

Mr. Moncada (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (spoke in Spanish): It is an honour for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this open debate on a matter to which we attach great importance, taking into account the fact that 88 per cent of peacekeeping personnel deployed in the field come from non-aligned countries.

At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the States members of the Movement, our best wishes to the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt for a successful month in the conduct of the work of the Council, as well as our appreciation for its efforts in preparing the concept paper (S/2017/692, annex) for this meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the diligence with which the delegation of the People's Republic of China carried out the work of this organ in July.

Likewise, we should like to thank Her Excellency Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed; Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute; and Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, former Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, for their valuable briefings.

The States members of the Movement reiterate their commitment to the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with Article 2 and Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law as a whole, in order to contribute to strengthening international peace and security and United Nations peacekeeping operations to save future generations from the scourge of war, including by strengthening the role of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence-building, national reconciliation, post-conflict peacebuilding, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

In that regard, we stress that, in the context of a comprehensive approach and the objective of a lasting peace and security, the implementation of all tasks mandated to peacekeeping operations should be supported and accompanied by a parallel, comprehensive and inclusive peace process that is well planned and carefully designed and based on national ownership and the support of the international community, as well as the consent and compliance of the parties concerned. In that respect, I would refer to resolution 2086 (2013), which was welcomed by the Movement, with its particular focus on multidimensional peacekeeping as an important contribution to pursuing a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

At the seventeenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in September 2016 on Margarita island, Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government stressed that United Nations peacekeeping operations must not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, together with other political, social, economic and developmental instruments. They further stressed that due consideration should be given by the United Nations

to the manner in which those efforts can be carried out from the early stage of United Nations engagement in post-conflict situations and continue without interruption after the departure of peacekeeping operations, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and sustainable development. In that context, they stressed the need to improve synergies between peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities so as to attain the overall objective of sustainable peace.

Our position is of great relevance, taking into account that, in most cases, the structural causes of conflicts include, among others, poverty, hunger, inequalities — including those related to gender — violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, injustice, lack of jobs and access to education, poor accountability and mismanagement of natural resources, all of which are core elements of a comprehensive approach specifically to achieving sustainable peace.

On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government also reaffirmed the Movement's principled position on peacekeeping operations, which must be carried out with strict adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They also emphasized that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, are key elements of joint efforts in the promotion of international peace and security. In that regard, they reiterated that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping — namely, the consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence — is essential to the success of peacekeeping operations.

Preserving, promoting, achieving and maintaining international peace and security should remain key priorities of the United Nations agenda, which is why the international community must spare no effort in the fields of conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Therefore, preventing the outbreak, continuation or recurrence of conflict is a collective responsibility. Most important of all, however, it is a national responsibility that could at times benefit from the objective, impartial and supportive assistance that the United Nations is able to provide, upon request and in partnership with regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate.

Moreover, while recognizing that there are various tools available to the international community and the United Nations for ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security, including preventive diplomacy, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses the importance of using such tools in good faith, and not as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of Member States, in strict compliance with the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We also emphasize the need to include and involve all sectors of society in peace processes, including women and youth, who can play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and in building peaceful and resilient societies.

The Non-Aligned Movement has taken note of the Secretary-General's peace and security architecture reform initiative, which has a particular focus on United Nations peacekeeping operations enhancing the meaningful interface between United Nations political efforts and peacekeeping operations on the ground. The need to change compartmentalized thinking within the Organization must not be minimized, including in order for peacekeeping mandates and operations to be well calibrated with the broader political and development objectives necessary for sustaining peace.

In that connection, the States members of the Movement reiterate the importance they attach to the deliberations and report of the annual substantive session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which is the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and refer to the observations and recommendations reached through consensus in this year's report on the potential contribution of peacekeeping operations to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, we recognize the need for further awareness-raising of personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions about the evolving policy discussions and approaches regarding the field. The Movement also stresses the need for a structural and predictable approach to the triangular consultations among the Security Council, the troop and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat, with a view to leveraging the potential of peacekeeping mandates and operations for sustaining peace.

To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement looks forward to the Secretary-General's report on sustaining peace with specific recommendations on, inter alia, how peacekeeping operations can better serve the comprehensive approach of sustaining peace, including during transitions. The Movement wishes to see creative and forward-looking recommendations, particularly on increased, sustainable and predictable resources for sustaining peace, including by enhancing the efficiency of peacekeeping operations, as part of the broad-based framework for sustaining peace in response to the shifting realities on the ground.