

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*):

My delegation thanks Sweden for convening and presiding over this debate, as well as for the concept note (S/2017/6, annex), which was prepared and circulated in a timely manner. We also thank the Secretary-General for his outstanding statement. It is very encouraging for us to see that in his New Year's message, coinciding with the beginning of his new mandate, he has made the issue of peace a priority for 2017, which is a matter that depends on all of us.

We also appreciate the importance that he attaches to diplomacy and mediation as fundamental tools in the search for peace and the prevention of new conflicts. Moreover, we especially welcome his willingness to work to develop a comprehensive, modern and effective peacebuilding architecture in order to bring about long-term development and strengthen the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts. The broad review that was made in the United Nations in 2015 has been very clear with regard to the need to prioritize the prevention of conflicts.

Uruguay believes that it is important to maintain the momentum created by the concurrent adoption of Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262 on 27 April 2016 on the review of the peacekeeping architecture, so as to continue to produce constructive input concerning peacebuilding throughout the United Nations system.

We should nevertheless ask ourselves what tools are available to us in order to prevent conflict. First, we have the United Nations Charter and institutions, as well as regional and subregional organizations. The work of prevention requires a political commitment on the part of relevant actors in order to address situations that, owing to their character, pose the risk of a resurgence of or a return to conflict.

In the region to which my country belongs, there exist regional and subregional organizations that have contributed successfully to preventing potential conflicts through mechanisms such as good offices and mediation, among others.

The Security Council, under the Charter, is entrusted with a responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Preventive diplomacy efforts on the part of the Council are relevant, as it is the system's principal organ for the maintenance of peace. But to that end, it is key that all of its members, not just some of them, have early access to the relevant information with regard to possible breaches of the peace.

In this regard, Uruguay supported last year New Zealand's initiative to hold periodic situational-awareness meetings with the various departments and offices of the Secretariat. Uruguay, as a traditional troop-contributing countries, knows first-hand of the

challenges that arise in the field during and after conflict. The work that our Blue Helmets have done and will do can very often be considered as early peacebuilding. This coincides with the view expressed in the review of the peacebuilding architecture, namely, that peacebuilding tasks are not limited to post-conflict situations but are in fact part of a continuum encompassing the period before, during and after conflict.

The three pillars of the United Nations are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Therefore, it is possible to build peace only when there is respect for human rights in developed societies that respect the rule of law. The root causes of conflicts must be overcome by putting into practice the various instruments at the disposal of the United Nations. Fighting organized crime, terrorism, extreme poverty, discrimination and other scourges affecting societies should be a priority.

The maintenance of peace is a complex process that covers a broad range of tasks and actors and that requires integration and coordination with the Government of the country involved, leading to dialogue and peace processes that are inclusive and representative of society as a whole. In this regard, we would like to stress that the role of women is essential in order to ensure peace.

Uruguay reiterates its commitment to international peace and security. Sustainable peace is everyone's business. It is the goal towards which we must work together in order to translate into action that which we so often preach in speeches, resolutions and other documents.