

**Mr. Rücker** (Germany):

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union later today.

I thank Sweden for having initiated this timely and crucial debate, and I warmly welcome Secretary-General Guterres, wish him success and thank him for his resolve to put conflict prevention and peace first.

With regard to the United Nations and the Security Council's role in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, I would like to make three points.

First, sustaining peace is key. In 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted landmark resolutions (resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly 70/262, respectively) that acknowledged that sustaining peace should be the goal of all national and international prevention policies, in order to end violence, guarantee sustainable development and allow for the protection of human rights. Sustaining peace necessitates a comprehensive approach and is a shared task and responsibility involving all the relevant stakeholders. That includes new partnerships, *inter alia*, with regional organizations — as has been mentioned — as well as with civil society. And it entails an inclusive approach in which all members of society, especially women, have a role to play. In that regard, resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, should guide our activities. The concept of a closely linked security, human rights and development agenda is also reiterated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reflected throughout Germany's chairmanship of the Group of 20 (G-20) in 2017. In February, the G-20 Foreign Ministers will therefore be discussing sustaining peace and possible contributions thereto. Sustaining peace should be our guide for the next decade.

Secondly, we need sound early warning and analysis. We need a factual and common understanding of the current crisis situations, their root causes and drivers. On the national level, Germany has invested heavily in conflict prevention and stabilization. We have reformed our internal structures to align with the realities of the twenty-first century, sharpened our analytical tools and refined our stabilization approach in crisis situations. We are currently developing new national guidelines on crisis prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding with the help of international organizations, all branches of Government, academia and civil society.

With a view to the United Nations, we strongly support Secretary-General Guterres's resolve to make the Organization more effective and more efficient. We hope that these and further changes will enable the United Nations to keep conflict prevention and peace as a top priority. We would also like to see the development of an integrated policy-planning capacity, stronger analytical capabilities and enhanced situational awareness at

Headquarters as well as in the field. We hope for active engagement in scenario development and mediation throughout the entire United Nations system.

The Security Council should also prioritize prevention at every stage of conflict, focusing on reconciliation efforts, mediation, security-sector reform and good governance. For example, it could resume regular horizon-scanning sessions to discuss, prepare for and respond to emerging crisis situations. The Security Council should also continue its discussions on regional and thematic issues that can have a serious impact on peace and security, such as climate change and migration. Furthermore, the Security Council could capitalize more efficiently on work done in the United Nations system, for instance by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as a wealth of information is there, or through the work of the United Nations on sustainable development. In particular, the Security Council should interact more closely with the Peacebuilding Commission.

Thirdly, and lastly, we need to move from early warning to early action. While it is important to have the analysis and the structures right, none of this can bear fruit if we are not ready to invest in preventive tools. Germany is therefore committed to further strengthening the crisis-prevention capabilities and overall efforts of the United Nations.

In addition to being one of the largest contributors to the budget of the Organization, we also tripled our contribution in the field of prevention in 2016. For instance, we contributed more than \$4 million to the United Nations Mediation Support Team and more than \$20 million to the Peacebuilding Fund, and we have also increased our contributions to UN-Women.

On the ground, Germany is also actively engaged in crisis prevention and peacekeeping. For instance, our stabilization and peacekeeping efforts in the context of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali support the political trajectory that will eventually define a sustainable settlement in Mali. We also encourage others to invest more in stabilization projects so that legitimate authorities in precarious situations may be able to sustain peace in their countries.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm Germany's strong commitment to and support for the United Nations. Germany looks forward to working closely with the new Secretary-General and the Security Council to advance conflict prevention and sustain peace.