

Mr. Menkveld (Netherlands): I align myself with the statement to be delivered later today by the observer of the European Union (EU).

I thank the Egyptian presidency for its excellent and detailed concept note (S/2016/428, annex) on this pivotal subject.

In this short statement, I would like to address the three main phases of the continuum of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and sustaining peace.

On conflict prevention, we need to get better. Let me highlight mediation in particular. We must learn from successes, but also from cases that did not bring about the desired results because responsibilities and strategies were not well enough coordinated and undermined mediation efforts. The United Nations and the African Union (AU) have strengthened their mediation systems. The AU regularly deploys special envoys and negotiators. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA), too, has become more effective, and its work is in high demand. The Kingdom of the Netherlands has increased its contribution to DPA by 25 per cent, which brings it to \$1.25 million a year.

We finance the Clingendael Mediation Facility, which trains groups of senior AU African women mediators together with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, UN-Women and the AU. The women are also supported to develop a sustainable network, gain access to resources and increase their own expertise and skills set, thereby strengthening the position of women in peace processes.

On peacekeeping, the growing role played by the AU in crisis situations on the African continent is encouraging and inspiring, thanks to the African Peace and Security Architecture. When missions are re-hatted, the process is arduous. More institutionalized and practical cooperation between the AU and the United Nations could improve that process. In the words of the Secretary-General, we need

“to move away from improvisation in how we work together.” (S/2015/582, para. 30)

On sustaining peace, the post-conflict phase requires an integrated approach with a coherent and cooperative attitude towards African initiatives from

both the United Nations and the EU. An example of increased EU-United Nations-AU collaboration on security sector reform (SSR) serves to illustrate that. The three organizations jointly worked on strategies and experiences and plans to jointly boost SSR efforts in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Madagascar. We are proud to contribute and stand ready to support similar joint SSR-efforts in Mali and Somalia. Such efforts should keep in mind long-term reconstruction and development needs, in line with

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) and the AU Agenda 2063 for African development.

In conclusion, a new form of cooperation between the AU and the United Nations must be worked out in every phase of the continuum. In that regard, a permanent African presence on the Security Council may not be without merit. We hope that the joint AU-United Nations framework for an enhanced partnership will succeed in institutionalizing the strategic partnership between both organizations, thereby creating the conditions for an equal partnership between the AU and the United Nations with a common understanding of threats to international peace and security. The presence of ambassadors from the AU Peace and Security Council in the Chamber today is a great step in that direction. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, a partner of the Council for peace, justice and development, is committed to supporting such cooperation.