

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

We thank the delegation of Ukraine for convening this meeting and you, Mr. Minister, for your personal participation in leading this debate.

I also thank Secretary-General Guterres for his detailed briefing, as well as Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Zannier for their statements.

Uruguay is a country that is firmly committed to multilateralism, the peaceful solution of disputes and the validity of international law. We are founding Members of the United Nations and our continent is one where 35 countries proudly live in peace and where one of those countries — Colombia — serves as a true example to the international community by engaging in a domestic peace process in which the parties involved have demonstrated that it is possible to achieve peace if you have the courage to invest your entire political capital therein.

From our point of view, conflicts in Europe pose an ongoing risk given the possibility of their worsening or transnationalization, to which we must add new threats such as cybercrime and violent extremism, among other factors. As the Secretary-General said just a few minutes ago, the idea of frozen conflicts is completely erroneous.

Nonetheless, these conflicts also offer an opportunity to reach negotiated solutions, hence the crucial importance of the roles of the Security Council and the Secretary-General and of the follow-up carried out in various respects by the General Assembly, despite the challenges and constraints that the Organization often faces. The interaction between the United Nations and the various regional monitoring bodies and mechanisms, as well as international mediation, are aspects that should be strengthened.

In this regard, it is important to mention the 1995 Dayton Agreement, the Geneva dialogue on the question of Georgia, the 2015 Minsk agreements and the work of the Normandy Quartet and the Trilateral Contact Group, as well as the ongoing dialogue on the reunification of Cyprus.

On this latter point, I would like to make a slight digression here to emphasize the importance of the negotiations conducted by the Cypriot leaders under the auspices of the Special Adviser, Mr. Espen Eide, and to highlight once again the firm commitment that we have seen to date and which we hope will continue, thereby making it possible to overcome the recent setback in the negotiations. The Cypriot process, like the Colombia process, is an example of a situation in which the parties assume the leadership of the peace process and display the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Sustainable peace can be achieved only through political solutions. The preventive

approach has proved crucial in order to avoid the high cost of war, and in this respect it is imperative to prevent bureaucratic obstacles from arising and achieve greater system-wide cooperation from a human rights perspective first of all.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the importance of the performance of and coordination among the various mechanisms of the international human rights system. Uruguay's approach attaches priority to the human rights of populations in conflict. We underscore that it is crucial to eliminate any limitation on free and unrestricted access by the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as by international agencies, bodies and organizations, with a view to monitoring, reporting on and addressing the concerns of the populations affected.

Uruguay takes note of reports on cases of human rights violations, including reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary- General, which stress accusations of killings, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, refugee rights, impunity for crimes of sexual violence, and the need to clarify cases of forced disappearance, among other aspects.

My country believes that in all cases the human rights track should move in parallel and independently of political negotiations, and that all stakeholders must impartially and consistently uphold human rights law, the norms of international humanitarian law and refugee law, which form the basis of our universal system.

We deem it crucial for the positive development of conflicts in Europe that all parties refrain from carrying out any acts that could jeopardize ongoing negotiations. The primary responsibility for conflict prevention and the protection of local populations lies with States themselves, despite the fact that the Security Council, the United Nations and the international community, through their close scrutiny and impartial action, legitimized by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, also have a role to play that should continue to evolve. The challenge must be met by every country and all those who make up the Organization.