

**Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I very much thank all of today's briefers.

Much more than a decade ago, the African Union began making significant efforts to confront all of the challenges on the African continent, and those efforts have meant that the African Union has become a very crucial partner of the Security Council. It is therefore in the interests of everyone to strengthen the capacities of the African Union so that we can successfully address all of those challenges. That is why the financial agreements are particularly important, owing to which we decided to fund 25 per cent of the costs of peace operations for 2020. Over the past year, we have also seen a series of proposals to strengthen collaboration between the two Councils, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Security Council of the United Nations. I would like to refer to three of them in particular.

First, there are the annual informal consultations, such as the one held yesterday. I believe that yesterday's consultations were exceptionally productive, and I commend you, Sir, for them. I believe that we must continue on the same path during future meetings, focusing, however, on one or two issues so that all the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union can have a deeper exchange of ideas.

Secondly, it has been said on more than one occasion here that there needs to be greater channels of communication between the presidency of the Security Council and the African Union. I have to acknowledge that when I presided the Security Council in December 2015 I was not in contact with the Chair of African Union Commission, and I was not aware of it. However, I want to assure everyone that, during Spain's forthcoming presidency of the Council in December, I think i will exchange ideas with the presidency of the African Union, especially when we consider issues involving Africa on the Security Council.

Thirdly, the other idea that has already been brought up rather frequently involves the possibility of carrying out joint visits by both Councils. I believe that we missed a good opportunity on that score when the Council travelled to Guinea-Bissau, because only shortly thereafter the Peace and Security Council of the African Union also made a visit. It is unfortunate not to benefit from the two Councils' synergy in carrying out

visits, in particular on the African continent.

We all know that three very important reviews were carried out in 2015 and this year, and I will not cite them all. But I would like to make several comments with regard to them, particularly in the context of the high- level review of resolution 1325 (2000). I would like first to acknowledge the excellent work of the African Union in reviewing the resolution by citing four fundamental facts. First, one third of the countries that have a

national action plan for implementing resolution 1325 (2000) are members of the African Union. Secondly, the African Union has established a gender, peace and security programme for the years 2015 to 2020. Thirdly, the African Union has established the position of Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, which is held by Ms. Bineta Diop, who is carrying out excellent work. Lastly, the African Union has developed initiatives that the United Nations could also follow, such as the compilation of a roster of women mediators that would be of benefit to both the African Union and the United Nations. Accordingly, I would like to propose three concrete initiatives that would allow for improving our cooperation within the framework of resolution 1325 (2000).

First, I believe that we could explore how the African Union could participate in the meetings of the new informal group of the Security Council on women and peace and security when there are African countries on the agenda. Secondly, the secretariats of each organization should exchange information on how the United Nations and African Union peace operations could holistically address issues involving gender in their activities on the ground. Thirdly, we need to include women and peace and security issues on the meeting agendas of both organizations.

I want to conclude by mentioning two areas for potential cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union, namely, climate change and non-proliferation.

With regard to climate change, I want to underscore that the African Union has recognized that climate change is a multiplier of threats to security in Africa. In that regard, I would like to recall the joint initiative of Spain and Egypt through which the Council would analyze the impact of new factors on security in the Sahel region.

As to the matter of non-proliferation, as members are aware, Spain chairs the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has launched an important review of that resolution. I would like once more to call attention to the important partnership that we have with our African counterparts in order to redouble our efforts and avoid the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their diversion to non-State actors.

I would like to conclude by aligning myself with the statement that will be delivered shortly on behalf of the European Union.