

Mr. Komada (Slovakia):

I am delighted to be able to congratulate you warmly, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, and to wish Sweden every success in promoting global security and stability during its term as an elected member of the Council for 2017 and 2018. I would also like to join others in thanking the Secretary-General for his briefing on how he intends to improve our peace and security architecture's functioning in the areas of conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to condemn the terror attacks that took place in Afghanistan today and to express our condolences to the families of the victims and our wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured. We believe that the perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable for them.

While we align ourselves with the statement delivered early by the observer of the European Union, we also support the statement made by the Chair of the Group of Friends of Mediation. I would now like to make some observations in my national capacity.

In 2015, all the major peace and security reviews stressed the centrality of conflict prevention to the work of the United Nations. We believe we should consider taking eight steps to help to implement that prevention.

First, we should increase the sensitivity to conflict and strengthen the foundations for conflict prevention across the whole United Nations system, so that the Organization is in a better position to prepare and implement preventive action and mediation in order to address threats to international peace and security more efficiently.

We also need continuing engagement and greater coherence and coordination among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, consistent with their mandates as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

With regard to early warning, we should put considerable emphasis on the importance of detecting emerging conflicts early, in order to prevent them from erupting in the first place. The Secretary-General should provide the Security Council with good analysis and correct, detailed information and advice.

Where mediation and gender equality are concerned, we should draw on the best available expertise in the global community of mediators, both men and women. By now it is a well-established fact

that women's involvement in mediation and conflict prevention is essential rather than optional.

Strengthening and streamlining the Secretariat's political, strategic, analytical and deployment capacities would benefit both the Security Council and the wider membership.

Regarding engagement with regional organizations, we should consider taking further steps to promote closer operational cooperation between the United Nations and its regional partners.

In the area of national capacities, the United Nations should do more to help countries build their own national capacities for conflict prevention.

Last but not least, we believe that we can arrive at more effective measures by examining the root causes of conflict. We encourage the Secretary-General to propose the measures needed to improve management and financing within the Secretariat, including suggesting and identifying funding for strengthening and streamlining prevention and mediation capacities. My delegation is ready to work with the Secretary-General on developing a comprehensive, modern and effective operational peace architecture that integrates prevention more systematically into the three pillars of the work of the United Nations. In that context, Slovakia stands ready to support and contribute to the preparation and holding in September 2017 of a high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In spite of the many successful efforts that the United Nations has made in the past to help entire nations and millions of people, in many situations we have either arrived late, or were unable to intervene, or have been prevented by subjective political interests from even discussing the possibility of how to prevent conflicts, despite having plenty of evidence of emerging threats.

It has been generally recognized that nationally owned institution-building efforts are at the core of peacebuilding. When the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2151 (2014), it reaffirmed that reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments is critical to consolidating peace and stability; promoting poverty reduction, the rule of law and good governance; extending legitimate State authority; and preventing countries from relapsing into conflict.

Slovakia, as a long-term troop-contributing country that places strong emphasis on applying prevention measures to broader multilateral concepts, stands ready to contribute and offer its capacities and experience, in particular in the area of security sector reform, in collaboration with members of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, the relevant departments of the Secretariat and external partners.

A recent report of the International Peace Institute states that sustaining peace is "a goal and a process to build a common vision of society". While this process is hard to define and harder to break down into concrete, operational steps, we have a number of building

blocks at our disposal, including, but not limited to, greater links between peace, development and human rights; inclusive national ownership, where local actors have a consistent voice and women and youth play a critical role; and more strategic and close partnerships with diverse stakeholders that are better utilized.

Last year, during the Secretary-General campaign, the words “prevention” and “sustainable development” were among those most quoted by all candidates, and rightly so. Prevention may make it possible to save considerable resources needed for sustainable development, and sustainable development may prevent conflict relapse, which is clearly a win-win situation.

Finally, another word often quoted was “implementation”. Indeed, if we implement our agreements under the pillars of development and peacekeeping/peacebuilding, and support the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen those pillars within the Secretariat, we may be very well on our way to achieving a peaceful and sustainable planet.