

Security Council Open Debate
Cooperation Between the UN and Regional and Subregional Organizations
Peace Operations: the UN-African Union Partnership and its Evolution
December 2014, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Van Oosterom Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations.

I would like to add my voice to those of us who have expressed condolences to Pakistan for the unspeakable atrocity that occurred today. I am very sorry to say, also, that I would like to extend my condolences to Yemen, where a horrible attack has also taken place. My Government condemns these acts of appalling terror that violate everything humanity stands for.

Mr. President, I would now like to express my appreciation for your initiative to organize this important open debate. I align myself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union. In the light of time constraints, I will read out a shortened version of my statement. My full text will be available via Twitter.

My Government thanks Chad for the excellent cooperation between both our contingents in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Mr. President, we commend the dedication and perseverance of your country's peacekeepers under the harshest of circumstances in northern Mali. We commemorate the brave Chadian peacekeepers who were killed in action and pay tribute to their determination and to their contribution to the cause of peace.

We need new and innovative approaches to maintaining and restoring peace and security. Conflicts are changing in nature, from conflicts between States to conflicts within States. Poverty, inequality and lack of perspective combine into an unstable mix, which forms a breeding ground for violent extremism that can easily spill across borders. New threats, such as terrorism, transnational crime and Ebola, demand international cooperation and a concerted effort. These are not just challenges for Africa, but for the international community as a whole. Enhancing the partnership between the United Nations and the AU is therefore in the interest of all of us. Member States should contribute what they can, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands aims to do its fair share.

My Government is committed to peace and security in Africa. Most of our military, police and civil experts worldwide are deployed in missions in Africa. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a partner for Africa. Let me mention, for example, our contingents in MINUSMA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, our training of African peacekeepers, our anti-piracy activities and our logistical support through our naval vessel *Karel Doorman* in the fight against Ebola. Regional organizations play an increasingly important role in maintaining peace and security, complementing United Nations efforts. We therefore welcome the fact that the African Union is rapidly developing into a stronger and more effective organization. As an example already addressed by some speakers today, AU missions are increasingly deployed ahead of United Nations missions. That illustrates the need for close cooperation between the United Nations and the AU, especially between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Complex conflicts demand a comprehensive approach, combining diplomacy, development cooperation, defence, police, justice and trade, with a specific focus on the issue of women, peace and security. The Netherlands believes that such a comprehensive approach would further strengthen United Nations-AU efforts. For example, links between the African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Governance Architecture and the regional economic communities could be enhanced. We believe that this would lead to more sustainable results. Transparent and inclusive governance, respect for human rights and post-conflict reconstructive measures lead to more stable societies, lowering the risks of a return to conflict. We welcome the African Union's initiatives in those areas.

Let me also highlight the issue of prevention, echoing my Indonesian colleague. The African Peace and Security Architecture contains several important instruments in that field. It is quite simple — prevention saves lives.

In conclusion, it is my country's ambition to remain Africa's partner for peace, justice and development. We are fully committed to continuing our active role in United Nations peacekeeping, in particular in Africa. We wholeheartedly support the initiative to strengthen the role of the African Union in maintaining peace and security on the continent, and to improve cooperation with the United Nations.