

**Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine):** I would like to thank Egypt for bringing a very important issue to the forefront of discussion in the Council. The interest of the wider United Nations membership in today's debate is a testament to the importance and the relevance of this subject. I also extend my gratitude to all three briefers for their highly useful and important briefings.

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union later. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following.

It is obvious that peacekeeping in its current state faces challenges that did not exist a decade ago, to say nothing of the days when the concept of peacekeeping was in its inception. Nevertheless, United Nations peace operations have proved to be a highly adaptive instrument that contributes much to the resolution of numerous conflicts. In recent years, the Council and the General Assembly have thoroughly considered and passed several important decisions on United Nations activities aimed at upholding and sustaining peace. The simultaneous resolutions on sustaining peace (Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262) have become a significant step forward in the implementation of a conflict-prevention approach. The conclusions and recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations made us take a fresh look at the nature and challenges of peacekeeping operations.

In today's highly volatile world there is a lot of demand for greater United Nations engagement in the area of peace and security. In most cases, sustainable de-escalation and progress in peaceful settlements and peacebuilding require a robust international security presence. We fully recognize the critical importance of peacebuilding architecture in finding effective ways to support countries emerging from conflict.

To be successful in this endeavour, the United Nations approach must be based on coherence among the political, security and development pillars. Enabling countries to put in place effective and inclusive national mechanisms and institutions that can address socioeconomic and political root causes of conflict must become a priority for the whole United Nations system. Those include issues that are related to the promotion and the protection of human rights and to ensuring that women play an active role at all stages of peace consolidation. Incorporating human rights related tasks into peacekeeping operation mandates and human rights components into peace operations are also essential to prevent conflict, as doing so would contribute to the de-escalation of and reduced potential for conflict re-emergence.

When we consider the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding activities, the following elements are equally important. First, national ownership is an indispensable condition for the establishment of both effective and efficient core State capacities, leading to a more stable and viable State. The purpose of institution-building is to reduce the dependence of postconflict Governments on the international community and to promote self-reliance. Yet, the fact that many post-conflict countries relapse into violence leaves no doubt about the need for extreme

prudence in planning the transition of responsibilities from the international community to national authorities, especially in the security sector.

Secondly, consensus between domestic and international stakeholders on a broad peacebuilding agenda is important for the success of institution-building and peacebuilding endeavours as a whole. If there is a lack of understanding on either side, there will be little tangible progress in securing a lasting peace.

Thirdly, given the crucial significance of postconflict institution-building to the success of the overall peacebuilding efforts, my delegation supports the approach of integrating the institution-building perspective, tailored to each country and situation, into the mandates of respective United Nations missions from their early stages.

Fourthly, we believe in the transformative power of relevant regional and subregional organizations in connection with peacebuilding. Over the past decade, the role of the African Union in promoting peace and sustainable development among African States has increased exponentially. The African Union has demonstrated its ability to take the lead in the effective resolution of conflicts, and its views and policies on this matter are of particular value to the United Nations.

Finally, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is ideally placed to bring together external State and non-State actors with the aim of securing the creation of credible, legitimate, accountable and resilient institutions in countries emerging from conflict. Therefore, the PBC should play a leading role in enabling the United Nations system to establish an integrated approach to institution-building. As an advisory body, the Commission has a crucial convening role to bridge security, development and human rights engagements. The Council should consider it a viable tool at its disposal when situations are no longer in a “crisis” stage but are still considered fragile and deserving of more dedicated, targeted and sustained attention.

That relates also to the consideration of peacebuilding-related mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions, as well as to debates on possible drawdown and termination of missions. For instance, the idea of inviting representatives of the Peacebuilding Commission country-specific configurations to take part in the Council’s respective field visits deserves thorough consideration. Such a practice could contribute to better coordination of the work done in New York and activities in the field.