

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Egyptian presidency of the Security Council for convening today's important meeting.

I also offer my thanks to the Under-Secretary- General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU) to the United Nations, the Special Representative of the Secretary- General to the African Union, and the Permanent Representative of Kenya for their respective briefings.

Indonesia also associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Struggling against colonialism and other obstacles to development, African nations have had to navigate a difficult path. Overturning apartheid, the gradual building of institutions and the launch of policies for peace and progress were no small achievements. Not surprisingly, their enterprise as a whole has resulted in annual economic growth greater than 5 per cent for over 15 years. Nevertheless, like many other developing countries, including my own, Africa is still confronted with many challenges from poverty to natural disasters and from pandemics to terrorism, as well as issues related to refugees and transnational crimes. I would stress once more that these challenges do not belong solely and exclusively to Africa. Indeed, many other regions on other continents also face these challenges, requiring a similar serious, concerted undertaking by the United Nations and the international community.

Encouragingly, various debates at the United Nations, including the high-level thematic debate on peace and security that took place earlier this month, reflect widespread general agreement and enthusiasm for the key messages that came out of the recent three major reviews — of United Nations peace operations, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. In keeping with that spirit, Indonesia urges all concerned Member States and the United Nations system to intensify their focus on conflict prevention, integration and partnerships, with a view to resolving conflicts peacefully. In so doing, it is important to ensure that credible political solutions be the drivers in the design of peacemaking and peacekeeping initiatives and that nationally owned comprehensive efforts in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights be adequately supported politically and sustained financially.

A robust regional partnership is what the African countries have envisioned for themselves. The African Union together with its mechanisms, in just 14 years, has shown an impressive depth and solidity. We applaud all of the members of the AU for enabling it to play an increasing role in social, political, economic and security issues.

The African leaders' declaration on achieving a conflict-free Africa is both commendable and a key pillar of the AU's visionary Agenda 2063. Many African mediators and peacekeepers have already performed admirably in challenging situations. We believe in the importance of the role of regional organizations in preserving peace and stability, as they are the ones that fully understand their respective regions and their cultures.

As a longstanding friend of Africa and an observer in the African Union, Indonesia supports the five thematic priorities of the AU's new road map for the period 2016-2020 in the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Those efforts need the full support of the United Nations and the international community.

Similarly, in our region Vision 2020 of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations describes a group of nations that is outward looking and lives in peace, stability and prosperity in a partnership of dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. It has contributed greatly to peacefully managing disputes, thereby assuring our region's collective well-being.

Since the convening of the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung more than six decades ago, where the first generation of Asian and African leaders resolved to chart their nations' destinies based on new solidarity and vigour, Indonesia has attached high importance to its relations with Africa. The comprehensive way forward elaborated at last year's Asia-Africa Summit, in a declaration on reinvigorating the new Asia-Africa strategic partnership, outlines important steps aimed at bolstering the AU in achieving its aims. Among other things, the 2015 Bandung message calls for strengthening the roles and capacities of regional and subregional organizations in the two continents in areas of peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, through enhanced regional, South-South and triangular cooperation and in accordance with the principles of impartiality, the consent of the parties and national ownership and leadership.

Indonesia will continue its unwavering support to African countries. Our bilateral cooperation and training programmes in civilian capacity-building and other fields will expand further. Currently, 1,537 Indonesian troops and police are participating in eight United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. The Indonesian National Defense Forces Peacekeeping Centre, which has already imparted training in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding to personnel from a number of African countries, will continue to do so.

In conclusion, Africa is facing interconnected challenges in fully realizing its potential, thereby requiring an interconnected undertaking among Africa, the United Nations and the international community. As a longstanding friend of Africa that has supported the

freedom of its nations since the Asia-Africa Conference of 1955, Indonesia remains committed to supporting Africa in achieving its vision of enduring peace and prosperity.