

Mr. Begeç (Turkey): We thank China for organizing today's meeting.

Africa plays an important role in maintaining peace and promoting development. However, serious challenges to lasting peace and security in the continent persist. Sustaining peace and security in Africa requires strong cooperation and coordination among local, national and international actors. That is essential for ensuring collective security. In that regard, we take note of resolution 2320 (2016) and the Security Council's intention to take further steps to enhance the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). Likewise, we welcome the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in April.

Turkey believes that peace and security are instrumental for development. In that vein, Turkey supports the African strategy to end all wars in the continent by 2020 as outlined in the Silence the Guns initiative. Furthermore, we value the central role of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Structure in promoting peace, security and stability. African Union-led peace operations are critical initiatives to address crises in Africa. Turkey contributes to the efforts of those operations, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. As a strategic partner of the continent since 2008, Turkey has tried to assist its African friends in their quest for ensuring peace, security and stability. While doing so, we have attached importance to regional ownership.

In line with the principle of African solutions to African problems, Turkey has contributed to the development of the security capacities of African countries, based on the needs and requests of its partners. We pursue a comprehensive and holistic approach that takes into account peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian dimensions of international assistance, including through our diplomatic network of approximately 40 embassies across the continent.

In the peace and security sector, Turkey's assistance and partnership with the African Union and African States are manifold. Turkey has been providing financial assistance to the African Union, including in the field of security, since 2009. In the past decade, Turkey provided over \$4 million to AMISOM, the East African Standby Force and the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The Turkish National Police helps to build structural and operational capacities of security institutions through bilateral programs. As a co-Chair of the Horn of Africa Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, Turkey has led a series of bilateral efforts aimed at capacity-building in the field of security and counter-terrorism in the region. In Somalia, we have been carrying out a large-scale project since 2014 in Mogadishu for the

reconstruction of the Somali National Army. The Anatolia-Somalia Joint Military Training Centre is expected to become operational by September.

Conflict prevention and mediation are also important aspects of Turkey's engagement with Africa. In our efforts to address the root causes of conflicts, Turkey has been collaborating with the African Union Commission and African partners to realize projects in the fields of trade, rural development, rule of law, infrastructure, health and education. In our approach, we recognize that stabilization and development efforts in Africa cannot succeed if women and youth lack security and access to political, economic, social and judicial resources. In that context, we promote increased political and social partnership, as well as the economic empowerment of women and youth.

In response to recent waves of drought and climate events in sub-Saharan Africa, we have launched nation-wide donation campaigns for assistance. As the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summit, we took the initiative to raise awareness for development and humanitarian assistance efforts for East Africa. Implementing the "New Way or Working", which aligns with Turkey's development-oriented humanitarian assistance, is vital in order to reach collective outcomes, while also building resilience and ending need.

Turkey will continue to do its utmost to contribute to peace and security in Africa. We will also constructively participate in the international and regional initiatives to that end.