Instead of using /etc/security/limits.conf, another way to set limits on system resource use is via the ulimit command

Because ulimit is a bash built-in command, its utility as a system security  
tool is limited. If users have access to GUI login tools or can log into the  
system in any way that bypasses bash (such as via SSH, depending on  
how it’s configured), restrictions imposed by ulimit become meaningless.  
Thus you should treat ulimit as a way to prevent problems because of  
*accidental*, rather than intentional, abuse of the system.

Based on above reason, you’d better use /etc/security/limits.conf instead.