

Mr. Perović (Montenegro):

Let me begin by offering my sincere and deepest condolences to the Government of the Russian Federation, the family and the friends on the passing of our respected colleague, His Excellency Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

Montenegro is pleased to contribute to this important debate and commends Ukraine for organizing it.

We live in an increasingly divided world, fractured by violence, conflicts and political breakdowns and other worrying developments that are threatening the future of entire generations. The European security landscape is also marked by instability, and our ideals are and will be repeatedly challenged. Furthermore, the international community, including the United Nations, constantly finds itself in crisis-management mode. By devoting all our energy to just one crisis or by just reacting to crises, we will never get things done. We should recognize the clear need for decisive action in reversing such trends, as well as the need for new ways of building peaceful and resilient societies and avoiding backsliding away from peace, security, basic respect for human rights and sustainable development.

We all know that prevention can work and does work and that our Organization can do better. The price of overlooking prevention, on the other hand, is high and very easy to see. That is why we would like to underline the significance of United Nations early-detection and early-warning mechanisms. The Security Council must consider making better use of the wide range of tools at its disposal to prevent the emergence of conflicts. Needless to say, such an approach is far more cost-effective.

Progress and peace in Europe must not be taken for granted. We should foster them in every country and at every opportunity, and we should keep in mind lessons learned in our continent. We in Montenegro know from experience that the best and, truly, the only sustainable way to solve differences and alleviate tensions and conflict situations is to use the tools of diplomacy and dialogue. The United Nations and the Security

Council often become overstretched and overburdened with various crises, and cooperation and partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of peacebuilding should be strengthened. Those organizations should play a more active role in assisting and, if need be, in leading efforts to bringing about peace and stability.

Regional and subregional organizations have deep knowledge and strong local networks and are, therefore, in a position to offer tailor-made approaches. Equally important, they

ensure that the countries directly affected by crises are involved, as we have seen in many instances in Africa. For those reasons, the role of the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in international security and in advancing peace in Europe is indispensable.

One of the latest examples of the proactive engagement of regional organizations from our region is the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo on the normalization of relations. Montenegro welcomes that EU initiative, which is very much in line with our firm belief that there is no alternative to dialogue as we search for durable solutions. We know that putting dialogue into practice is not always easy and that any success will be possible only if there is strong and sustained political support by all States.

The maintenance of international peace and security is not the task of the United Nations and other international organizations alone. It is a process of individual, collective and institutional transformation and one of inclusive development. Without inclusive State institutions, we are unlikely to have either sustained peace or a basis for long-term development. We also believe that it is crucial to involve women and youth in the peacebuilding process as stakeholders and decision-makers, and that should be primarily the responsibility of all Member States and regions. But we need to strengthen our understanding of how international actors can support the process.

A collective global response and a stronger and more effective United Nations is needed for confronting the challenges of today's world. We should use the wide range of potential tools at our disposal with focus and dedication, so as to achieve results. Working together towards a world that will bring about peace, security and development is our task, challenge and opportunity, and Montenegro is committed to playing its part.