Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I would like to commend Egypt for its timely convening of this open debate on the crucial matter of maintaining international peace and security, United Nations-African Union (AU) peace and security cooperation and the future of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

Let me thank the Egyptian delegation for the concept note (S/2016/428, annex) provided to guide our deliberations today and our briefers for their very concise and constructive contributions to this debate.

I also take the opportunity to welcome the African Union Peace and Security Council presence in New York to discuss strategic issues with the Security Council, with a view to strengthening cooperation between our organizations. That coincides with the tenth anniversary of the annual joint meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, which was held very constructively yesterday.

Tomorrow the African continent will celebrate the fifty-third anniversary of the moment when 32 African leaders expressed their determination to promote the ideals of pan-Africanism, understanding and cooperation among the African peoples, and to create the conditions needed to establish and maintain peace and security on the continent. However, the pledges made at the time to establish justice and sustainable peace in Africa have still not materialized to this day and remain aspirations rather than reality for a good number of African countries and peoples.

The African continent is currently hosting 9 of the 16 peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, consisting of more than 90,000 troops and supported by more than 15,000 personnel. The African Union Peace and Security Council has deployed a considerable number of troops under Security Council mandates, which must render the two bodies' dialogue and cooperation necessary and more coordinated and effective, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Last year, the African Union deployed a road map for the African Peace and Security Architecture for 2016 to 2020 as a strategic document, putting particular emphasis on deliveries by all stakeholders involved in the Peace and Security Architecture, including partners and external actors. The road map aims to cover the various phases of the conflict cycle through five strategic priorities — conflict prevention, conf lict management, post-conf lict reconstruction and peacebuilding, strategic security issues, and coordination and partnerships.

How can the Security Council support the successful implementation of those strategic priorities? And how can the outcomes of the 2015 reviews that the United Nations has conducted of its peacekeeping operations and architecture, and of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, be coordinated with

implementation of the African Union road map and, more broadly, with the African Peace and Security Architecture? In trying to give answers to those questions, we will focus on the three phases of the conflict cycle — prevention, management and the post-conflict period. With regard to the prevention of conflict, the institutions and mechanisms of the African Peace and Security Architecture, such as the Peace and Security Council and the early-warning systems at both the continental and regional level, play a critical role through preventive diplomacy, mediation and electoral observation missions aimed at defusing any potential threats or risks to peace and security.

The 2015 reviews underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict by involving all segments of society, promoting inclusive development and human rights and protecting fundamental individual and collective freedoms. They also emphasized the importance of addressing the specific concerns of young people, in order to promote harmonious development, and of ensuring women's equal participation in conflict prevention efforts and increasing their role in the decision-making process. During yesterday's discussion of the partnership between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, a consensus developed on the need to improve their collaboration in analysing and assessing threats, as well as their coordination of preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts. When, despite the best efforts of national stakeholders and the international community, a conflict cannot be avoided, the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council have additional reasons to join forces in helping the parties to that conflict to reach a political agreement in order to put an end to the hostilities and, if necessary, to resort to the use of force,

in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter.

Last year, the United Nations engaged in a review of its peacekeeping operations. The High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, chaired by José Ramos-Horta, former President of Timor-Leste, presented a comprehensive report (S/2015/446) focused onthechangingnatureofconflict,theevolvingmandates of peace operations, managerial and administrative arrangements and difficulties, planning, partnerships, the protection of civilians and human rights, and special political missions. In particular, the African Union Peace and Security Council was extensively consulted and given an opportunity to lay out its common position and focus on the priorities for regional institutions in managing crises and conflicts — recognition of the Security Council's authority to authorize enforcement action and the need for constant consultations and exchange of information related to ongoing crises and conflicts and for mutual respect and complementarity.

The new, unprecedented threats faced by some African countries in 2013 led them to devise a solution to the delays in the operationalization of the African Standby Force, which was originally scheduled for 2008. The African Capacity for Immediate Response

to Crisis has been proposed by a number of African countries, including Angola, in order to fill the capability gap, find funding, provide ownership for African countries of conflict situations on the continent and come up with an immediate response to crises. It is not intended to replace the African Standby Force, and steps are being taken to harmonize it with the Standby Force's structure. The Security Council should be better informed and engaged about that process and should assess how it can better support it and render it operational.

Last month, the Security Council adopted resolution 2282 (2016), while the General Assembly adopted an identical resolution (70/262), on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, extending the scope of peacebuilding to all phases of conflict, not just the post-conflict period. Noting that the 2016- 2020 road map addresses peacebuilding, we would suggest that the African Union appropriate the new United Nations approach to peacebuilding, in order to adapt the African Peace and Security Architecture to today's challenges.

As the three reviews of the United Nations

framework for peace have outlined, preventing conflict and implementing the principle of aid in the definition of sustaining peace are key to avoiding conflict — the unfulfilled aspiration first expressed more than 50 years ago and reiterated in the African Union's fiftieth anniversary Solemn Declaration, in which Africa's leaders stated their determination to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, now a pillar of the African Union's visionary Agenda 2063. Today's debate is therefore a timely one, and I am sure that our deliberations and the presidential statement (S/PRST/2016/8) we adopted this morning will contribute to making Africa a more peaceful and prosperous continent, as we all desire.