

Ms. Wilson (Australia): I am honoured to speak on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and Australia (the CANZ group).

We are committed to implementing the sustaining peace resolutions (Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262) and believe that peacekeeping operations make a key contribution to sustainable peace. The resolutions emphasize that sustaining peace must become a shared task and responsibility. Better reflecting the primacy of politics was highlighted by the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (S/2015/446) as one of the four essential shifts for peace operations reform. Advancing these goals requires the continued leadership of the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States, and includes a commitment to improving in three areas on which we will focus today: United Nations peacekeeping operations managing transitions, integrating sustaining peace with ongoing reform processes, and financing for peacebuilding. The time for engagement is now.

Failed transitions out of peacekeeping missions increase the risk of relapse into conflict. Improving transitions was a key motivator for the sustaining peace resolutions. The issue is now urgent, particularly given the scheduled closure in Liberia, the downsizing in Darfur and the transition in Haiti. Effective transitions require broad consultation and access to financing to ensure that resourcing and policy approaches are appropriate.

In the spirit of more inclusive working methods, the Council should engage closely with the Secretariat and the Peacebuilding Commission, which should in turn engage across the United Nations system and outside it, with the international financial institutions, civil society and others. We commend the assessment and planning for ongoing peacebuilding needs in Liberia, noting that capacity-mapping efforts reveal a troubling capacity cliff in the United Nations country teams' ability to take on key tasks. That needs to be addressed.

Secondly, increasing predictable, sustained financing for peacebuilding must be a high priority if we want the pivot to prevention to achieve its potential. Better coordination with other peacebuilding contributors — including United Nations agencies, the international financial institutions, regional and bilateral partners, and donors — is crucial. This is especially the case when operating environments are fluid.

Donors also have a key role to play in addressing the fragmentation of United Nations peacebuilding financing. By requesting joint analysis and contributing to pooled and unearmarked funds, donors can powerfully incentivise coordinated and coherent United Nations peacebuilding efforts. We reiterate our call for ambitious options to be put forward for predictable and sustained financing, including on assessed and voluntary contributions. In addition to rationalizing existing resources for peacebuilding, we must further empower the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to coordinate and engage more broadly in order to access funding and conduct joint analyses.

We must also focus on increasing women's participation in peacebuilding. We commend the Peacebuilding Fund for allocating 20 per cent to women's empowerment projects in 2016, and call for continued efforts and increased financing to support women in actively participating.

Thirdly, we urge continued efforts to align reform processes with the sustaining peace perspective. It is essential that the current range of reform processes contribute to improving the ability of the United Nations system as a whole, including peacekeeping operations specifically, to build and sustain peace. Those responsible for reform processes should fully absorb and apply the sustaining peace resolutions in their work.

We urge the Council, the Secretariat, funds and programmes and all Member States to support reforms and retain the focus on why the reforms are being pursued. The Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in November, will be a good opportunity to advance this perspective.

In closing, CANZ strongly supports implementation of sustaining peace and recognizes the vital role of United Nations peacekeeping missions in achieving this. We are committed to reform efforts that are coherent, coordinated and lead to effective United Nations action, including on peacebuilding.