women are fully represented at every level of decision-making.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Czechia.

**Mr. Kulháněk** (Czechia): Twenty-five years since the adoption of the seminal resolution 1325 (2000), the women and peace and security agenda has grown in scope and relevance. However, its transformative potential remains far from fully realized. As the Secretary-General notes in his report (S/2025/556), progress on many goals related to women and peace and security is stalling or even being reversed, owing to escalating conflicts, rising authoritarianism and backlash against gender equality.

These concerning trends highlight the urgent need for coordinated, tangible action and for strengthening accountability. We commend the tireless efforts of UN-Women and other United Nations entities in supporting Member States and advancing the women and peace and security agenda globally by placing women's leadership at the core of conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.

Czechia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the women and peace and security agenda. This year, the Czech Government adopted its third national action plan, expanding its focus on gender-responsive security policies at home and abroad and enhancing national resilience. The plan builds on lessons learned and addresses current challenges, including the regional impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The arrival of hundreds of thousands of displaced Ukrainian women and children served as a stark reminder that conflict affects individuals differently based

on gender and highlighted the need to improve our crisis-response capacities through gender-sensitive approaches. Our plan also reflects the imperative to address conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence. Czechia is deeply concerned about credible reports of such crimes committed in a systematic manner in Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, the very country that is presiding over today's meeting. These grave concerns must be addressed through accountability and survivor-centred support.

Turning back to our new action plan, a notable feature of the plan is its expanded focus on contemporary security challenges — cybersecurity, disinformation, radicalization and climate-related risks — through the lens of gender. It commits to protecting and promoting the rights of all women, including reproductive rights, and the rights of LGBTQI+ persons. This broader scope reflects our recognition that gender equality must be integrated into all aspects of peace and security policy. The plan aligns with our wider foreign policy priorities, namely, the promotion and protection of human rights, gender equality, democratic governance and gender-responsive development cooperation. Inclusive partnerships are key. Cooperation with civil society organizations remains central to our approach, ensuring that our policies are informed by diverse perspectives and grounded in local realities.

As we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), Czechia calls for renewed global efforts to translate commitments into action and empower women and girls as agents of change.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

**Mrs. Jabou Bessadok** (Tunisia): At the outset, we affirm our unwavering commitment to the full and effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. Tunisia was among the first in its region to adopt a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), covering the period from 2018 to 2022. We remain committed to building on this experience through continued reforms in our justice and security sectors. Peacebuilding is deeply rooted in the Tunisian identity, nurtured by a culture of dialogue and exchange, and Tunisian women have long been pioneers in advancing equality, fostering social cohesion and contributing to national and regional stability. The courageous women of Tunisia continue to serve in United Nations peace missions, upholding the values of solidarity and professionalism that earned Tunisia the United Nations Trailblazer Award for Women Justice and Corrections Officers. Our focus is on strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making, enhancing protection against violence and integrating a gender perspective into all security policies.

We take note with concern of the findings of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2025/556), which documents the heightened risks faced by women and girls in conflict and transition contexts. As the report underscores, the accelerated drawdown of peacebuilding missions, if not accompanied by adequate transition planning, can jeopardize hard-won gains for women and girls, leaving them exposed to conflict-related sexual violence and insecurity. Tunisia supports the Secretary-General's call to ensure that gender expertise, the funding of women's organizations and protection mechanisms are fully integrated into all phases of mission transitions.

Allow me to underline one situation that remains at the core of our concerns, namely, the plight of Palestinian women living under the ongoing aggression and genocide in Gaza. Palestinian women and girls continue to face the devastating consequences of indiscriminate violence, forced displacement and collective punishment. They are paying a disproportionate price, enduring killings, destruction and the daily denial of their fundamental rights and dignity. Tunisia reiterates that peace cannot be achieved without ending the occupation, ensuring accountability for

grave violations and upholding the rights and protection of Palestinian women and girls, including their full participation in building peace and in their nation's future.

Tunisia firmly believes that the women and peace and security agenda is an imperative for achieving sustainable peace and security. We call for renewed political will, sustained financing and stronger accountability to close the persistent gap between commitments and action. We also emphasize the central role of regional organizations, civil society and especially women's networks in translating the women and peace and security agenda into tangible results on the ground.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

**Mrs. Dupuy Lasserre** (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Uruguay thanks Russia for convening this open debate in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000).

Uruguay aligns itself with the statement delivered of by the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

We reaffirm the importance of incorporating the principles of the women and peace and security agenda in tackling current challenges in this area, as women's participation and leadership are essential to achieving sustainable peace. After 10 further resolutions and 114 national action plans, we States pledged in the Pact for the Future to expedite measures to ensure the full, safe and meaningful participation of women in peace operations, recognizing that their involvement in decision-making at all levels, including in conflict prevention, resolution, mediation and peace operations, is crucial.

Uruguay is promoting women's participation in peacekeeping operations and has benefited from the support of, and active participation in, the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations. It has also implemented the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. In addition, Uruguay has played a part in developing the concept of mixed-gender engagement platoons, which seek to forge ties with local communities on the ground through, among other measures, the increased participation of women. In 2019, the first Uruguayan engagement platoon was deployed to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, thereby honouring the commitment to continue serving the United Nations.

In the past 25 years, women's access to rights in post-conflict settings and their presence in positions of leadership have increased. Our first national action plan resulted in robust coordination among all national actors and made a fundamental contribution in the form of the understanding that the women and peace and security agenda transcends conflict and post-conflict environments, since it applies to the building and sustaining of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. We must apply novel approaches that move away from gender stereotypes and discriminatory societal norms that limit women's active participation in society, including in mediation and negotiation processes. Uruguay is currently developing its second national plan, seeking to ensure that it is designed and implemented in a way that acknowledges women's contribution to resolving conflicts and challenges in the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a zone of peace, which is committed to resolving conflicts peacefully and to rejecting the use of force. This does not exempt us from various threats to our peace and security. In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to this agenda.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

**Ms. Chan Valverde** (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Twenty-five years ago, we recognized that women's participation on equal terms and their full inclusion are essential to international peace and security. That notwithstanding, the women and peace and security agenda must take on fresh challenges such as cyberthreats and artificial intelligence. In this regard, allow me to highlight two aspects.

First, cyberspace has become a battlefield that is muzzling women peacebuilders. Technology-enabled gender-based violence such as online harassment, disinformation campaigns and deepfake videos is being directed at women human rights defenders, journalists and mediators and is undermining their participation in peace processes. Furthermore, cyberattacks against hospitals and communications networks disproportionately affect women as primary caregivers. Costa Rica urges Member States to integrate cybersecurity into their national action plans as measures for combating online gender-based violence, with a view to bridging the digital divide and shielding women activists in the digital space.

Secondly, the lack of governance of the military uses of artificial intelligence is a threat to international peace and security. Autonomous weapons systems are accelerating life-and-death decisions to beyond human response times, heightening the risk of miscalculation and inadvertent escalation. Algorithmic biases are replicating gender stereotypes and jeopardizing the principle of distinction.

Costa Rica urges the Secretary-General to include an analysis of the gender dimensions of the military use of artificial intelligence in reports on women and peace and security and calls for a legally binding instrument to be concluded by 2026 that lays down prohibitions and regulations for autonomous weapons systems that are of capable of identifying, selecting and attacking targets without meaningful human control. Our commitment to the women and peace and security agenda must extend to the digital age.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

**Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh): I congratulate the Russian Federation on its assumption of the presidency and commend it for convening this annual debate on women and peace and security.

In Bangladesh, during last year's popular mass uprising, which ended decades-long misrule, women stood shoulder to shoulder with men. They are now celebrated as our July daughters. This has proved once again that peace and justice can never flourish without women at the forefront. Taking inspiration from their valiant participation, the interim Government has prioritized gender equality as one key element in the reform agenda.

Our commitment to women and peace and security is historic. Resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted during Bangladesh's term on the Council. We chaired the Women, Peace and Security Chiefs of Defence Network from 2022 to 2023 and conducted annual courses on women and peace and security at our national training institute. Today, 481 Bangladeshi women peacekeepers wear blue helmets. At the Berlin Peacekeeping Ministerial earlier this year, we pledged to deploy more women to future missions.

It is undeniable that, across the world, women and girls remain disproportionately affected by wars and conflicts. We are deeply worried about the plight of Palestinian women and girls in Gaza. In our region, we also have witnessed the traumatic experience of Rohingya women and girls, who are being subjected to systematic torture before being displaced from Myanmar. These realities are proof that we are still lagging far behind in realizing our commitments. As we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) and the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, our promise must be translated into practice as we address these stark realities. In this connection, allow me to highlight a few points.

First, political discrimination and economic disparity are often root causes of conflicts. We can address this problem by empowering women through innovative financing and business models such as social business and microcredit.

Secondly, in the post-conflict reconstruction phase, we must ensure the inclusive and equitable treatment of, and decent work for, women.

Thirdly, women's equal access to digital technologies must be ensured. Cyberharassment, bullying and technology-facilitated abuse must be addressed through law, policy and practice.

Last but not least, adequate, predictable and sustained financing for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda must be ensured. This is particularly important in the context of the ongoing liquidity crisis and possible cost cuts across the United Nations system.

In closing, let me quote the words of the Secretary-General that we have often echoed in this Chamber: "Women's full, equal and meaningful participation in building peace must be the norm — not an afterthought." In the same vein, we must work together to enforce women's protection and ensure gender-balanced participation in peace operations.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador.

**Mrs. González López** (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the convening of this important annual debate.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security. In our national capacity, we would like to make the following observations.

Twenty-five years ago, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000). What was then a visionary act is today an outstanding obligation to millions of women and girls worldwide. In a context in which conflicts are multiplying and humanitarian crises are worsening, it is women and girls who continue to pay the highest price. Failing to recognize them as agents of peace is tantamount to abandoning the prospect of sustainable peace.

The absence of women at the negotiation tables is not only a gap in representation; it is also a gap in legitimacy that weakens agreements and erodes peace. Although evidence shows that inclusive processes are more robust and enduring, women are still too often reduced to victims instead of being recognized as peacebuilders and leaders.

This year, while we acknowledge the progress and achievements made, we must also be candid. Commitments remain far from being fulfilled in practice, and systemic challenges that we cannot ignore persist. Many international frameworks continue to lack a gender perspective. Resources allocated to ensure the full and effective participation of women remain insufficient, and financing gaps have widened, undermining the international community's ability to deliver consistent and sustainable responses in conflict settings.

The lack of financing does not necessarily stem from resource constraints but from political decisions that call into question the effectiveness and legitimacy of this agenda. El Salvador stresses that the principles of the agenda must be integrated across all Council resolutions, particularly those mandating peacekeeping operations. Only then can we ensure that this is not a rhetorical commitment but an effective practice that translates into training, deployment and accountability of personnel on the ground.

The credibility of the Council does not depend on the number of resolutions it adopts but on its true ability to prevent conflicts and secure lasting peace. We therefore urge members to take decisive measures to ensure the full incorporation of the agenda into all mandates, backed by adequate resources and accountability mechanisms that guarantee tangible results on the ground.

Consistent with this commitment, El Salvador has mainstreamed the women and peace and security agenda throughout its national policies, establishing the National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) more than a decade ago. With United Nations support, we launched the Women Guardians of Peace project, which strengthens the capacities of women in priority communities. We have also introduced the Women Peacebuilders programme of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. And, in October last year, we rolled out the virtual course on the women and peace and security agenda.

For El Salvador, these initiatives are not isolated projects but part of a national effort to make the women and peace and security agenda a living commitment. Our experience confirms that when women lead, reconciliation is deeper, social cohesion stronger and peace more enduring.

Finally, while we welcome this meeting, let us remember that peace is not achieved through statements but through actions and courageous decisions. Today we call on the Council to ensure that these words do not fade into the echo of this Chamber but become actions that transform the lives of all women and girls where war, violence and insecurity still deny them a future.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

**Mr. Utebaev** (Kyrgyzstan): I wish to congratulate the Russian Federation on its assumption of the presidency for this month and thank it for organizing the open debate on women and peace and security. We also thank the Secretary-General and Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN-Women, for their valuable insights and the other briefers for their statements.

The Kyrgyz Republic fully aligns itself with the global women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent related resolutions. We firmly believe that peace is neither sustainable nor inclusive without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making, from local communities to national leadership.

Kyrgyzstan has made tangible progress in advancing gender equality and empowering women in public life, peacebuilding and governance. In the most recent local elections, women secured more than 42 per cent of seats in local councils, a historic achievement made possible through gender-sensitive electoral reforms. We have adopted a State programme on women's leadership until 2030 and a new gender equality strategy, both aimed at enhancing women's participation in governance, public administration and economic life. The national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) continues to guide our efforts in promoting the participation of women in the security sector and in peacebuilding at the community level. Furthermore, we have ratified the International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) to combat violence and harassment in the world of work, demonstrating our zero-tolerance policy on gender-based violence.

Women in Kyrgyzstan are actively contributing to peace and social cohesion, especially in rural and multi-ethnic communities. Through women's councils, civil society initiatives and local mediation platforms, Kyrgyz women are helping to prevent conflicts, counter domestic violence and build trust between communities and institutions. We emphasize that investing in local women-led initiatives is key to sustainable peace at the grassroots level.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, a landmark commitment that recognized for the first time the central role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in building lasting peace. Kyrgyzstan is proud to be recognized as a regional pioneer in Central Asia in the implementation of this historic resolution. My country is also planning a high-level event in November of this year with several aims: to showcase Kyrgyzstan's experience as a model for women's participation in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and reintegration processes; to strengthen cooperation with UN-Women and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and other international partners; to promote the establishment of sustainable mechanisms to support women-led initiatives in peace and security; and to raise awareness of best practices in repatriation and community reintegration in line with international humanitarian and human rights standards. We warmly welcome the participation of United Nations Member States, experts, civil society leaders and women peacebuilders.

In conclusion, Kyrgyzstan remains steadfast in its commitment to building a peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal society. We stand ready to share our experience and learn from others in advancing this vital agenda.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mongolia.

**Ms. Mandakhai Batsuren** (Mongolia): My delegation sincerely thanks the Russian Federation for organizing this important annual debate, as well as the Secretary-General, UN-Women and civil society representatives for their important briefings.

This open debate is distinct as it takes place on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Security Council's adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2025/556) reveals that, despite remarkable progress and positive beginnings in the field, there are trends of regression and stagnation across major goals of the agenda that cannot be ignored. Overall, women's participation in peace processes remains low, far below the minimum target set by the United Nations, and conflict and crises are reversing progress achieved towards global gender goals. We are especially concerned about the escalating conflict and militarism, impacting more women and girls through human rights violations and the growing backlash, and the steep rise in violence, in particular gender-based violence. Hence, the anniversaries of these global breakthrough documents on gender equality and women's empowerment must be viewed as an opportunity to evaluate past achievements, reflect on further actions and alleviate the effects of forthcoming funding cuts.

Mongolia supports women's full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in peacebuilding processes. In Mongolia, since 2024, women members of Parliament represent 25 per cent of the State Great Hural, positioning Mongolia as one of the leading countries in Asia for women's representation in Parliament.

Mongolia has been participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations for more than 20 years and is dedicated to the implementation of women and peace and security agenda. Currently, the proportion of female officers among our peacekeepers is 14 per cent, which is very close to the United Nations target of 15 per cent by 2027. Subsequently, last month, Mongolia was awarded with women-specific personal protective equipment, in recognition of its accomplishment with regard to the uniformed gender parity strategy target and the deployment of female personnel in operational roles.

Moreover, in 2022, we hosted an international conference under the auspices of the President of Mongolia bringing together female peacekeepers and officials from more than 30 countries and led a fruitful discussion on the increasing role of women's

full and meaningful participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The next conference will take place in 2027 in Ulaanbaatar.

As climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, leading to increased poverty, hunger, violence and forced displacement, Mongolia is endeavouring to be proactive in this field. In this regard, we invite Council members to the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to be held from 17 to 28 August 2026, in Ulaanbaatar, to contribute to enriching the implementation of the UNCCD with gender-responsive climate action.

Lastly, we are fully endorsing the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report and will start reviewing the potential of meeting the minimum targets for funding for gender equality recommended by the United Nations and other forums, anchoring action plans on women and peace and security into national law and ensuring that these plans are fully funded and regularly monitored.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Romania.

**Mr. Feruță** (Romania): My delegation is fully aligned with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

This year's double celebration — 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 25 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) — cannot be merely symbolic. This moment must be dedicated to both assessment and re-commitment. We must move forward through responsible action, both nationally and collectively, in support of the full normative framework constructed around the women and peace and security agenda and around gender equality in general. We are all fully aware that sustainable peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men.

In Romania, based on the lessons we learned in a first iteration, we have adopted our second national plan and strategy for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda within the 2024-2028 timeline. In pursuit of a programmatic approach that is adapted to local realities, our strategy was developed in a multi-stakeholder format, which brought together government and parliamentary representatives, civil society and academia. This format holds regular consultations within a permanent group for national implementation.

The Romanian Ministry of Defence is our national coordinator for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and plays a key role in our national efforts directed towards supporting women in participating in peacebuilding missions, in holding leadership roles within national defence, public order and security institutions; and in facilitating their continuous and substantial participation within negotiation processes. Among other projects, the Romanian Ministry of Defence initiated the She for Romania campaign, in support of young women who choose to pursue a career within the public order, defence or national security sectors.

Gender parity principles are actively promoted within our Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well, in which 49 per cent of management roles and 40 per cent of heads of mission positions are held by women. We are striving to do even better. Moreover, as a member of the Human Rights Council and as a Vice-President of the seventieth session of Commission on the Status of Women, we are actively committed to the promotion of human rights as a vector of foreign policy.

The Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Security Council, tasked with defending international peace and security, acted in direct contradiction to the Charter of the United Nations when it decided to attack Ukraine, a sovereign United

Nations Member State. I pay tribute to the heroism and sacrifice of Ukrainian women defending their country, their communities and their families against this aggression.

In August, Romania joined the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Alliance. We reiterate our full support for the Ukrainian presidency of this Alliance, as well as our full commitment in support of its objectives.

Even as we face tremendous international hardships, acting to fulfil our commitments under the women and peace and security agenda and in respect of women's rights at every level should remain our consistent priority.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Jordan.

**Mr. Obeidat** (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by thanking the Russian Federation for convening this open debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women and the briefers for their valuable contributions this morning.

Jordan continues to implement its national and international commitments within the framework of the women and peace and security agenda, based on its national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which is considered an advanced model in the region thanks to its integrated coordination between government institutions and civil society organizations. The national plan for the period 2022–2025 stems from Jordan's firm commitment to the women and peace and security agenda and to promoting women's participation in all stages of peacebuilding, crisis management, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Our plan is based on four main pillars: participation, prevention, protection and recovery and relief. It includes specific objectives, including increasing women's representation in leadership positions in the military and security sectors, ensuring preventive interventions to prevent violence and intimidation, strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to protect women and girls, and ensuring the integration of women into emergency services.

The plan is based on effective partnership between government agencies and civil society organizations, with the support of international partners. It includes clear performance indicators and a dedicated budget to ensure effective implementation and close monitoring of progress in achieving equality and promoting sustainable peace and security. National efforts have resulted in a tangible increase in the participation of Jordanian women in vital sectors, including in the security and military sectors. Jordanian women's participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions has also increased significantly in recent years. Government institutions have seen an increase in women's integration in senior political and administrative positions and in their participation in elected councils. These efforts are in line with the path for political, administrative and economic modernization with a view to expanding women's participation in political life and their effective representation in the economic sphere and decision-making positions at the national and local levels. The Government has included women's empowerment in the Economic Modernization Vision 2023–2033 through the preparation of a comprehensive national survey plan that addressed relevant legislative, institutional and economic aspects, including equal pay, financial inclusion, digital transformation, education and training, emphasizing that women's empowerment is a key pillar in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, which promotes the goals and objectives of the women and peace and security agenda. The Kingdom also launched the National Social Protection Strategy 2025–2033, which is based on the themes of dignity and empowerment and on enhancing women's economic and social participation, especially for the most vulnerable, by improving opportunities for education, training, decent work and basic services.

We cannot address the women and peace and security agenda without mentioning the reality of women in conflict zones. Women continue to pay the highest price. The latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2025/556) indicated that 7 out of 10 women who have lost their lives in armed conflicts in the past two years were women in Gaza, who have faced, and continue to face, tragic humanitarian conditions imposed by the illegal occupation, from enduring childbirth in shelters, under bombardment and without anaesthesia, to the deprivation of the most basic elements of healthcare for mothers and children and the systematic targeting of hospitals, including maternity facilities. Female journalists, especially Palestinian ones, face campaigns of intimidation, mutilation, targeting and deliberate killing. The plight of women and girls in Gaza clearly illustrates the close link between women's issues and peace and security and highlights the impact of the occupation and its condemnable policies in perpetuating human suffering and preventing the achievement of security and stability. In Jordan, we welcome the hope created by United States President Donald Trump's proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza as a prelude to a lasting peace based on the two-State solution.

In conclusion, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) is not just an opportunity for assessment but a call for renewed commitment and the promotion of collective action. Jordan will continue to believe that protection, accountability and empowerment, affirming and measuring participation, ending violence and impunity and community awareness, especially for young people, are among the pillars that will enable us to achieve this.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Montenegro.

**Ms. Radulovic** (Montenegro): Montenegro aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security and the European Union and wishes to highlight three key messages in its national capacity.

First, as we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) and the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, we are reminded that the women and peace and security agenda is not a rhetorical aspiration but a binding obligation. Conflict-related sexual violence remains widespread, and women and girls all over the world continue to face stigma, exclusion and a lack of justice. Montenegro therefore strongly supports the call to strengthen accountability and use the full range of Security Council tools, from sanctions to arms embargoes, against the perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict.

Secondly, at the national level, Montenegro recently hosted a high-level conference that brought together Governments, international organizations and civil society to review progress on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The message was clear: women's participation in peace and security is not optional but a precondition for sustainable peace and must be institutionalized across all security structures.

Thirdly, again at the national level, Montenegro is implementing its second national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) for the period 2022–2027. We are strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring that women are represented at all levels of decision-making in our defence and security institutions as we keep investing in training, education and leadership opportunities. Today women constitute more than half of the civilian staff in the Ministry of Defence, with growing participation in the armed forces and international peacekeeping missions.

Many challenges remain. Women and girls continue to face discrimination, violence and barriers to leadership. We must therefore multiply efforts to remove institutional obstacles, provide predictable funding for women's organizations and guarantee accountability. The women and peace and security agenda must evolve

to address emerging challenges, including climate change, digital technologies and disinformation, which disproportionately affect women and girls. That is why we welcome and value the important contribution of UN-Women to this debate. Its briefing ensures that our discussion remains grounded in the realities of women and girls across the globe.

In conclusion, our collective credibility depends on turning commitments into measurable results. We must ensure that all peace processes integrate gender perspectives and enable the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Only then can peace be just, inclusive and lasting. Montenegro remains fully committed to this agenda and will continue to work with partners to advance the vision of a world where women are not only protected but empowered as agents of peace.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

**Mr. Nguyen** (Viet Nam): My delegation thanks the Russian Federation for convening this important open debate and all the briefers for their insights this morning.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) — a landmark document that transformed the international peace and security agenda. For the first time, the international community recognized that sustainable peace is only possible when women are full, equal and meaningful participants in all decision-making processes. Yet, 25 years on, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of war, from displacement and sexual violence to loss of livelihoods. Their voices remain underrepresented in peace processes despite their tireless efforts to rebuild communities. Before resolution 1325 (2000), women made up barely 1 or 2 per cent of all peacekeepers. That number has increased almost tenfold — some progress but still far from enough.

In this connection, my delegation would like to highlight the following points.

First and foremost, prevention is the best protection. Addressing the root causes of conflicts is essential to safeguarding women's rights and dignity.

Secondly, women must be at the heart of peace operations. Their leadership in peacekeeping, mediation and reconstruction helps to strengthen trust and accelerate recovery and makes peace last. Gender perspectives must be integrated into the mandates and activities of all United Nations peace operations to ensure that the needs of women and girls are met.

Thirdly, women's economic empowerment must be prioritized. We echo the Secretary-General's calls to transform women's economic security through inclusive employment policies, social protection systems and access to finance, which are vital tools for conflict prevention, recovery and resilience.

Fourthly, investing in women's digital capacity and safety is essential, not only to breach the digital divide but to ensure that women lead and shape peacebuilding efforts in an increasingly connected world.

Viet Nam has long recognized the role of women throughout our history in the struggle for national independence, in post-war reconstruction and in nation-building and development. Vietnamese women have always been the vital agents of peace and development, and today, they serve with distinction in leadership positions at home and as peacekeepers, carrying forward a proud legacy of resilience and contribution. From spearheading resolution 1889 (2009) to the 2020 Hanoi Commitment to Action during our membership of the Security Council, Viet Nam's support for the women and peace and security agenda remains unwavering. We will continue to work closely

with all partners to ensure that women are not only beneficiaries of peace but also its architects.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines.

**Mr. Manalo** (Philippines): The Philippines expresses its appreciation to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation for convening this event.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, and wishes to highlight the following points in our national capacity.

To commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), I had the honour to chair the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security, held in the Philippines last year. The Conference, in which 75 countries participated, adopted the Pasay Declaration, underscoring our shared commitment to the women and peace and security agenda and the interlinkages between gender, peace, security and climate.

The Philippine experience demonstrates that building and sustaining peace requires constant learning and adaptation. Our journey shows that progress is possible with a balanced pursuit of strategies, actions and resources that match commitments and tailored solutions.

The national action plan on women, peace and security for 2017–2022 affirmed that the meaningful participation of women is indispensable. Women were not only present at the peace table but drafted agreements that, for example, helped to shape the Bangsamoro Organic Law in the southern Philippines, and played crucial roles in the decommissioning process.

The current action plan for 2023–2033 adopts a rights-based and forward-looking approach. It strengthens accountability through clearer monitoring mechanisms; recognizes diverse groups; integrates women and peace and security into gender and development frameworks; responds to emerging challenges such as climate change, health security and digital threats; and restores civil society as a full partner in shaping and sustaining the agenda.

The Philippines also underscores the importance of the localization of plans and strategies. For example, the Bangsamoro regional action plan on women, peace and security illustrates how adapting strategies to the local context strengthens resilience in post-conflict settings. It places women's leadership at the centre of peacebuilding, governance and recovery and links peace and security with economic empowerment, social inclusion, climate change and cybersecurity. Led by the Bangsamoro Women Commission and broadly supported by stakeholders and international partners, the Bangsamoro regional action plan on women, peace and security is a model of how resolution 1325 (2000) can be localized in fragile and post-conflict contexts, with women as equal partners in shaping and sustaining it.

From our experiences, we drew three key lessons for advancing the women and peace and security agenda in countries. First, strategies must be pursued in balance. Secondly, commitments must be backed by strong systems of accountability. Thirdly, strategies must be localized, or at least adaptable.

For the Philippines, women, peace and security is not an external mandate but an intrinsic part of our peace and development agenda. We remain committed to advancing this agenda nationally, regionally and globally because peace is most sustainable when women's voices and leadership are at its core.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

**Mr. Babo Soares** (Timor-Leste): Timor-Leste expresses its deep appreciation for the convening of this annual open debate on women and peace and security.

As we commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), Timor-Leste reaffirms its dedication to advancing women's central roles in conflict prevention, resolution and sustainable peacebuilding.

The women and peace and security framework is anchored on four pillars: prevention of conflict and violence against women and girls, protection of their rights, equitable participation in decision-making and gender-responsive relief and recovery. Drawing from our post-conflict experience, in which women have driven community healing and economic progress amid fragility, we align with the Secretary-General's 2025 report on women and peace and security (S/2025/556), which documents advancements alongside setbacks, such as escalating conflict-related sexual violence and attacks on women in public spheres.

To counter these, Timor-Leste recommends that Member States and the United Nations prioritize allocating at least 1 per cent of official development assistance to women's organizations in conflict zones and 15 per cent to gender equality programmes, with transparent tracking to ensure funds reach least developed countries (LDCs) and fragile States such as ours.

Timor-Leste urgently calls for the comprehensive integration of the women and peace and security agenda across all United Nations peace operations, including during withdrawals and transitions, to safeguard the gains made in gender equality and women's involvement. Our experiences with missions such as the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste highlight the risks of overlooking these elements in drawdowns.

We unequivocally affirm that reproductive violence, encompassing the denial of sexual and reproductive health services in conflicts, violates international law. In Timor-Leste, where rural healthcare gaps exacerbate such risks, we recommend strengthening accountability through the Arms Trade Treaty by requiring gender impact assessments for arms transfers and imposing sanctions on violators to prevent the exacerbation of abuses in vulnerable regions.

Emphasizing the protection of women's human rights defenders, who endure mounting reprisals, as evidenced by the seven cases against Council briefers in 2024, we recommend adopting a United Nations zero-tolerance protocol, including mandatory risk assessments for briefers, dedicated protection funds and streamlined visa processes for at-risk human rights defenders seeking asylum, while channelling flexible, multi-year funding to women-led groups in LDCs.

We voice grave concern over escalating resistance to gender terminology in United Nations forums, which jeopardizes established protections for women, as seen in the debate over gender-based language in resolution 2793 (2025) on Haiti (see S/PV.10009) and wider anti-gender campaigns. To mitigate this, Timor-Leste recommends establishing a Council working group to monitor and counter such pushback, ensuring women and peace and security language remains intact in all resolutions and fostering multilateral dialogues to rebuild consensus.

This forum must spotlight acute violence against women in conflicts, including Ukraine and Gaza; Afghanistan's maternal mortality crisis from Taliban-imposed restrictions on women's education; and ongoing atrocities in other countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar, the Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen, Syria and the Sahel.

In Timor-Leste, we confront persistent gender-based violence tied to our fragile recovery, and therefore recommend directing enhanced United Nations attention to LDCs and fragile States, through tailored strategies such as investing in women's

economic empowerment via land rights, vocational training and microfinance; bolstering local mechanisms such as the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, with a dedicated LDC quota; and integrating climate resilience into women and peace and security programming, given the disproportionate impact of environmental change on women in these contexts.

In addition, to amplify impact, we propose the following targeted recommendations.

First, a global women and peace and security monitoring dashboard should be launched, co-led by the United Nations and civil society, to track progress in LDCs and fragile States, with real-time data on women's participation in peace talks and resource allocation.

Secondly, gender quotas should be mandated in the leadership of United Nations peace operations, aiming for 50 per cent of those in senior roles to be women by 2030, to model inclusive practices.

Thirdly, an emergency response fund for women in fragile States should be established, providing rapid grants for protection during crises, administered through partnerships with local women's networks.

Fourthly, women and peace and security should be integrated into the Pact for the Future, with specific commitments to ensure access to technology that empowers women human rights defenders against digital harassment.

Fifthly, bilateral and multilateral donors should be encouraged to prioritize women and peace and security in aid to LDCs, conditioning support on national action plans that address intersecting issues such as poverty, displacement and climate insecurity.

To end, Timor-Leste is committed to partnering with the international community to translate these recommendations into action, thereby honouring the vision of resolution 1325 (2000) for a more equitable world.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the representative of Lithuania.

**Mr. Paulauskas** (Lithuania): I have the honour to deliver a joint statement on behalf of Poland and Lithuania, reflecting also the shared position of Ukraine.

We extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General, António Guterres, for his annual report (S/2025/556) and for the dedicated work that went into its preparation, as well as to the Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, for her briefing.

We meet today in this annual open debate on women and peace and security to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), a landmark that promised to place women at the heart of peace and security.

Yet, it is impossible to ignore the bitter irony that this very debate is chaired by Russia, a State that has trampled the Charter of the United Nations, shattered peace in Europe and weaponized sexual violence against women and girls.

Just this Sunday, Russia launched a large-scale aerial assault involving more than 50 missiles and approximately 500 drones across nine regions of Ukraine. Four people, including a 15-year-old girl, were killed in Lviv, and one civilian died in Zaporizhzhia — yet another stark reminder of Russia's disregard for the women and peace and security agenda.

The Secretary-General's report notes that, in 2024, a record 676 million women lived within 50 kilometres of a deadly conflict event — the highest figure since the 1990s. Between 2023 and 2024, the number of women and children killed in armed conflicts quadrupled. Seven out of every ten women killed in conflicts worldwide died in Gaza. In Ukraine, women and girls account for 31 per cent of civilian casualties. In Myanmar and the Sudan, women make up a devastating share of those killed and wounded.

Women human rights defenders and peacebuilders are under relentless assault. They are harassed, jailed, threatened and murdered. This is not an abstract concern; it is a global crisis.

The alarming rise in conflict-related sexual violence is another shameful reminder of our collective failure. The Secretary-General has verified a 25 per cent increase in such cases in 2024 — from Afghanistan to Myanmar, from Syria to the Central African Republic and from Palestine to Ukraine. Behind each figure lies not a statistic, but a story of shattered dignity and deliberate cruelty inflicted as a weapon of war.

And still, we see systematic repression. In Afghanistan, the Taliban's edicts have erased women and girls from public life. They have been denied education, stripped of work and locked out of the future. The report warns that maternal mortality there may rise by 50 per cent before 2026, as women are barred from medical training and health services collapse. This is not governance; it is a deliberate exclusion of half of the population from the life of the nation.

The Secretary-General's latest report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2025/389) provides clear evidence of more than 200 cases committed by Russian forces against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians. Notably, Russia has been formally placed on notice for possible inclusion in the next report, owing to its systematic denial of United Nations monitoring access.

We strongly condemn Russia's war of aggression and the appalling accounts of sexual violence committed by its forces — women raped in their homes, girls violated in occupied territories and survivors silenced by fear and stigma. Sexual violence as a weapon of war is not an accident; it is a deliberate strategy of domination and humiliation. And if we fail to hold perpetrators accountable, the cycle of violence will thrive.

Even in the darkest times, women show the greatest resilience. Ukrainian women — from soldiers and paramedics to community leaders and volunteers — are standing at the front lines of the national defence. They are not only protecting Ukraine's sovereignty but also the universal right of every woman, everywhere, to live free from fear, violence and oppression.

The report reminds us that, while setbacks are severe, women-led peace initiatives — from local mediators in West Africa to women's advisory boards in Syria and the Sudan — prove that women's participation makes peace more likely and more durable. We must invest in these efforts rather than in weapons.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Namibia.

**Mr. Naanda** (Namibia): As we gather here today in this Chamber, we commemorate a significant milestone: the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, adopted during Namibia's presidency of the Security Council in October 2000.

Namibia holds this resolution close to its heart and recognizes the profound impact it has had on global efforts, and the paradigm shift it has brought about towards the

enhancement of the equal participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction.

As reaffirmed last week on 24 September by the President of the Republic of Namibia, Her Excellency Mrs. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (see A/80/PV.7), Namibia remains deeply committed to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and stands ready to deepen its commitment to ensure that the women and peace and security agenda continues to thrive and make a tangible impact on the lives of women.

Over the past 25 years, we have witnessed significant progress in the implementation of the resolution. However, we are well aware that our work is still far from done, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report (S/2025/556). We call on all Member States of the United Nations to take action to address setbacks in the implementation of the resolution.

Namibia will host two high-level events to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). The first will be held in Windhoek, Namibia, in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, from 16 to 17 October, under the theme "25 years of 1325: honouring the Legacy and Advancing the Women and Peace and Security Agenda". The second will be held here in New York, during the afternoon of 27 October, under the theme "Women at the Table: Advancing Inclusive Decision-Making and Peace and Security". This event will be followed by a reception in the evening. We look forward to the participation of all Member States in these events to collectively renew commitments to the women and peace and security agenda, share good practices and strengthen networks.

Finally, as we look to the next 25 years, Namibia emphasizes the urgent need to ensure that the original principles of resolution 1325 (2000) are not only upheld but fully realized. We must preserve the integrity of the women and peace and security agenda and not allow it to be undermined or diluted.

It is in this context that Namibia will review its first national action plan on women and peace and security, with a view to developing a stronger second action plan. Additionally, through the International Women's Peace Centre, established in Namibia, we will continue to advocate for the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and to foster regional leadership, intergenerational action and strategic partnerships.

Together, we will reinforce a simple yet profound truth: when women lead, peace follows.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cambodia.

**Mr. Mao** (Cambodia): First, I would like to express my appreciation to you, Madam President, for convening today's crucial debate on women and peace and security. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General and all the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Having emerged from decades of conflict, Cambodia knows that lasting peace is impossible without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Women are not only victims of conflict but also powerful agents of peace, reconciliation and development.

In this connection, I wish to highlight the following points.

At the national level, guided by the win-win policy and the Pentagonal Strategy, the Royal Government of Cambodia continues to prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, in collaboration with other

international institutions, has strengthened women's leadership and participation at all levels of public life, in line with our conviction that women are the backbone of the national economy and social development. Cambodia's second national action plan on women, peace and security for 2024–2028 reaffirms its commitment to promoting women's participation in peacebuilding, preventing gender-based violence and integrating a gender perspective into security and development policy.

At the regional level, Cambodia strongly supports the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security, which enhances women's role in addressing traditional and emerging security challenges. At the global level, since 2006 Cambodia has deployed more than 10,000 peacekeepers, including more than 800 women, to United Nations missions. Their courage and dedication in humanitarian demining, medical support and engineering reflect Cambodia's determination to empower women as builders of peace, both at home and abroad. Today, more than 600 Cambodian peacekeepers, including more than 100 women, are serving in five missions, protecting civilians, clearing landmines and rebuilding communities devastated by war.

As we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), Cambodians pay tribute to women worldwide, who continue to lead efforts to prevent conflict and rebuild societies. We also call for stronger protection of women and girls from conflict-related sexual violence, and we urge all parties to fully respect international law and the women and peace and security agenda.

In conclusion, Cambodia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing the women and peace and security agenda, empowering women, ensuring their active participation in decision-making and building a more peaceful, equitable and inclusive world for all.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bahrain.

**Mr. Alrowaiei** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate the delegation of the Russian Federation on its assumption of the Security Council presidency for the month of October and on organizing this important open debate on women and peace and security. We also express our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Her Excellency Ms. Sima Bahous, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women, and all the briefers for their valuable statements and their continued efforts to promote international peace and security.

Our meeting today coincides with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which marked a milestone in the promotion of women's equal participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Existing challenges, which include the rise in armed conflicts, a waning commitment to international law and the persistence of conflict-related sexual violence and the attendant impunity, undermine the gains made over a quarter of a century and threaten international peace and security. In his most recent report on women and peace and security (S/2025/556), the Secretary-General noted that more than 600 million women and girls currently live in conflict-affected areas. This is a shocking figure that reflects the scale of the humanitarian tragedy, especially given the increasing restrictions on humanitarian assistance and the decline in funding for basic services for women and girls in crisis areas.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and follow-up by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms its commitment to strengthening the implementation of national and international commitments related to the women and peace and security agenda. Bahrain believes

that there is a need to support efforts to genuinely empower women in all areas related to peace and development. In this context, the Kingdom, through the Supreme Council for Women, has strengthened its efforts to support and promote women's advancement nationally and internationally, through qualitative initiatives, most notably the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment, in cooperation with UN-Women. The initiative aims to highlight outstanding contributions to global efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

The Kingdom of Bahrain stresses the importance of complying with the principles of international law and the need for all parties to conflict to abide by the relevant international conventions and instruments, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to protect women and girls from all forms of violence. In the face of the grave challenges that the world is witnessing, given the painful humanitarian dimensions of the catastrophic circumstances suffered by women and children, the Kingdom of Bahrain stresses the importance of redoubling efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully, guarantee the unconditional flow of humanitarian aid and provide protection to innocent civilians.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that the women and peace and security agenda is not a circumstantial commitment; rather, it is an essential pillar of any just and lasting peace and of the achievement of gender parity in the development and humanitarian domains, thereby contributing to building more stable and secure societies.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

**Mr. Muhamad** (Malaysia): Malaysia congratulates the Russian Federation on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for October. We also thank you, President, for convening this important open debate. We express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and the briefers for their valuable insights.

Thirty years ago in Beijing, the global community made a landmark commitment to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Five years later, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000), giving rise to the women and peace and security agenda. These commitments remain as vital today as they were then. Today, conflicts and global crises continue to disproportionately affect women. Therefore, women's participation in peace processes and political solutions remains indispensable and must be strengthened with a view to building sustainable peace. Their leadership helps to shape more inclusive and comprehensive policies that benefit entire communities. Malaysia reaffirms that women's full, equal and meaningful participation is vital for advancing lasting political solutions.

At the regional level, Malaysia is working closely with member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in advancing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. Domestically, Malaysia has launched its first national action plan on women and peace and security, embedding women's leadership role into peacebuilding, conflict prevention and national security efforts.

In conclusion, Malaysia remains steadfast in its conviction that enduring peace is grounded in fairness, justice and inclusive participation. In a world facing deepening divisions, let us normalize rather than marginalize women's full, equal, safe and meaningful participation in peace processes and decision-making.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

**Mr. Chaivaivid** (Thailand): Thailand wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Russian Federation for convening this very important open debate.

This year marks 25 years since the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. We have made significant progress in protecting women in conflict situations and promoting their meaningful participation in shaping peace. Yet, new challenges demand that we accelerate this momentum.

Today, as conflicts increase across regions and conflict-related sexual violence continues to pose a threat to humankind's collective peace and security, Thailand shares the international community's concern about the disproportionate impacts on women and girls. We need to redouble our efforts to implement the women and peace and security agenda and deliver concrete outcomes on the ground.

I wish to reaffirm Thailand's unwavering commitment to advancing this important agenda, guided by four key priorities.

First, effective national implementation is essential. Thailand is finalizing a national action plan on women and peace and security for 2024–2027, guided by gender equality, a human rights-based approach and the diverse needs of women. Through this national action plan, we aim to demonstrate how strong national ownership can drive the global women and peace and security agenda and deliver concrete benefits for our local communities.

Secondly, implementation must be holistic and coordinated across the peace continuum. The women and peace and security principles must be well integrated into every stage of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. This requires the United Nations system to strengthen coherence and ensure that gender perspectives are systematically mainstreamed.

Thirdly, women's participation and leadership must remain at the heart of all peace and security efforts. Thailand has turned this commitment into action by consistently deploying Thai women personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in line with the United Nations uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028.

Lastly, multi-stakeholder partnership is also crucial. Thailand will continue to work with all stakeholders to promote capacity-building, utilize technological advancement and ensure public awareness to create an environment for women to fully engage in peace and security.

In conclusion, Thailand reaffirms its determination to work with all partners to ensure that peace is not only negotiated and maintained but also owned, shaped and sustained by women.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Moldova.

**Mr. Leucă** (Republic of Moldova): My delegation thanks you, Madam President, for convening this important debate. We also thank the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women and the briefers for their insights on the matter.

I am delighted to reflect today on a truly historic moment: the twenty-fifth anniversary of the groundbreaking resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, which is a milestone that underscores not only the vital importance of women's leadership and participation in peace and security processes but also the urgent need to fully address the gendered impact of armed conflicts and violence.

The Republic of Moldova is fully committed to the women and peace and security agenda, and we recognize that women's leadership, participation and empowerment are essential for sustainable peace and inclusive development. The

Government of the Republic of Moldova is advancing the women and peace and security agenda through its second-generation national action plan 2023–2027 for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan mainstreams gender across security and defence policies, engaging both sectoral institutions and key ministers, and sets concrete actions to integrate gender equality and peacebuilding, promote women's leadership and economic empowerment and ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making at the national and the international levels.

In this context, several areas of implementation are to be highlighted.

First, through conflict-sensitive, area-based programmes, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is fostering trust, resilience and social cohesion on both banks of the Nistru River. These efforts are supporting the livelihoods of women, including Ukrainian refugees, by strengthening women-led businesses, boosting small and medium enterprises and competitiveness and advancing peacebuilding through women's leadership. They are also enhancing gender-responsive policies, providing a social safety net and expanding opportunities for confidence-building measures.

Secondly, by strengthening and expanding the network of insider mediators, half of whom are women, the Republic of Moldova is fostering dialogue, mediation and cooperation on both banks of the Nistru River to effectively address local challenges.

Thirdly, we are actively enhancing women's participation in international peacekeeping missions. Since last year, Moldovan women have been deployed as part of the national contingent to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and to the Kosovo Force and have served as individual military observers. To date, 15 female military personnel have been seconded to contingents, and 36 women have served as military observers. Thus, my country is exceeding the benchmark established by the United Nations.

Fourthly, legislative reforms in 2024 introduced the recognition of childcare leave as part of military service, ensuring that it counts towards parents' entitlements. While both parents benefit from this measure, it particularly supports women by helping them to balance family and professional life.

As a result of these achievements, women now represent 28 per cent of personnel in the internal affairs sector, an increase from 22 per cent in 2023, and 29 per cent of the armed forces, up from 20 per cent in 2023.

The Government of Moldova stands out from global trends in ministerial appointments. While women worldwide are often limited to social or equality portfolios, in Moldova, they lead key ministries such as justice, internal affairs, finance, health and agriculture, demonstrating a balanced and inclusive approach to leadership across critical sectors. This inclusive approach to governance directly advances the women and peace and security agenda by ensuring that women's voices shape not only social policies but also the core decisions that define national security, economic resilience and peacebuilding.

The Republic of Moldova affirms its determination to deliver. We will spare no efforts to ensure that the women and peace and security agenda is translated from aspiration into reality, strengthening women's leadership, safeguarding their rights and embedding gender equality as the core of peace and security efforts, here and now.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): The representative of Pakistan has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

**Mr. Gohar** (Pakistan): Pakistan is taking the floor to respond to the baseless remarks made by the Indian delegation.

Let me clarify at the outset that, in our earlier statement, we did not name any country, yet the occupier recognized itself. This self-identification is revealing, for only those burdened by guilt feel compelled to respond when the truth is spoken.

India's remarks are an attempt to deflect attention from its appalling record in the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The fact remains that Jammu and Kashmir is not an integral part of India. It is a disputed territory, as affirmed by Security Council resolutions, which call for a United Nations-supervised plebiscite. India accepted these resolutions and is bound under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to implement them.

The theme of today's debate — women and peace and security — is painfully relevant to occupied Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, women there have endured the worst forms of violence — rape, harassment, arbitrary detention and collective punishment — at the hands of Indian occupation forces. Their plight deserves the Council's attention.

The reference to 1971 is yet another attempt to distort history by a country known for its disinformation and its serial violations of international law. India's interference, naked aggression and military intervention in East Pakistan were a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter.

In today's India, Hindutva ideology has become State policy. Muslims, Christians, Dalits and other minorities are being persecuted with impunity. Genocide Watch warned, during a United States congressional briefing, that there were early signs and processes of genocide in the Indian state of Assam and in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

India must engage in serious introspection, accept the facts as they stand, take credible steps towards fulfilling the Council's resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, protect the minorities living in its country and stop misleading the Council.

**The President** (*spoke in Russian*): There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting.

I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until tomorrow, immediately after the adjournment of the 10012th meeting.

*The meeting was suspended at 6.10 p.m.*