

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh):

We thank the Swedish presidency for organizing this open debate, which enables the United Nations membership to renew its collective commitment to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. We are reassured by the Secretary-General's statement that his overriding priority is the pursuit of peace in a holistic, cross-sectoral manner. His words of wisdom remind us of the hard work involved and the importance of conflict prevention as a value, in itself, without undue external political pressure. From our national perspective, we wish, in that connection, to underline five points.

First of all, we consider conflict prevention to be, first and foremost, a national responsibility supported by responsive and functioning institutions, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law and, most important, sustainable development. The active participation of all segments of society, including women and youth, is fundamental to efforts to mitigate the potential drivers of conflict, as well as elements with a propensity to act as spoilers.

Secondly, the United Nations has a critical role to play in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of internationally agreed commitments to support Member States in achieving those conditions in response to their needs and at their request. The United Nations analytical capacity should help identify any structural or systemic drivers of conflict, including the growing challenges posed by violent extremism, climate change, irregular migration and organized crime, among others.

Thirdly, the ability to objectively decipher the early warning signs of conflict — usually manifest in hatred or intolerance, socioeconomic exclusion, systematic discrimination and persecution on ethnic or religious grounds — should give the United Nations an edge in devising context-specific engagement strategies. The range of tools available at its disposal for the pacific settlement of disputes needs to be deployed with sensitivity to the realities on the ground and in consultation with the relevant national, civil society and humanitarian actors.

Fourthly, as highlighted by the 2015 review of the United Nations peace and security architecture, the Organization's conflict-response strategies need to be situated within the broader framework of political solutions to conflicts. As a contributor to increasingly complex United Nations peacekeeping operations, Bangladesh recognizes the need on all sides to manage expectations through a comprehensive, nationally owned and internationally backed approach to sustaining peace.

Fifthly, the current fragmentation in the United Nations response strategies needs to be remedied through incremental work in clarifying the various conceptual and mandate-

related issues, the fostering of regular consultations across the principal organs and the mobilization of enhanced and adequate resources, thereby avoiding unnecessary competition and duplication. Meaningful cooperation with the relevant regional and subregional organizations must be pursued jointly and strategically.

It is worth remembering that the most effective bulwark against conflict, hostility, war and the illegitimate use of force is one constructed within the minds of men and women through the promotion of an enduring culture of peace. In this year for peace and beyond, Bangladesh will continue to work towards realizing our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision for regional and international peace.