

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*):

At the outset, I apologize that Senegalese Foreign Minister Mankeur Ndiaye, who had planned to participate in the debate, had to attend a limited summit yesterday in Abuja to discuss the situation in Gambia. He has asked me, on behalf of Senegal, to congratulate the Government of Sweden for this month's presidency of the Security Council, which began directly after its accession to the Council. We are pleased to participate in this public debate that Sweden has decided to devote to the crucially important topic of conflict prevention and sustainable peace. Senegal attaches particular importance to that theme as it applies to the Sahel region of Africa, a region that is, unfortunately, marked by terrorism and violent extremism — scourges that my country resolutely seeks to combat alongside the international community.

I also wish to thank and congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, whose important statement helped us better understand the matter under review. Senegal will spare no effort to work with the Secretary-General to contribute to making 2017 a year of peace, as the Secretary-General has proposed.

The Security Council needs a paradigm shift in order to redefine our working priorities and strategies for promoting international peace and security. We need to invest more in prevention by addressing at the earliest possible stage the underlying causes of conflict throughout the globalized world, in particular in Africa. Let us make no mistake — the effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts, and thus the credibility of the Organization, will essentially depend on our capacity to detect in a timely manner, better analyse and thereby prevent threats old and new to international peace and security.

We have many tools at our disposal to that end, but what often lacks is political will, undermining early action, in particular on the part of the Security Council. As a result, we act late and react after the fact, frequently to little effect and always at high cost. The reviews of peacekeeping operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, all found that prevention needs a new impulse. The cross-cutting dimension of the preventive approach requires the development of synergies among those three complementary reviews so as to develop consistent strategies to promote lasting peace, bolstered by political tools that take the protection and promotion of

human and national rights into due account, which is the only guarantee of real human security.

In that context, the role of the Security Council, the principal organ entrusted with international peace and security, is obvious, but we must acknowledge that the paucity or lack of unity and political often paralyse this organ, as noted throughout 2016. That is

why the Secretary-General's call to make 2017 a year of peace strongly resonates with us. The leadership and work of the Secretary-General as the moral authority of our Organization, supported by his special representatives and envoys, must be underscored, given their potential impact on Security Council decisions and the actions of parties to a conflict. Article 1 and Chapters VI and VII of the Charter of the United Nations are at the Secretary-General's disposal and must be resorted to.

To return to a statement that you made, Madam, and that we endorse, investing in prevention costs one-tenth of the price of post-conflict operations, but we are all aware that few resources are devoted to prevention activities, as opposed to those spent on peacekeeping operations. The Organization must therefore abandon the practice of managing rather than preventing crises. That is why peacebuilding, which is the key to prevention, remains a secondary activity and still lacks sustained and predictable financing, despite the existence of the Peacebuilding Fund.

The adoption on 27 April 2016 by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the simultaneous resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, was important in that it indicated a willingness to transform our approach in that area. We hope that the political will necessary can be mustered to translate that collective commitment into specific action so as to correct the anomalies and gaps that have been identified to date. That requires first and foremost the effective generation and allocation of predictable resources for essential prevention and mediation support activities. After that, we must adopt a comprehensive and consistent approach that takes due account of the links between sustainable development, peace, good governance, human rights and the rule of law, as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 on peaceful societies.

Furthermore, we recall that the United Nations is not the only actor in the area of peace and security and therefore cannot carry this heavy burden alone. In line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, it must strengthen its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and encourage the development of regional responses to crises. Indeed, given their proximity to conflicts and enhanced knowledge of local realities and conflict dynamics, regional and subregional organizations can help to better define appropriate intervention policies.

In that regard, Senegal supports the recommendations made in the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on strengthening the prevention and peacekeeping capacities of the African Union. The African Union, as a strategic partner of the United Nations in this area, has a certain capacity to provide first responses to crises in Africa, but it suffers one major handicap that undermines its efforts to that end,

namely, the acute problem of funding peace operations in Africa. Resolution 2320 (2016), adopted last November under the Senegalese presidency, therefore invites the United Nations to provide greater support to the laudable efforts of the African Union by sharing the financial burden of deploying African peacekeeping operations.

It is clear that the key challenge facing the United Nations as António Guterres takes office is connected to its capacity to anticipate and better understand the causes of old and new conflicts, better detect new and asymmetrical threats, and prevent crises and conflicts, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter. It was in that spirit that Senegal launched an initiative in the Security Council on the issue of water, peace and security by convening, on 22 April 2016, an Arria Formula meeting on this issue under the auspices of His Excellency President Macky Sall, and, on 22 November 2016, an open debate on the same theme (see S/PV.7818). Through that initiative, supported by a preventive approach to hydriplomacy, Senegal sought to sound the alarm in the Security Council about twenty-first century security challenges linked to shared water resources in the context of their increasing scarcity. My country wishes to see that resource shared in a peaceful, efficient, fair, and lasting manner. Peace and security throughout the world, particularly in Africa, with its 50 continental rivers and border lakes, depend on it.