

Mr. Plasai (Thailand): Today's meeting and some of the points raised by today's briefers highlight the diverse challenges across the peacekeeping realm and point to the need for a more robust, coherent and comprehensive approach. Determining how to improve our approach to peacekeeping will be particularly important for us in the immediate future in light of the currently proposed reform of the United Nations system. To ensure that peace is sustained, the following elements are crucial.

First, we need a change in mindset from reactive to proactive. The concept of sustaining peace, adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council in April 2016, represents a fundamental shift in how we think about peace and how we address conflicts. It urges us to view peacebuilding more holistically as part of the peace continuum that spans from conflict prevention and resolution to laying down the foundations for sustainable peace. Achieving the goal of sustaining peace is therefore a long-term process and a comprehensive approach that covers the periods before, during and after the conflict. For peace to take root and grow in strength, efforts for sustaining peace cannot solely depend on peace and security operations but require an approach that ensures the well-being of the local population, as well as maintains and promotes their political and social rights. Therefore, sustaining peace is both an enabler and an outcome of sustainable development.

Secondly, sustaining peace relies on national ownership. We believe that for any community to achieve the goal of sustaining peace, the journey must always be led by the people. Inclusive national ownership is therefore a prerequisite for successful peacebuilding and durable peace. This must begin with genuine dialogue and inclusive participation from the entire society in governance structures and the economy. In particular, mandates of peacekeeping operations must be realistic and tailored made to each local context. Their implementation must be conducted in a participatory manner that takes into account national and local perspectives. This is necessary to instil a sense of ownership in the local institutions and population, as well as to restore their legitimacy in the process of achieving and sustaining peace.

Advancing, in the local context, the women and peace and security agenda is also crucial in strengthening national ownership and moving the international community towards the paradigm of sustaining peace. Women's participation is politically indispensable and necessary also for the operational effectiveness of the whole process.

Last but not least, it is the quality of peacekeeping operations that determines their effectiveness in achieving the goal of sustaining peace. In this regard, I wish to touch upon three particular aspects.

First, identifying the right types of capabilities is crucial for delivering effective peace operations and achieving the goal of sustaining peace. We must ensure that peacekeepers are equipped with the exact knowledge, skills and attitudes that are required for the performance of their duties.

Secondly, transition towards an exit strategy must be properly managed. For this purpose, careful mission transition planning and post-mission United Nations support should be in place from an early stage. It is also important that missions' mandates are aligned with and supportive of national priorities. This can be achieved only by restoring what is in disrepair and needs fixing, and by analysing, understanding and utilizing existing mechanisms in society to build up positive resilience and drivers of peace.

Finally, we must enhance regional and subregional organizations' capacities, as they are essential both in the context of our collective response to international peace and security challenges, and in our efforts to achieve the goal of sustaining peace in the respective region. We must also encourage enhanced exchanges of views and dialogue between regional and subregional organizations and the Security Council, as well as other United Nations bodies, in order to ensure synergy and complementarity.

The Kingdom of Thailand's fundamental peacekeeping philosophy is that the issues of security, human rights and development are all linked together. We stand ready to continue and to increase our support to United Nations peacekeeping in a sustainable manner and closely aligned to the sustaining peace perspective. For these reasons, the Kingdom of Thailand appreciates the Secretary-General's efforts in proposing and reconceptualizing a more comprehensive approach to preventive diplomacy and sustaining peace. We look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to implement these crucial concepts that we believe are complementary to the current peace and security architecture and the overall United Nations agenda.

Let me conclude with a simple appeal. We all need to work better together. We need to adapt to changes and be open-minded. We have to calibrate our ambitions to our strengths and needs, to enhance and modernize our capacities, and to stay relevant in order to achieve the goal of sustaining peace more effectively.