

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*):

We thank Sweden for convening this debate. We value this first opportunity for interaction with Secretary-General António Guterres, to whom we reiterate Chile's support as he carries out his duties and whose proposals to improve performance in terms of peace and security, including through the establishment of an internal review group, we are following with interest.

In addition to the traditional threats to international peace and security, there are new threats that are not always of a State or military nature. Indeed, an important part of the Security Council's agenda relates to conflicts that have arisen internally. For that reason, one of the axes for action to prevent internal conflicts that can threaten international peace and security is the promotion of stable societies, where radicalization, violence and extremism have no place. Prevention should be promoted through a multidimensional and integrated approach that addresses the underlying causes of such threats, including socioeconomic, gender, ethnic, tribal, religious or ideological tensions. Such an approach should serve to reinforce the coherence of political, security and development concerns, human rights and the promotion of the rule of law.

When Chile presided over the Council two years ago, it did so with a focus on conflict prevention, with an emphasis on preventing countries in post-conflict situations from relapsing into violence. During the open debate chaired by President Michelle Bachelet on 19 January 2015 (see S/PV.7361), the point that security and development are closely interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that their presence is fundamental to sustainable peace was underscored. The importance of inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security was emphasized.

Many speakers have discussed ways to promote such an approach. In that regard, in addition to reiterating the importance of improving the Council's working methods and the synergies and flows of information between the Council and the rest of the system, we would like to highlight five measures that we believe could contribute to improving the functioning of the Council's peace and security system.

First, we must empower women and increase their participation in politics, including in peace processes, and we must continue to examine gender issues in conflict prevention and peacekeeping. That entails working for the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, to which the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, known as Group 2242, can contribute.

Secondly, we must strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission, while recognizing its important role in the peacebuilding architecture as a whole. The Council should strengthen its interaction with the Commission, in particular by making greater use of the

Commission's advisory role. For its part, the Commission should redouble its efforts to promote greater coherence with national strategies and priorities in the field of peacebuilding, and should highlight the importance of its own coordination with regional and subregional institutions.

Thirdly, we must address and prevent the illegal exploitation of natural resources, which contributes to igniting conflicts. The United Nations can help concerned States, as appropriate and at their request and with full respect for their sovereignty over their natural resources, to prevent illegal access to those natural resources and to help concerned States lay the framework for the legal exploitation of natural resources in a way that contributes to their development.

Fourthly, attention must be focused on the protection of critical infrastructure and the prevention of attacks on that infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. That is essential for ensuring the well-being of citizens and consolidating peace. In that regard, we reiterate our support for the Oslo Safe Schools Declaration.

Fifthly, and finally, we must implement resolution 2250 (2015), on youth, peace and security, which is the first resolution to recognize young people as actors in peace processes and urges Governments to increase the participation of youth and the representation of youth in peacekeeping initiatives, bearing in mind that 600 million young people currently live in conflict zones or fragile States.