

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (spoke in Arabic): Mr. President, at the outset I would like to commend the presidency of your brotherly country, Egypt, of the Security Council for this month. I also thank you, Sir, for the initiative to hold this important open debate on a topic that is at the core of the goals of the Charter of the United Nations, and also for circulating the concept note (S/2017/692, annex). I commend your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of China, for his presidency of the Council during the previous month. And I thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed for her valuable briefing, as well as Mr. Mahmoud and Mr. Rosenthal. The State of Kuwait stands behind the Secretary-General in his efforts to support peacekeeping operations and to develop those operations in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

In that regard, I would like to build on what has been said today regarding how peacekeeping operations can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. That requires, first, considering innovative preventive diplomacy practices in line with resolution 2086 (2013), which stresses the importance of monitoring and defining functions and challenges facing peacebuilding during the inception of the mission. That is important because we must also mobilize all support from our national and regional institutions and from all social segments, including women and children, in order to start building peace without postponing it until the post-conflict phase.

As such, and guided by resolution 2282 (2016), which provides a great number of tools to sustain peace, supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission will bridge the gap between the end of peacekeeping operations and the start of planning for peacebuilding through a smooth transition that ensures the sustainability of peace and better cooperation with national institutions in the concerned States. Such an approach should also help us reduce the cost of peacekeeping operations.

Establishing peacekeeping operations in line with concepts and on the basis of resolutions 2086 (2013) and 2282 (2016) would allow the United Nations achieve a more comprehensive assessment of missions and to define the challenges they face. Therefore, this could enable us to come up with innovative solutions that improve the performance of missions and their financial efficiency, without prejudice to their ability to confront all challenges facing their mandates. Continued cooperation and consultation with relevant States and focusing on their needs and wishes would help inevitably lead to greater efficiency in the performance of peacekeeping operations, whether in peacebuilding or peacekeeping.

Taking into consideration the needs of host countries in a way that corresponds to their challenges and the realities on the ground effectively contributes to adapting the mandates of peacekeeping operations to those developments and enhances the ability of relevant States to design and devise mission mandates and exit strategies. After that, the international community,

the international financial institutions and donor countries will be able to play their role in supporting reconstruction and development efforts.

I would be remiss if I failed to commend the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in support of peacekeeping operations on the continent while enhancing and the national role and responsibility of the African States in their region. The growing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is an example to follow when considering other forms of cooperation with other regional organizations.

In that regard, I recall that my country took part in the United Nations Operation in Somalia II. But our most extensive experience, which lasted for more than 12 years, was hosting the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission, where the State of Kuwait cooperated with the Mission and the Organization in order to achieve its goals and its mandate until we managed, in consultation with Iraq, the Mission and troop-contributing countries, in 2003, to agree on withdrawing the Mission after it achieved its mandate, as part of a process that included the host country, troop-contributing countries and the Security Council.

The State of Kuwait looks forward to taking part in constructive deliberations in the Council regarding peacekeeping operations and their reform this year, as well as over the next two years as a member of the Council.