

The President (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Egypt.

The drafters of the Charter of the United Nations revealed their forward-looking vision when they included Chapter VIII, which provides the necessary basis for the establishment of a partnership between the United Nations, as the primary entity responsible for maintaining international peace and security, and regional and subregional organizations, which play a crucial role in preventing, managing and settling conflicts.

The African Union is proof of the comparative advantages of regional organizations, including their ability to have an in-depth understanding of a conflict's context and root causes. They are therefore capable of playing vital roles in mediation and sponsoring the political operations aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

In addition, regional organizations are always ready to deploy peacekeeping operations in the early stages. The role played by the African Union and other African subregional organizations in Somalia, Mali, the Central African Republic and other countries is the best proof that the continent is ready to assume the heavy burden of bringing peace and security to African countries. They are also upholding the principle of African solutions to African problems.

Over the past decade, in cooperation with different partners, at the forefront of which is the United Nations, the African Union has gone a long way towards building the components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, both at regional and subregional levels. It has also built the necessary capacities to operationalize it. This is a full-fledged Architecture, which includes prevention mechanisms, mediation, the management and settlement of crises, as well as reconstruction and development for peacebuilding and preventing post- conflict countries from relapsing into violence. It is in line with the African Union's endeavours to ensure a continent free from conflicts and in which everyone enjoys peace and stability, which is also one of the main objectives of the ambitious Vision Africa 2063.

The AU has developed a road map for 2016-2020 that aims at enhancing coordination among all components of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the regional and subregional mechanisms. The road map is designed to ensure their effective engagement at the earliest signs of conflict, from the management and settlement of conflicts and all the way to the peacebuilding and reconstruction phases.

In line with those important developments at the level of Africa and in the broader context of the United Nations, the three reviews — on the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, peacekeeping operations and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security — came to encompass all the changes in the nature and

scope of conflicts and international crises. The reviews have opened a new chapter that will help to formulate a comprehensive vision based on the concept of sustaining peace, which in turn is based on the interaction among the different security, political and development forces brought to bear on putting an end to military conflicts, coming up with effective solutions and addressing the root causes of conflict.

Egypt believes that the reviews and the important resulting recommendations present new and welcome prospects for partnership between the United Nations and the AU through a paradigm shift in the way we deal with the challenges of peace and security. We are moving from the current trend based on the management of conflicts after they erupt, along with the subsequent high humanitarian costs, destruction of State infrastructure and the tearing of the fabric of society, to a model that addresses conflicts in a more comprehensive way, including through preventive diplomacy mechanisms, by giving priority to political solutions that seek to prevent, manage and settle conflicts and by upholding the principle of national ownership and leadership as the fundamental safeguard for successful efforts aimed at building sustained peace.

In that context, Egypt affirms the importance of the continuing United Nations support for capacity-building in the African Union and in regional and subregional organizations following the conclusion of the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU in 2016 through the New Partnership for the Development of Africa and the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017- 2027. It is also crucial that the United Nations provide the necessary flexible, sustainable and predictable financing for all activities related to peace and security for the AU, in particular those mandated by the Security Council, taking into consideration the primary responsibility of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In conclusion, Egypt stresses that we have to formulate more in-depth and inclusive partnerships at both the regional and international levels. That is the ideal way to confront the contemporary forms that security challenges are taking in today's world, since such challenges are highly complex, multidimensional and plagued with intertwined root causes.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber. I would appeal to speakers to deliver their statements at a reasonable speed so that interpretation may be provided accurately. I

wish to inform all concerned that, given the lengthy list of speakers, we will be carrying on this open debate right through the lunch hour.