

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan): I congratulate Ethiopia on having assumed the presidency of the Council for this month and echo others in welcoming Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn as President during this important debate. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Guterres; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat; and President Ramos-Horta for their insights in connection with a new trajectory for United Nations peacekeeping.

This new road map of proposed reforms, aimed at responding effectively to volatile and multiple old and new conflicts, will promote the three founding pillars of peace, development and human rights, with politics and prevention as key priorities.

Kazakhstan fully supports the significant shift from conflict resolution to prevention and sustaining peace, together with structural changes and a new configuration of United Nations entities. These suggested changes are aimed at bringing about better working methods and a better culture and ethos than those prevailing throughout the peacekeeping chain from Headquarters to the field.

The use of United Nations diplomacy, mediation and good offices, in partnership with the efforts of regional organizations such as the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Arab League, will have far-reaching effects.

Kazakhstan is of the view that the new reforms must ensure that the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, are upheld together with that of statehood, which must be preserved. At the same time, States are obliged to fulfil their legal, moral and political responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians.

New peacekeeping and peacebuilding approaches require clear and achievable mandates, with qualified staff, equipment and resources for peacebuilding work. Moving away from mere military arrangements, the focus has to be directed towards more coherent programmes and new partnerships to reduce costs and lower the overhead expenditures of peacekeeping operations through intergovernmental support. The Council should work closely with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund for sustained, predictable long-term funding, so that new reforms can take hold in a context of a strengthened security development nexus.

The Security Council and the Secretariat must interact with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations system and other partners, including regional organizations, for more informed decision-making. Other important stakeholders in this process are international and national partners, including humanitarian aid agencies and civil society.

The deployment of regional forces has proved effective, as illustrated by the hybrid missions of the United Nations and the African Union. Successful examples include the Multinational Joint Task Force, the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Regional Protection Force, because of their familiarity with the local terrain and militia tactics. Such cooperation should be strengthened on many other fronts, as indicated in the 19 April 2017 United Nations-AU partnership agreement. Collaboration with regional structures also facilitates concerted action against terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and refugee and migration flows.

Reforms also mean holding United Nations staff accountable to the highest standards of integrity and discipline so as to prevent misconduct. In this regard, the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse must be strictly enforced. To demonstrate its national commitment to this goal, Kazakhstan has endorsed and signed the Global Compact.

The use of modern technologies, reconnaissance assets and forces in peacekeeping missions is necessary to improve the security and safety of United Nations personnel, humanitarian actors and civilians. However, judicial and legal considerations have to be taken into account.

Simultaneously, integrating gender- and youth sensitive analyses, as well as encouraging both groups in the context of the planning, implementing, evaluating and mission drawdown of all operations, will definitely yield successful results. More women need to be deployed in peacekeeping operations, with gender expertise in every mission component. Kazakhstan is highly committed to peacekeeping and will continue to send well-qualified military observers, augmenting its contribution annually.

Kazakhstan is currently preparing its peacekeeping unit, building upon the valuable experience gained during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a decade ago. As an emerging troop-contributing country, we are constantly increasing our level of preparedness, as confirmed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Kazakhstan has established its own peacekeeping training centre, KAZCENT, which has already been acknowledged as meeting international norms. We conduct courses on a regional basis and will strive to obtain the status of a regional centre. In that connection, may I take this opportunity to thank all of our partners for the tremendous support we are receiving.

Finally, as Kazakhstan prepares for greater practical engagement in the context of United Nations peacekeeping, not only do we fully endorse the proposed reforms, but we also commit to implementing them in cooperation with the United Nations and other stakeholders so as to achieve all that we envision.