

Mr. Plasai (Thailand): Let me first express my delegation's appreciation to the Egyptian presidency for convening today's open debate and to all the briefers for their respective remarks.

I wish to align myself with the statement just delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The world is now faced with peace and security challenges that are more diverse and complex than ever before. That is particularly true in the context of Africa. The three major peace and security reviews in 2015 called for deepened and strengthened partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), as well as its regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, with a view to better utilizing the comparative advantage of regional actors in addressing such challenges. Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations is a recognition that certain situations could be more appropriately dealt with by regional actions. At the same time, it also provides a basis for operationalizing the partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements. In that regard, we welcome the adoption today of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/8.

We recognize the valuable contribution of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, in particular through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The new APSA road map 2016-2020 is an aspirational document aimed at taking a more holistic approach that gives primacy to conflict prevention, political solutions and sustaining peace. In our view, the experiences in the following areas of United Nations-AU partnership should feature prominently in the future direction of APSA:

The first is peace operations. From supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, there is a wealth of lessons and best practices that can be drawn from the United Nations-AU cooperation in peace operations.

The second is peacebuilding. Africa is at the heart of United Nations peacebuilding efforts. Last month, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted parallel resolutions (70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively) on the review of peacebuilding, emphasizing the role of the AU.

The third is women, peace and security. Taking forward the aspirations of resolution 1325 (2000), the African Union Gender, Peace and Security Programme (2015-2020) is designed to achieve the increased participation of African women in the peace process and to enhance the protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The fourth is counter-terrorism. The atrocities committed by Boko Haram are a stark reminder that Africa, too, is affected by terrorism. Responding to such threats requires the concerted effort of countries of the region. Earlier this month, the Council, in its presidential statement S/PRST/2016/7, commended such efforts in the fight against Boko Haram.

As part of our contribution to the debate, we would like to suggest the following as the possible way forward in advancing the United Nations-AU peace and security cooperation:

First, the United Nations undertook three major reviews of the peace and security architecture in 2015. That process continues this year with the upcoming review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. One important consideration for the AU is whether reviews of or adjustments to the APSA mechanisms should be undertaken to align them with the outcome of the aforementioned United Nations review processes.

Secondly, the United Nations-AU partnership should be geared towards conflict prevention and laying a firm foundation for sustainable peace. This means addressing the root causes of conflicts, including socioeconomic disparities, social injustice and marginalization, as well as ensuring capacity-building and strengthening State institutions. Resources are required to realize these objectives. The AU should be supported with adequate and predictable funding, especially when acting under the authorization of the Security Council. At the same time, as we are mindful of the limited resources within the United Nations system, other avenues of funding partnerships — including intergovernmental assistance, international and regional financial institutions, and domestic resource mobilization — should also be explored. In this regard, we recognize the generous contributions made by several countries in support of peace and security in Africa.

Thirdly, in order to ensure coherence and complementarity among different United Nations agencies and partnership mechanisms on Africa, we see an important strategic and coordinating role for the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The two Offices should work closely with the AU Commission to generate renewed momentum for strengthening peace and security in Africa, in particular in

developing a joint United Nations-AU framework for enhanced partnership in peace and security. We share the assessment contained in the concept note before us (S/2016/428, annex) that this joint United Nations- AU framework will transform the United Nations-AU collaboration into a more holistic partnership capable of comprehensively responding to the contemporary peace and security challenges in Africa.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate that African problems require African solutions, and that the United Nations can play a role in this regard. Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations gives us a framework for the Organization to cooperate with regional arrangements. We should take this forward and turn such cooperation into a true partnership, especially in the context of Africa. Only by pooling together our resolve and resources can we realize the full potential of the African Peace and Security Architecture.