

Mr. Al Owais (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*):

At the outset, I would like to express my thanks to Sweden for convening this open debate. The United Arab Emirates emphasizes the importance of today's discussions.

We condemn the terrorist attack on the Kandahar Governor's guest house, which injured the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and a number of Emirati diplomats who were accompanying him on a humanitarian mission under the United Arab Emirates programme to support the brotherly Afghan people to end conflicts and sustain peace.

Today's meeting is a critical first step towards building an important relationship between the new Secretary-General and the Security Council. Having such dynamic, strong linkages between the Secretary-General and this organ is integral to utilizing and maximizing the United Nations tools for prevention. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for sharing his vision earlier today and for revitalizing conflict prevention across the United Nations. We endorse his call for a diplomacy of peace and stand ready to support all his efforts in that regard.

Nowhere is there a need for conflict prevention greater than in the Middle East, our region. It is urgently needed. We sense the grave impact of violence and instability. The persistent conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Palestine, among other protracted conflicts in the region, have implications for the security of countries near and far, as they fuel a state of global instability and undermine international security. It is high time to find political solutions to those conflicts, with the aim of building sustainable and resilient societies in our region.

We believe that there is a very clear connection between extremist ideologies and terrorist acts. Those acts must be addressed simultaneously, through a comprehensive, long-term approach. The narrative of extremists is in stark contrast to the United Arab Emirates model as a modern, progressive Arab society. It is also in contrast to the Middle East as we envision it — a vibrant tapestry of cultures and backgrounds coexisting in peace.

For too many years, the international community has managed humanitarian political crises only by minimizing their impacts, instead of truly finding solutions to them and preventing them from occurring. We would encourage taking strong measures to prevent such crises. The list of conflicts is too long, their nature is too complex, the actors involved are unconventional, the magnitude of lives lost and humanitarian need is too staggering for us to continue to avoid confronting crises head on.

The United Arab Emirates adopts a comprehensive approach that has human beings as a

pillar. We try to address all aspects, not only economic factors. We invest in our people by encouraging women and youth to be active members in protecting our communities by empowering them and providing them with the necessary tools and opportunities. We also try to prevent the recurrence of conflict by rebuilding institutions and infrastructure and by underscoring the rule of law.

At this critical juncture, we hope that there is scope for renewed multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation. In that connection, the United Arab Emirates is pleased to offer recommendations to the Security Council with the aim of ensuring progress and results in preventing conflicts and maintaining international peace and security.

First, the Security Council must better consult with regional organizations and countries concerned. Regional organizations are often closer to conflicts and have a special understanding of their dynamics.

Secondly, crisis prevention must start with addressing the roots causes that lead to violence and instability. The United Arab Emirates is dedicating its efforts to countering violent extremism and terrorism. We firmly believe that we must combat extremism before it becomes violent.

Thirdly, we call upon the members of the Security Council to work together to achieve the best outcomes that would benefit the world at large. All States Members of the United Nations must fully benefit from all the tools available to prevent conflicts, as outlined in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate Sweden on its election to the Security Council. We wish it all success in stewarding the Council for the rest of the month.