

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*):

At the outset, I would like to welcome His Excellency Secretary- General António Guterres and to express Egypt's full support for his work under his important mandate. I would also like to express our appreciation to Sweden for convening this debate, which addresses a central aspect of the future role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security.

In the light of the emerging and unconventional challenges in our world — including the proliferation of extremist organizations, organized crime, migration and environmental challenges — we need to develop a creative approach to address them. Given the nature of those challenges, an overlap between conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and sustainable development is inevitable

The comprehensive reviews carried out in 2015 have given us a clear understanding of the impact of those challenges on the role of the United Nations and on the concepts governing peacebuilding and sustainability. The subsequent resolution 2282 (2016) constituted the political framework for such a conceptual development. One of the most important conclusions to be drawn from those reviews is the imperative to abandon the concept of crisis or conflict management and to adopt an approach that seeks to either prevent conflicts before they occur or to find a sustainable resolution by addressing their root causes. We must also take into consideration that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to all conflicts.

To that end, we call for improving the Secretariat's analytical capabilities to suggest and propose detailed solutions commensurate with the nature, dimensions and varying contexts of every conflict. Egypt believes that such a flexible analytical approach would help the Organization and the Security Council to determine the best means to address each stage of a conflict, whether by deploying or amending a mandate, by withdrawing a peacekeeping operation or a special political mission, by resorting exclusively to mediation, by imposing or lifting a sanctions regime or by giving precedence to the efforts of regional and subregional organizations.

The concept of sustainable peace is the ultimate goal of the work of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. According to that concept, the Organization must be able to adopt a political and programmatic framework, especially in countries and regions emerging from conflict. The political framework calls for continued and long-term regional and international support of the political process in order to achieve political stability and security, as a prelude to the programmatic framework. That framework should invest in national capacity- building to manage national reconciliation processes, to recover economic activity and to improve the ability of Governments to meet the basic education and health needs of their citizens.

It is only natural for women and young people to play a central role in all phases of planning, implementation and follow-up of all sustainable peace processes as a means to move from conflict to peace. We believe that such an approach gives an objective and comprehensive meaning to the concept of national ownership.

Assistance programmes should focus on building the national institutions and capacities that will enable transformative efforts to achieve sustainable peace. Therefore, the United Nations must adopt a

new approach when determining the priorities of such assistance programmes. National forces must be able to set those priorities, instead of them being imposed by donor countries.

The magnitude of the challenges to sustainable peace requires a shift in the United Nations system at the cultural, structural and administrative levels. Resolution 2282 (2016) comprises a pragmatic framework for improving the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, in order to ensure consistency between the programmatic and political frameworks of sustainable peace. Given the overlap between political, security, economic and institutional aspects of sustainable peace, the Peacebuilding Commission must play a role that varies depending on the nature of each conflict. Therefore, the Commission must demonstrate the necessary flexibility to deal with every conflict separately.

Predictable funding for efforts to sustain peace represents another main challenge. We need to adopt funding mechanisms based on a broad partnership among the United Nations, international financial institutions and bilateral donors. Those mechanisms should take into consideration a degree of risk as a by-product of investment in sustaining peace. The Peacebuilding Fund can play an important role in that regard, and all donor countries should be encouraged to provide it with long-term funding.

We look forward to the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on resolution 2282 (2016). We stress the need for that report to include a comprehensive vision of how to improve the role of our Organization and the tools available to it to contribute to sustaining peace, based on the outcomes of the previous comprehensive reviews. That would represent a new agenda for peace that coincides with the passing of 25 years since the issuance of the Agenda for Peace report (S/24111) by Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The challenges of our day are different from those existing when the report was issued in 1992, but the goal remains the same. It is the need for the United Nations to regain its important role, as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter. We hope that the new Secretary-General will be able to formulate that comprehensive vision and to garner international commitment for such a vision.

