

Mr. Konfourou (Mali) (*spoke in French*):

The delegation of Mali congratulates Sweden on the organization of this debate on a topic of great relevance, namely, conflict prevention and sustainable peace. I also congratulate the Secretary-General for his outstanding presentation of his vision this morning on this issue.

I would like to make some comments in my national capacity.

For too long, conflict prevention has remained unattractive to the international community, including our Organization, which does not find it urgent. Alarm bells are heard only when conflicts erupt and become more complex. The various theatres of conflict in the world, including my own country, are edifying examples of that.

We need to reinvigorate preventive diplomacy. That requires greater cooperation among regional, national and international mechanisms for prevention and peacebuilding. It also requires good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence, the non-use of force, mutual understanding and respect, enhanced international cooperation, and a culture of peace and dialogue among religions, regions and civilizations.

Poverty is one of the main causes of conflict in the world. The most vulnerable groups in our societies, particularly women, youth, children and the elderly, are the primary victims. Extreme poverty, climate change and despair expose young people in our countries to terrorism, violent extremism and migration, which has been a source of the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean. And yet solutions exist.

At the national level, our States must improve governance and create conditions and equal opportunities for all citizens. At the international level, we need to implement the decisions and recommendations of the major international conferences on financing for development, so as to reduce the effects of poverty.

Conflict prevention is needed above all, and we must refrain from creating crises and limit military interventions, which often go against the advice of the countries of the region, especially when “after-sales service” is not provided. Indeed, it has been established by now that the military action in Libya in 2011 has had collateral effects on Mali and all the countries of the Sahel. Preventing conflict also means working to strengthen the capacity of the specific mechanisms set up by regional organizations, particularly the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which make use of early warning tools.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the need for an inclusive and global approach that takes into account women and youth in the analysis and implementation of conflict

prevention and peacebuilding strategies. Nobody should be left out if we want lasting peace in the world.