

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (spoke in Spanish): Bolivia would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for her report on the contribution of peacekeeping missions to achieving sustainable peace. We are also grateful to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud and Ambassador Gert Rosenthal for their informative briefings and to the Egyptian presidency for convening a debate today that has enabled us to explore the effectiveness, significance and relevance of the current mandates of United Nations peace operations.

The challenge for peacekeeping operations has to do with their ability to use the tools they need, tools whose use must be facilitated through measurable, clear, coherent and achievable mandates, as is laid out in the report (S/2015/446) of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, without forgetting that the tools of first resort are preventive diplomacy, strategic alliances with regional bodies and post-conflict peacebuilding. Preventive diplomacy is vital and should be strengthened through mediation, dialogue, good offices, confidence-building measures and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations itself regarding State sovereignty, and should not be used as an instrument for intervention. Such measures, along with strict regard for civilian populations' human rights and dignity, should govern the conduct of peacekeeping missions, creating ways to achieve connection and cohesion that can ensure coordination with and the participation of local communities and civil society in general.

There should be no military option in conflict resolution. In that regard, we believe that a mission's success depends in part on preventive diplomacy based on an active political process, and with goals that are commensurate with its capabilities and resources, that correspond to the purposes for which they were conceived, and that are framed by the principles governing them — above all the consent of the parties — with a comprehensive strategy capable of tackling the situation and progressing systematically towards its primary goal, through a consensus political process that facilitates peacebuilding and in particular promotes national ownership.

Success also depends on establishing realistic deadlines both for peacekeeping operations and other peacebuilding activities, and on their ability to adapt to the realities of a particular situation, all of which should be clearly defined in their mandates, while working with the communities involved — including women and young people — to help to build their confidence in political processes, and with zero tolerance for sexual violence.

The more than 60 years of experience that the United Nations has accumulated in peacekeeping operations have given it invaluable knowledge and experience that no other body possesses, which is why we know that it is impossible to fulfil a mandate without a Government's trust and active participation. Independence, neutrality and respect for States and their peoples' rights must be observed at all times, because that is how the United Nations becomes a valid stakeholder in promoting political processes, coordinating alliances between States and facilitating the work of staff deployed on the ground.

We should make greater analytical use of strategic reviews and the other tools that we possess in order to monitor, evaluate and verify not only whether a mission is achieving its goals but also if it has adequate numbers of troops and, if necessary, whether the civilian population's human rights and the purposes and principles of the Charter are being respected, since a mission can often end up in a vicious circle of self propagating bureaucracies that distort its mandates. In that regard, it is crucial to ensure that when a peace operation's mandate is about to expire, a serious effort is made to reformulate it and enable its peacebuilding tasks to be achieved.

Similarly, it is important to work to strengthen closer strategic alliances with regional and subregional bodies. We should prioritize developing and deepening links that incorporate innovative working methods based on predictable funding, for they are vital to sustaining peace. One such clear example is the strategic partnership between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, both committed to developing a structured, equitable relationship and to strengthening their partnership with mutual support and continued technical assistance on the political, security, cross-border and preventive diplomacy fronts, including the management of transboundary waters, through mediation and the exercise of good offices. We are looking forward to the visit to the African Union headquarters in the coming days in order to strengthen our partnership and the joint work of both organizations.

Restoring a post-conflict society requires a great deal of effort planning and implementing the S/PV.8033 United Nations peacekeeping operations 29/08/2017 26/70 17-27086 experience gained on the ground, working together with Governments to implement agreements between the parties, demobilization, reintegration, disarmament, the removal of anti-personnel landmines, economic development and addressing the causes of the conflict. All of these are issues that need to be taken into account in order to promote and consolidate sustainable peace.

The inclusion of society in the peace processes is key to promoting confidence, given that it can take years to make this happen. Its inclusion can play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and in building peaceful and resilient societies. A clear example of this is the peace process in Colombia, whose Final Agreement established measures for the reintegration of former combatants in civil society, along with the support of regional organizations and the international community in general, in order to establish lasting and sustainable peace.

Finally, Bolivia reaffirms its support to the work and commitment of peacekeeping operations and thanks United Nations staff and peacekeeping personnel, as well as the staff of the troop- and police-contributing countries, for their sacrifices and hard work. They are men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to build a lasting and sustainable peace in order to fulfil the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.