

Ms. Nason (Ireland): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

The challenges to our peace and security have never been greater or more complex. Our responses need to match those challenges. The people we serve expect us to take the lead in dealing with the violent conflicts, humanitarian crises, migration flows and climate-related emergencies they face on a day-to-day basis. We simply must be up to the task. Sustaining peace is a core responsibility. It is part of what we are.

I represent a country for which peacekeeping is a part of our DNA. Having participated continuously in peace-support operations since 1958, Ireland addresses the members of the Security Council as a dedicated and committed contributor of troops to important United Nations missions. Today, we have deployments to six United Nations missions across the Middle East, Africa and Europe, with substantial contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Our experience has taught us that mandates and missions do not lend themselves to a one-size-fits-all approach. The challenges are complex and evolving; our responses must also be.

We believe that the landmark adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers us a unique opportunity. We need to seize it in order to realize the ambition of the United Nations to improve core mandates and responses.

The long-term vision for sustaining peace rests on developing a capacity to build inclusive and resilient States. We need effective institutions capable of engaging with their people. We have a responsibility to deliver long-term leadership, ownership and accountability. We need to keep faith with the task. We commend Secretary-General Guterres for putting conflict prevention at the core of his mandate. We simply cannot succeed unless we address the root causes.

Ireland shares the view that believing in the United Nations means investing in it, notably in its peacekeeping, mediation, peacebuilding and humanitarian functions. The European Union's Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and its Common Security and Defence Policy can and will enhance United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, particularly through capacity-building missions in fragile settings. Ireland will be an active contributor.

We know there is no easy fix. Every conflict has unique characteristics. As a peacekeeping contributor, Ireland believes that mandates should be designed to reflect the multiplicity of factors that drive conflict and fragility. Our operations must be responsive to the changing situations on the ground. It is crucial that our peacekeepers in the field engage meaningfully and in an inclusive manner with local communities. Mandates should also factor in the political, humanitarian and developmental contexts.

We are learning that humanitarian and development assistance programming, in their turn, must be tailored to situations of conflict, especially where crises are protracted. We must all work to support common outcomes from our interventions.

We know that people are less likely to turn to violence when their rights are being respected. Taking a human rights perspective across the nexus of development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts will therefore increase our chances of success and be instrumental in addressing drivers of conflict.

Mandates must recognize and respond to the links among conflict, peace and gender equality. We also know that cannot succeed unless we address the specific needs of women and children. Time and again, we have seen that the full participation and representation of women in decision-making serves to improve prospects for success in our peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

Sustainable development in conflict-affected countries and regions means that we must also accept risk. We must prepare for long-term time frames and be committed to sustained engagement. The drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the transition of the United Nations presence in that country represent a test case for the United Nations system in applying the sustaining peace approach. Ireland has long supported the people of Liberia, and we are committed to working with Government, United Nations and civil partners there.

In conclusion, even as a newcomer here today, I know that debates in the Chamber increasingly recognize that our complex world demands a United Nations that equips itself to face that complexity. In the past, the walls dividing the three pillars of the United Nations cast shadows on our efforts to build sustainable peace. Let us resolve today that we have an overarching responsibility to the people whom we represent to be more effective and coherent — or, in other words, to overcome those barriers to sustain peace. We have no greater challenge.