

Ms. Drobič (Slovenia):

Let me first thank the Swedish presidency for convening this open debate on conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the observer of the European Union and with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of Mediation. In addition, I would like to make a few remarks from my national point of view.

The global security environment has changed significantly in recent years. Multidimensional issues, such as terrorism, violent extremism and irregular migration, still represent challenges to the international community and its universal values and principles. To be able to tackle those and future challenges the emphasis must be on doing more collectively, effectively and in a timely manner. We need to overcome political divisions and show that the Security Council is able to respond when dire, protracted human suffering, injustice and breaches of international humanitarian law are happening.

People-centred and development-oriented approaches are important. All Governments have the responsibility to protect their own people and to sustain peace. All other entities of the international community — the United Nations, but also regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society actors — could, however, do more to support the most vulnerable and fragile countries, in particular by enhancing their societal resilience and security architecture.

One of the imperatives for the success of conflict prevention and for the maintenance of peace and security in and among States is full respect for international law and the rule of law. Their promotion at all levels is crucial for the realization of sustained economic growth, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of human rights. Justice and reconciliation must be among the main focuses for all preventive and post-conflict activities. Attaining them by peaceful means, as stipulated in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, including through international courts and tribunals, must be our common endeavour.

We welcome the engagement in conflict prevention issues at the United Nations and commend the efforts in different parts of the United Nations system to significantly strengthen the Organization's capacities. We are glad to hear that the surge in diplomacy for peace will be one of the key priorities of the Secretary-General's mandate, and we appreciate today's presentation of his vision on how to achieve that goal.

In the future we need to be careful not to depart from multilateralism. We need to foster it, especially in preventive action. Cooperation and credible information-sharing on early

warning and situational assessments among international actors must be stepped up, in particular with a comprehensive approach that encompasses humanitarian and development assistance, human rights and rule-of-law promotion, peacebuilding and other areas.

Slovenia is a traditional advocate of preventive diplomacy and preventive post-conflict mediation. In past years, we dedicated most of our efforts in this field to enhancing mediation in the Mediterranean region, especially by highlighting the priorities of actively engaging women and young people and respect for international law and the rule of law. We intend to continue pursuing those in the future.