



Security Council

Seventy-eighth year

9250th meeting

Thursday, 26 January 2023, 3 p.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Mr. Ishikane/Mrs. Shino (Japan)

Members:

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Agenda

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges

Letter dated 5 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2023/19)

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23-02585 (E)



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The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President: I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Flashing lights on the collars of the microphones will prompt speakers to bring their remarks to a close after three minutes.

I give the floor to the representative of Slovenia.

Ms. Jurečko (Slovenia): I would like to thank the briefers for their insightful remarks.

In my intervention, I will focus on the following three aspects: investment, inclusiveness and partnership. Peacebuilding is about rebuilding trust and governance. It is about healing and building resilient societies. And with today's complex challenges and growing number of conflicts, the importance of conflict prevention and peacebuilding is evident.

My first point concerns investment. While we agree that investing in peacebuilding means investing in sustainable peace, financing continues to be a critical challenge. Sustainable and predictable funding is key. Slovenia will continue to contribute to the Peacebuilding Fund and work towards multiannual planning to increase its predictability. Integrating sustainable development in peacebuilding provides the basis for reconciling and rebuilding communities. It promotes inclusive socioeconomic growth, access to education and health care, and environmental protection. Addressing people's needs and investing in promoting and protecting their human rights paves the way for building peaceful and resilient societies. Investing in efforts to enhance sustainable water, food security and environmental management, combat climate change, and ensure good governance, the empowerment of women and young people, and education on human rights has been at the forefront of Slovenia's development cooperation.

My second point concerns inclusiveness. An inclusive approach is the key to peacebuilding, and involving local communities and all parts of society is essential — it validates the peacebuilding processes. A sustainable and socially just economic model must involve young people and women. However, the latter remain underestimated and overlooked, and their rights continue to be violated. We are especially concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, where women's and girls' rights to health, education and work are

being denied on a daily basis. We all need to do more to support women's rights and ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making processes and leadership positions. Societies that empower women are more peaceful, and when women are included, peace is more sustainable. During our 30 years of statehood, we have been steadily raising the bar on women's political leadership, which has undeniably contributed to Slovenia being the seventh most peaceful country in the world, according to *Global Peace Index 2022*.

My third and final point concerns partnerships. Successful peacebuilding demands inclusive partnerships with regional, national and local actors. Such partnerships provide specific knowledge and understanding of regional challenges. We need to empower local and regional actors and lean on them to prepare, implement and evaluate projects.

The growing number of conflicts today demand innovative and more integrated approaches to maintaining peace and security. When addressing the complexities and interconnectedness of global challenges, the Security Council should make better use of existing tools and expertise, including the tools on environmental peacebuilding developed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Climate Security Mechanism. The Council can benefit from working in synergy with other United Nations bodies and agencies. Strengthening linkages and cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council is also essential.

The rules-based multilateral system, with the Charter of the United Nations at its heart, remains the bedrock of global peace and security. And promoting peaceful and inclusive societies focused on good governance, equal opportunities and education has always been a priority for Slovenia. We stand ready to do our part as we continue our collective search to end suffering and achieve lasting peace and prosperity for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya.

Mr. Kiboino (Kenya): I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the civil society representative for their briefings.

The crafters of the Charter of the United Nations sought to secure international peace and security using three interlinked pillars: the collective defence of peace and security; the protection of human rights; and the promotion of development. They understood that there was little hope of success if Member States were not bound by those three commitments — not as isolated activities but instead as linked and complementary aspects of the policies and operations of the United Nations and its Member States. That profound insight was inspired by the bitter memory of States, as well as the failed League of Nations, which had ignored it. Today we know that the major threats to our countries and humankind at large interact dynamically with each other and also become greater than the sum of their parts. We also have ample evidence that they respect no one country's borders, wealth or military power.

It is only by rededicating ourselves to the founders' insights that we will all become safer. There is no true defence of human rights in countries and regions beset by entrenched poverty, armed conflict and disregard for the inclusive and equitable management of diversity as a core competence. There is no way to sustainably protect the peace when so many citizens have no decent livelihood and are marginalized in governance and development. There is no way to truly promote peacebuilding through investment in people-centred development while cutting the core budgets of United Nations development agencies, as is now happening. There is no way to effectively prevent protracted armed conflict without financing peacebuilding in line with General Assembly resolution 76/305, adopted in September last year. The New Agenda for Peace will not meet our expectations without an agenda for development that enables countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as a minimum.

A return to the Charter's core insights will be greatly aided by our embracing the innovative spirit of the early decades of the United Nations. Peacekeeping, for instance, was invented to further the defence of international peace and security for the great benefit of millions of lives. Today we can use that same spirit to harness the potential of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Many lives would be saved and conflicts prevented and mitigated by the Council becoming more responsive to the advisory competencies of the PBC. We can further innovate peacekeeping, particularly by mandating, funding and equipping regional peace operations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Greco (Italy): I thank Japan for organizing today's debate.

To build and sustain peace, we must truly believe in a rules-based international order, with the United Nations at the forefront of efforts to ensure peace and security, safeguard human rights and achieve sustainable development. As today's event suggests, we must invest in people and, I would add, communities. We must do so by engaging societies beyond political elites; grounding our action in a deep knowledge of the communities and peoples we serve; restoring the trust of young people in national authorities and international governance; centring our action on the needs and knowledge of people; and promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies centred on human rights and a solid relationship between peoples and their territories. We must also integrate a gender perspective in all policies and take measures to advance the participation and protection of women, young people and marginalized groups or communities, while always prioritizing the safeguarding of their rights, and align international support with the priorities of communities themselves, including equal access to work opportunities, youth employment, quality education, high-quality and resilient infrastructure, the eradication of poverty, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities and the reduction of inequalities.

Italy believes that investing in people also means investing in multilateralism. It means revitalizing the mechanisms contained in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and investing in national capacities for prevention. It also means addressing the root causes of tensions and potential conflicts, and building on the role of regional and subregional organizations. It means respecting the national ownership and the heritage of local communities and forging a more sustainable relationship between human settlements and the environment. It means delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It means defeating global food insecurity — ensuring access to food, starting with those most in need, is an international and moral obligation that we must fulfil. It means strengthening global cooperation across all regions and among all Member States, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable countries and regions, including in relation

to the devastating effects of climate change and its direct consequences for peace and security.

Investing in people means providing peacebuilding with sustainable, adequate, predictable and flexible financing, including through significant assessed contributions, and increasing investments to support climate-resilient peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive adaptation measures. It means working for a more ambitious and structured collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council. It means recognizing that multilateralism is the best tool for conflict prevention, which, in turn, is most effective when solidly grounded on a regional approach.

We need international cooperation, yet we face fragmentation. My final and main point in today's debate is that we cannot divide ourselves between the North and the South of the world. Italy intends to bridge that increasing, devastating divide to restore trust and to find common ground. We owe it to our peoples, our communities and our territories.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Luxembourg.

Mr. Maes (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Luxembourg thanks the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for organizing this open debate on peacebuilding.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays a crucial role as an advisory body and as a knowledgeable guide to countries emerging from conflict. We welcome the participation of the Chair of the PBC in this debate and reiterate our support for a more systematic consideration of the PBC's work and advice by the Security Council, as well as for more regular interaction between the Council and all peacebuilding actors, including on the issue of climate and security. The New Agenda for Peace proposed by the Secretary-General should allow for a stronger link between the Security Council and the PBC.

In order to be sustainable, peacebuilding must involve the whole of society. The inclusion of women, young people and vulnerable and marginalized groups is essential. Luxembourg supports efforts in that field within the framework of its feminist foreign policy, which also includes development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The importance Luxembourg attaches to a participatory and inclusive approach is reflected in its humanitarian strategy and its long-

standing partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice in Tunisia, Colombia, Ethiopia and the Sudan, which promotes inclusive transitional justice processes.

Investing in people's capacities is essential to fostering resilient institutions and people's access to quality public services, especially access to education and other basic social services, as well as to protecting the human rights and security of citizens and building citizens' trust in their Governments. It is with that in mind that Luxembourg's cooperation efforts support education in emergency situations in Burkina Faso, in particular the enrolment of young girls, in response to the closure of schools under threat of attack by armed groups.

In order to consolidate peace, a wide range of partners are called upon to invest alongside the United Nations and the countries concerned. Regional organizations, the private sector and civil society actors have an important role to play. Luxembourg will continue its annual financial support to the Peacebuilding Fund. We support the Secretary-General's proposal to finance the Fund partly through assessed contributions.

Luxembourg will continue to contribute in a constructive and targeted manner to prevention and peacebuilding efforts in a spirit of solidarity with all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Šimonović (Croatia): I thank Japan for organizing this timely debate and providing excellent briefers. It helps our preparations for discussing the New Agenda for Peace as an important building block of the Summit of the Future.

Peace evolves in the same way that our world does. Cybersecurity and climate change are good examples. We therefore need new ways to maintain sustainable peace and deal with new threats. We need inclusive, networked multilateralism that does not operate in silos, and that should apply to all our work at the United Nations. We believe that the New Agenda for Peace proposed by the Secretary-General should reflect those points. Yes, every entity of the United Nations has a different mandate, but that does not mean that they should not cooperate, coordinate and complement one another's work. An example was the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council two days ago that discussed the root causes of atrocity crimes, where the

Presidents of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission came together to discuss the issue.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly states that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. We therefore need to forge that nexus linking peace, security and sustainable development. And that also means that when we look at peace and peacebuilding, we should centre them around people and invest in them. We need to think about preventive action and resilience and be proactive. Inclusive and sustainable development anchored in human rights and gender equality and in ensuring that no one is left behind is the best structural prevention of conflicts and atrocity crimes. The Peacebuilding Commission can be very helpful in that regard, as a bridge-builder providing advice and recommendations linking peace and security with socioeconomic development and environmental protection. It can bring together actors from various pillars and work with the countries concerned to achieve a more coherent and coordinated approach to strengthening peace and security, while at the same time addressing the root causes of conflicts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Denmark.

Mr. Hermann (Denmark): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries — Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark. At the outset, I would like to thank Japan and His Excellency Ambassador Ishikane for convening us today.

In order to succeed in preventing conflicts and building and sustaining peace, we must invest in resilience against the shock waves that are disrupting delicate balances in fragile areas of the world. That is more important than ever, as our resilience has not only been tested but hampered by the coronavirus disease, the climate crisis and ongoing conflicts. And it has been further weakened by the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The New Agenda for Peace is not just an opportunity for the United Nations to gain new impetus in enhancing resilience and sustaining peace. It is our window of necessity. The Nordic countries would like to stress three cross-cutting elements that should guide our work moving

forward — climate sensitivity, inclusivity and the integration of United Nations efforts.

First, the effects of climate change on peace and security are indisputable. We must integrate climate-related security risks as a central component in conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies, programmes and mandates, reflecting the needs and experiences of people and communities. If we fail, our responses and efforts will be hamstrung from the outset.

Secondly, inclusivity is key to sustaining peace. We must protect the rights of women and promote their full, equal and meaningful participation, ensure that young people play a meaningful role in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, enhance civil society's involvement across all three pillars of the United Nations and improve the diversity of the voices that brief the Security Council, including by engaging closely with the Peacebuilding Commission. The cooperation between the Council and the Commission has improved, but there are still synergies to reap and potential to fulfil. We need all stakeholders at the table if we are to make the changes we need.

Lastly, our joint ability to adequately address our challenges requires an integrated approach across the pillars of the United Nations and the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. That will require greater coordination through systematically financing and building the capacity of the Resident Coordinator system, as well as closer collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations. It also requires adequate, predictable and sustained financing for prevention and peacebuilding, including funding for local women's and young people's organizations and assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. We need a well-financed and well-integrated United Nations.

In conclusion, the world is undergoing tectonic changes, and a New Agenda for Peace has never been more urgent. Investment in climate sensitivity, inclusivity and stronger, more integrated United Nations approaches increases the effectiveness of our collective efforts to prevent conflict and build and sustain peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Romania.

Mr. Feruță (Romania) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, and the Japanese presidency for convening

this important debate. Peacebuilding remains more important than ever in the current geopolitical context.

The proliferation of multidimensional crises and our countries' increased interdependence make the most compelling argument for adopting a comprehensive approach to peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. The ability of our institutional infrastructure to prepare and show resilience are vitally important and represent the real way to address the root causes of conflict and help to prevent it. Romania's support for collective peacebuilding efforts is based on a series of priorities that involve long-term investment in institution-building and human security.

First, investing in people entails ensuring equal opportunity and access to education, which is the pathway to achieving healthy and resilient societies. Education is our primary tool for building institutional capacity. In that regard, Romania has continued its sponsorship of scholarship programmes provided by the Romanian Government and universities to foreign students, particularly citizens of the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. For example, the Eugène Ionesco doctoral and research scholarship programme, which has funded the education of more than 1,200 students from Francophone countries throughout the world since its inception in 2007, truly fosters sustainable development in those regions.

Secondly, strengthening States' capacity to effectively address the causes of conflict is also linked to the establishment of strong institutions capable of withstanding tensions, emerging threats and risk multipliers. The work of the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre, recently established in Bucharest, reflects Romania's continued commitment to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16, on building more resilient societies. The Centre's mission is to increase strategic planning and strengthen cooperation among States and stakeholders in order to be better able to deal with the complex challenges in the current international context. The Centre's upcoming activities related to dealing with the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine are a case in point.

Thirdly, building sustainable and lasting peace can be achieved only through inclusiveness and the active participation of every segment of society. Romania is committed to promoting the women and peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas. To that end, together with the United States, Romania

will co-chair the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network this year. We remain open to discussing the subject with all Member States in order to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda over the course of the year.

More generally, we would like to point out that financing remains one of the key challenges in the area of effective peacebuilding and building States' capacity and resilience. Together with our African partners, the European Union has led consultations on the importance of investing in peacebuilding, and we stand ready to engage constructively in a resumption of discussions on the financing of the Peacebuilding Fund. Romania commends the work of the Fund as the United Nations financial instrument of first resort.

In conclusion, strengthening cooperation within the United Nations system is critical to ensuring more effective peacebuilding and tangible results on the ground. *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) is a concrete step in that direction. In addition, Romania is one of the most committed promoters of resolution 1631 (2005) on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and recognizes the added value of these partnerships in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Ms. Leendertse (Germany): At the outset, allow me to commend Japan for convening this pertinent open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Numerous protracted conflicts are further exacerbated by the increasing food insecurity, the adverse effects of climate change and debt crises. Yet despite the shared analysis and continued pledges, we have not done enough to put conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of our efforts. I will therefore focus my recommendations along two key lines of effort within the United Nations peace and security architecture.

First, we need to make greater investments in peacebuilding and prevention. Many resources are going into the management of conflicts and the alleviation of the humanitarian consequences of conflict, which are continuously rising. However, our investments to prevent the outbreak of new conflicts and support countries emerging from conflict in their quest to build and sustain peace are still very limited.

This must change. Germany plays its part in support of nationally owned and regionally owned prevention and peacebuilding efforts, first, as the largest voluntary donor to the Peacebuilding Fund, having contributed over \$130 million to the Fund in the last three years alone, and, secondly, through its numerous bilateral programmes and targeted contributions to such United Nations stabilization and peacebuilding mechanisms as the United Nations Development Programme's stabilization facilities in Liptako-Gourma or Lake Chad.

In parallel, we are investing in local and regional early-warning and conflict-mitigation mechanisms. One example is our support for the climate-mitigation initiatives in West Africa announced at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The emerging consensus on the introduction of assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund is encouraging. It would not only contribute to the Fund having more adequate, predictable and sustained financing, but it would also increase the joint political ownership by all Member States of this core mission of the United Nations. Let us heed the call of the Group of African States and numerous conflict-affected countries and finally get this done. However, an increase in funding for peacebuilding cannot be a substitute for additional efforts by the United Nations to produce more impact assessments of its peacebuilding programming, demonstrating how and under which circumstances it can contribute to impactful reductions in violent conflict.

Secondly, we should build upon the success of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to enshrine peacebuilding in the work of the Security Council and beyond. The increasing number of countries seeking the PBC's support to implement their national peacebuilding strategies is a testament to the Commission's success. The PBC's approach is based on national ownership and inclusiveness, which seeks to enable a direct dialogue between local, national, regional and international stakeholders. As a consequence, the PBC is ideally placed to raise the Council's awareness on local communities' understanding and expertise as well as the cross-border dimension of conflicts.

We welcome and strongly support the continued exchange between the PBC and the Council, and the PBC's written advice and statements of the Chair

to the Council should be even more focused and provide concrete recommendations for the Council's consideration. In this context, national and regional priorities reflected in PBC recommendations should not be censored for political or ideological reasons. To cite one concrete example, if affected countries and regions call for a stronger focus on their efforts aimed at preventing and mitigating risks to peace and security stemming from climate change, members of the PBC should pay full respect to national priorities and refrain from blocking those recommendations in its reports to the Council.

The Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace provides a great opportunity to further strengthen and develop the United Nations peacebuilding instruments and give them a more central role. We firmly believe that early warning, conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding should be at the core of the New Agenda. We welcome the fact that the Peacebuilding Commission will discuss and actively engage on the New Agenda for Peace in the coming months, and we are looking forward to actively supporting this process. As co-facilitator, together with Namibia, of the process stemming from *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), Germany will ensure that the outcome of the New Agenda for Peace will be properly reflected in the draft outcome document of the Summit of the Future in 2024, if that is so desired by the membership.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Jordan.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan): It is my pleasure to begin by thanking the Permanent Representative of Japan and his team for organizing today's important open debate.

Jordan emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We are committed to supporting and advancing the Organization's endeavours and initiatives aimed at empowering the United Nations to deal with threats to peace and security in the light of evolving challenges. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's initiative on the New Agenda for Peace and look forward to engaging with other Member States to make progress on efforts in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Today the world faces new threats and challenges that require further investment in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Such investment is well considered

in the Secretary-General's report entitled *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), which puts forward the New Agenda for Peace, as has been mentioned. We consider its set of proposed commitments to be crucial for providing the resources necessary for prevention, and which aim to ensure sustainable social spending, focus on root causes of conflicts, uphold human rights and further address disarmament. In this regard, the Security Council and, as appropriate, other United Nations organs and bodies, should provide greater resources to and ensure a broader mandate in the concerned United Nations entities and missions in order to contribute to peacebuilding outcomes and support the development agenda.

Greater resources and autonomy for the relevant United Nations entities and missions would enhance the Organization's ability to address, from a prevention perspective and in a holistic manner, cross-cutting issues, including security, climate change, health, gender equality, youth empowerment, development and human rights. We also need to revisit the concept of peacebuilding in order to move beyond conflict management to a level where peacekeeping missions could further support the development agenda of the countries in conflict zones by providing capacity-building programmes, developing national institutions to accomplish sustainable peace and guaranteeing the effective and sustainable implementation of peace agreements.

As peacekeeping is the first step in the peacebuilding process, it should be part of an overall approach based on a clear strategy to ensure that peace and stability are maintained in the conflict areas. However, it is unfortunate that, over the last three decades, the concept of peacebuilding within the United Nations system has achieved mixed results, which is due in part to the tendency of the Organization to focus, as I said, on conflict management as opposed to addressing, through an effective and sustainable approach, the root causes of conflict and investing in the future of public and Governmental institutions in the States affected by conflict. This must change if we want to be serious about peacebuilding.

In that regard, we consider the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace as a starting point for constructive discussions and dialogue on a holistic and sustainable approach to peacebuilding between the concerned Governmental and non-governmental interlocutors. The upcoming Summit of the Future should be the appropriate platform to advance a

new direction for promoting peace in a manner that addresses the existing challenges in accordance with the rules of international law and the United Nations Charter. Platforms such as the Summit provide a unique opportunity to discuss challenges, including, inter alia, gender disparity, youth disenfranchisement, food insecurity and climate degradation, as well as the means to overcome such challenges in the context of peacebuilding. Accordingly, the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, should be fully implemented to promote policies that advocate increased political participation and peacebuilding efforts. Such policies must be inclusive and people-centred in order to achieve successful outcomes that address the needs of all.

More work is needed to deal with modern-day conflicts in a sustainable manner. We must all work together and cooperate with the Secretary-General in supporting change in our Organization on issues related to peacebuilding, in order to maintain and advance world peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Ms. Rodríguez Mancia (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala thanks the delegation of Japan, as President of the Security Council, for the informal preparatory meeting ahead of today's open debate, promoting transparency and inclusivity in the work of the Security Council.

We also thank the various briefers for their briefings and welcome the concept note (S/2023/19, annex) as the basis of our deliberations.

In the context of peacebuilding resolutions, the Security Council reminds us of the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war. It is also a reminder of our determination to establish just and lasting peace across the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. However, the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Council, has completely failed to comply with those principles, unjustly attacking a neighbouring country and thereby directly affecting international peace and security. Such unilateral actions only weaken the rule of law and undermine the norms of international law and international humanitarian

law. We reiterate that nobody and no country can be above the rule of law. We want to remind the Council that the Russian Federation has acknowledged that peacebuilding mandates include activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, intensification, continuation and recurrence of conflicts. In that regard, Guatemala reiterates its firm condemnation of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

Guatemala agrees with the content of the concept note, considering that while the Security Council has helped to resolve some armed conflicts or at least prevent them from becoming more intense over the years, we are still dealing with many of those conflicts in various parts of the world. Every one of them deserves equal attention and effort from the Council. The importance of peacebuilding is more important than ever, and that is reflected in the complex risk multipliers in today's world, which include food insecurity, pandemic diseases and the adverse effects of climate change. We cannot speak of peace without sustainable development or of sustainable development without peace. Respect for human rights must inform and guide both of those efforts at the same time. As a result, financing is crucial to honouring international commitments and obligations, especially regarding the climate and development agendas. Guatemala believes that where prevention is concerned, the benefits that financing provides are essential to maintaining peace and security, in particular through capacity-building and cooperation in the area of equipment transfers, project development and the identification of relevant early-warning information on natural disasters.

Guatemala believes that the Security Council must take into account the various strategic instruments that can be used at the operational level in order to include a peacebuilding component in the mandates of peacekeeping operations. In addition, the Council can and should benefit from greater interaction with States that are not members of the Council and with other United Nations organs. That is why we acknowledge the added value of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as an advisory body to the Council. Its convening power must be maximized to bring together various groups and to facilitate dialogue, thereby promoting the peace and security, development and humanitarian action nexus. We acknowledge the value of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and hope that the members of the PBC will reach the consensus needed to strengthen the

relationship between the Organization of America States and the PBC.

In conclusion, Guatemala supports every initiative aimed at improving the coherence and mutual understanding of the various approaches, instruments and key principles of peacebuilding. The Security Council should implement its mandate in line with the realities of the twenty-first century and contribute to the New Agenda for Peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Chindawongse (Thailand): People are everything. They are the ultimate beneficiaries of our initiatives and the main *raison d'être* of our policies. People, their welfare and their future are the primary reasons for the existence of our United Nations. That is why I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and Japan for putting the focus back on people here in the Security Council with today's open debate on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges". I congratulate Japan on its able leadership of the Council this month and thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the briefers for their valuable insights and suggestions.

At a time when the global community continues to face multiple challenges, with wide-ranging and detrimental effects on people's welfare, livelihoods and lives everywhere, it is important to prioritize holistic, people-centred approaches in tackling those challenges. That approach underscores the interlinkages and reinforces the complementarities among three important goals — sustained peace, sustainable development and human security. As we seek to invest effectively in putting people first in order to strengthen the resilience of States and communities in facing humankind's complex challenges, there are four points to consider.

First, at the strategic level, addressing the root causes of conflict and violence invariably comes down to tackling issues affecting people, whether those issues arise from poverty, social strife or unmanaged political discord and dispute. It is therefore important to promote policies that matter to people, such as closing income gaps, promoting universal health coverage and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — all things that matter to people. Such efforts, promoting human security and sustainable development, help increase the chances for peacebuilding and

sustained peace. That is why we should incorporate concepts of human security, including the next generation of human security issues developed by the United Nations Development Programme last year, into the ongoing efforts to develop a New Agenda for Peace. It is also important to factor in efforts to rescue the SDGs.

Secondly, at the tactical level, it is important to quickly and effectively recognize and address pressing humanitarian concerns and alleviate human suffering immediately. If we do not tackle those immediate, urgent challenges, it is almost impossible to generate sustained support for sustained peacebuilding efforts from stakeholders, both within and outside the countries affected, with the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable peace. Respect for international humanitarian law should guide our humanitarian assistance efforts, which should not themselves be subject to politicization.

Thirdly, at the operational level, those engaged in peacekeeping should seek ways to perform the role of early peacebuilders. That may include working with host countries and local communities in areas of local development in accordance with their specific needs. For example, in South Sudan, Thai peacekeepers in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan established a Sufficiency Economy Philosophy learning centre in their camps to share Thailand's homegrown development approach to agriculture, water and land management with local communities in their areas of operations, so that people's livelihoods could be improved.

Fourthly and lastly, at the local level, it is essential to ensure that national institutions are strong and effective and that they cater to people's needs and national priorities. Putting people front and centre in policymaking will have long-term dividends. It strengthens the social contract between Governments and various stakeholders in society and enhances a society's immunity to strife, giving sustainable peace a better chance.

In conclusion, there will be other factors, of course, from complex geopolitical considerations, to balancing interests among various stakeholders, to unique socioeconomic circumstances and the political history of any conflict or conflict-prone area. All those elements have a bearing on peacebuilding and efforts to sustain peace. But a people-centred approach to supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace is certainly an important complementing tool to help to address the

complex challenges that are likely to persist in areas of conflict. It is therefore our hope that the Security Council will attach importance to such an approach in its deliberations. People-centred approaches matter because people matter.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Slovakia.

Mr. Mlynár (Slovakia): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and Japan. I thank you for organizing this important open debate, which will provide a good opportunity to share the insights and experiences of different actors and how those can inform the practical pursuit of institution-building and resilience in conflict-affected countries. We know that this issue has been dear to your delegation. We worked very closely with you in the same spirit and in the same direction. The debate is certainly part of that useful context.

The number of conflicts and crises is on the rise, and more people than ever have been forced to leave their homes owing to the absence of political settlements and capable institutions. Weak State capacities and institutions often fail to provide basic security, services and economic opportunities and are unable to maintain citizen confidence and trust. I believe that investing in strengthening the self-organizing capacity of communities and societies, helping them to foster their social institutions and social networks, will help to build the resilience, adaptive capacity and social cohesion that conflict-affected countries need in order to prevent or recover from conflict. In that context, it is important to underline the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying and directing priorities and strategies for sustaining peace. Inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. The national responsibility to drive efforts to sustain peace must be broadly shared across all key social strata and divides.

I would like to underline our continued commitment to the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda. As a former member of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) from 2020 to 2021, we worked closely with all partners to enable people in fragile countries to live in peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

We welcome the strengthening of the PBC's advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts in the countries

and regions that seek its support. It is vital and important that the PBC further serve as a multi-stakeholder platform for Governments and local actors to share their perspectives on peacebuilding priorities. In fact, someone quite recently mentioned that the unique value of the PBC persists with regard to the fact that such engagements and dialogues do not happen in the context of speaking about those countries, but that they actually create opportunities for us to speak with the countries concerned, which is an important aspect that we should keep in mind. Assessing the impact of peacebuilding support on country-specific issues can be done only through dialogue with the countries in question. A wide spectrum of political opinions and national actors, in particular women, young people and civil society representatives, must be heard. The PBC should continue to invite such actors to meetings, listen to their recommendations and translate their advice into policy and action, including on the basis of its advisory role and by further transmitting that to the Council and turning it into practical solutions that can be designed.

Slovakia is convinced that the security sector is a key component in the Government response to the various challenges in fragile countries and regions. The direct experience of many countries clearly shows that nationally led and inclusive security sector governance and reform are key to developing security sector institutions that are capable of effectively responding to the specific security needs. Let me assure Member States that, as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, together with South Africa, we are ready to provide continued support and commitment to the security sector reform agenda. In January, we organized an ambassador-level meeting of the Group of Friends on the most recent developments regarding that agenda. We look forward to discussing the same issue in the Security Council, hopefully in March, when the most recent report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform will be available.

I believe that the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace is an important opportunity to advance a comprehensive and integrated approach to prevention, peace and security, as proposed in the report *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982). It is critical that all the relevant United Nations bodies and organs take part in further discussions on how to advance and intensify our collective work to enhance resilience against complex challenges related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, promoting peaceful and inclusive

societies for sustainable development and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels are of the utmost importance. We need to join forces to achieve practical results in that context.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Djibouti.

Mr. Doualeh (Djibouti): At the outset, Djibouti expresses its profound gratitude to Japan for organizing this open debate, sparking a much-needed discussion on ways to revitalize and strengthen United Nations efforts to sustain peace. The fact that this debate, which we hope will be strategic and constructive, takes place in the Security Council — the United Nations organ that bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security — is of significant importance. Continued divisions have clearly weakened the Council's capacity to act in unison, but, if we are to ensure the maximum chances of success for the New Agenda for Peace, with the United Nations at its centre, we need to revitalize the multilateral consensus around the importance of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. There is a strong incentive to do that.

Threats to peace abound in many places, and violence is on the rise, causing death and the forced displacement of millions of people, including civilians. The cost of violent conflict is huge. It has enormous human and economic costs for countries.

The United Nations and the Security Council have registered innumerable achievements in their efforts to promote the peacebuilding agenda, successfully leading global campaigns to ban anti-personnel landmines and creating the International Criminal Court. Those initiatives led to the wider acceptance of human rights, justice, reconciliation, good governance and the rule of law as significant dimensions of peacebuilding. But those efforts were not sufficient to eliminate conflict, violence and armed confrontation.

In designing new approaches to help strengthen the Security Council's work on peacebuilding, we need to thoroughly address and analyse major impediments, including the political, institutional, operational and financial challenges. For the sake of brevity and to focus on some of the questions raised, Djibouti wishes to emphasize the following observations.

First is the importance of prevention and support for the revitalization of the mechanisms set out in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations,

namely, initiating a vigorous diplomatic effort aimed at securing the commitment of parties to the peaceful settlement of disputes, engaging a time-limited and inclusive mediation initiative, with the understanding, from the outset, that there will be recourse to another settlement procedure listed in Article 33 of the Charter. The fundamental objective is not mediation for mediation's sake, but for the settlement of the dispute.

Secondly, consistency and the full implementation of Security Council resolutions are critical to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Thirdly, adequate resources for prevention, the implementation of peace agreements and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery must be ensured in order to create conditions that minimize a conflict's chances of resurgence. There must be concerted, coordinated efforts using the convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to marshal resources in support of economic policies aimed at solidifying peace. The support of external partners and bilateral donors, including international financial institutions, is crucial and can catalyse financing for countries and complement their domestic efforts to mobilize revenue.

Fourthly, enhanced and closer collaboration between the PBC and the Security Council should be fostered with the aim of developing common strategies on the implementation of national peacebuilding priorities that contribute to the formulation and review of mandates and of drawdown and exit strategies.

Fifthly, we should foster careful and thorough analysis of operational challenges to peace operations and to peacekeepers facing changing conflict patterns, the spread of terrorism and the diffusion of emerging disruptive technologies.

While there is an urgent need to adapt the tools of the United Nations to current realities and emerging transnational threats, including terrorism, global pandemics and climate change, much of the infrastructure is already in place. The United Nations has tools to address many of the world's vexing problems, but to be effective they must be utilized.

Lastly, it is through cooperation, not conflict, that we can build a prosperous and peaceful world. The decisions and the choices we make today will shape the world we bequeath to future generations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mrs. Narváez Ojeda (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile thanks the Permanent Mission of Japan for convening this debate and the briefers for their statements.

In order to address conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the Security Council must adopt a comprehensive approach that takes into account the economic, political and social aspects of security as well as the military ones. That includes strengthening international cooperation and constructive dialogue among stakeholders, as well as strengthening institutions and governance at the national and regional levels.

As we have said recently in the Council, it is important to bear in mind that a fundamental component in maintaining international peace and security is the rule of law, ensuring inclusive societies, solid institutions and access to justice for the population, with institutions that fight impunity and corruption. At the international level, it requires respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, compliance with international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. In addition, the Council should be proactive in preventing conflicts and working to resolve existing conflicts peacefully and fairly. That includes supporting sustainable economic development, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and strengthening democracy and the rule of law. Building resilient and effective institutions in contexts of fragility or situations of war is essential to ensuring long-term stability and development. That also demands a comprehensive approach that addresses political as well as economic, social and security challenges.

It is crucial to strengthen governance and transparency, establish accountability mechanisms and promote citizens' participation. That helps to ensure that institutions serve every member of society, not just a few. In addition, it is essential to strengthen the capacity of institutions to respond to economic and social challenges by supporting sustainable economic development and investing in infrastructure and basic services. That helps to reduce people's vulnerability and increase their resilience. An essential task for the Security Council should be supporting the strengthening of security and justice by training and equipping security forces and strengthening judicial systems, which helps to ensure that institutions are able to protect people and guarantee respect for human rights.

We stress that countries with stronger positions and greater power should lead by example in building a more just and balanced international system — for example in the area of international economic and financial governance, as the Secretary-General discusses in his report *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) — which will allow us to better and more systematically address the conditions of fragility and vulnerability that are affecting many countries, including middle-income countries, which suffer from multiple deficits and as a result are penalized in terms of access to cooperation, making the achievement of balanced and sustainable development more difficult.

We underscore the importance of predictable and long-term funding to make it possible to plan peacebuilding efforts. In that regard, we note with interest the Secretary-General's proposal, discussed in his report on investing in prevention and peacebuilding (S/2022/66), on the creation of a mechanism to implement the recommendation of the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture by strengthening the Peacebuilding Fund.

Priority areas for investment should include strengthening human security, which also provides a preventive approach to addressing challenges; local peace initiatives; community participation in implementing ceasefires; inclusive dialogues; strategic communication to prevent misinformation and hate speech; supporting strong and inclusive institutions and encouraging the participation of women and young people in building and sustaining peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Ms. Zacarias (Portugal): I would like to thank Japan for convening this very timely debate, as peacebuilding efforts are being threatened by complex and multiple crises. The war in Ukraine has added new challenges to an already dire situation. As many have said today, we are witnessing the largest number of violent conflicts since 1945. New threats have emerged, and the world is more unequal and more violent, especially for women and children, and far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The growing effects of climate change and food insecurity only exacerbate the situation, significantly heightening the risk of unrest and conflict.

In 1945, the founding Members of the United Nations gave the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. But to achieve that today, the Security Council also has to evolve, adapt and adjust to the twenty-first century. We need a truly representative and inclusive Council that is capable of effectively addressing the challenges we are facing now. We therefore need a Security Council whose composition adequately reflects the international community's diversity, a Security Council that listens to and benefits from different perspectives and valuable solutions and suggestions from a broad range of actors by maintaining regular dialogue and consultations with the wider membership, as well as non-State actors such as regional organizations, international financial institutions, regional development banks, parliaments, national and subnational authorities and the private sector. All those stakeholders can bring vast knowledge of the root causes of conflicts and help ensure local ownership by promoting trust and dialogue. And trust is of the essence when we are talking about building resilient institutions and promoting social cohesion and sustainable development. It is equally essential to ensure that the voices of women and young people are heard in this Chamber and that both are included and engaged in all stages of the peacebuilding process.

The convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) must continue to be used to bring together all relevant stakeholders to address the underlying causes of conflict and to support national peacebuilding priorities. Cooperation between the PBC and the Security Council must be further strengthened, as it will contribute to conflict prevention and recurrence. The world was very different in 1993, when the concept of peacebuilding was first introduced. Thirty years have passed. Although we have come a long way, and we have several good examples of successful results in peacebuilding, we need to truly invest — and I also mean financially — in peacebuilding and prevention.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that, even though we are threatened by complex and multiple crises, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. We know what we need to do. The Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) is a valuable a road map, and the New Agenda for Peace may further contribute to turn all our statements about the primacy of conflict prevention and peacebuilding into more than just words. We need to put all our efforts into implementing it, while placing people

and the environment at the centre of all our decisions, including the ones taken by the Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Almoslechner (Austria): The Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) recognizes that the world is moving closer to the brink of instability. We are confronted with multiple strategic threats — from terrorism, arms proliferation and organized crime to hybrid threats and cyberwarfare. In this increasingly challenging environment for peace and security, the work of the United Nations can prevail only if we invest in prevention and building sustainable peace. We have rightly identified the New Agenda for Peace as a historic opportunity to invest in prevention and peacebuilding in order to build resilience among societies and address the underlying drivers of conflict. Here are some elements Austria believes merit reflection in the discussion on the New Agenda for Peace.

First, reducing strategic risks needs to be at the core. That goal can be attained only by adopting a holistic approach to peace and security. As risks are multiplied by climate change, biodiversity loss, the lack of sustainable institutions and poverty and socioeconomic factors, reducing risks needs to include the peace and development and climate and security nexus. The Security Council needs to become better at integrating climate security, socioeconomic factors and human rights in our work on peace and security.

Secondly, we must have system-wide coherence. The Security Council needs to strengthen its links with other parts of the United Nations, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). The Council should incorporate the PBC's advice in mandate renewals for peace operations in a more cohesive manner, regularly engage with the PBC and seek its input on peacebuilding efforts in specific countries or regions. But we also need to think about ways to engage with other parts of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme or the Human Rights Council, on issues related to peace and security.

Thirdly, conflict prevention and peacebuilding require strong partnerships. The United Nations must foster even stronger partnerships with regional organizations in order to better build regional and comprehensive prevention strategies. In that regard, we propose holding an annual multilateral meeting

between the Secretary-General and the heads of regional organizations in order to boost partnerships with regional organizations such as the African Union and the European Union in the area of peace and security.

Fourthly, to build resilient communities, strengthen local ownership and prevent conflict, we need the rule of law internationally, nationally and locally. Assistance by the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law in the area of prevention and sustaining peace currently makes a difference in 23 country situations. Austria suggests that future rule-of-law activities in the framework of the New Agenda for Peace focus, to a large extent, on prevention. In view of recent developments, let me underline that all members of society have a vital part in building resilient societies, in particular in recognizing the fundamental role of women and young people in conflict prevention, peace processes and strengthening resilience.

I would like to end by saying that, as the Secretary-General has pointed out in his report, when we all face the same threat, cooperation and solidarity are the only solutions within societies and between nations. Austria is committed to developing a New Agenda for Peace that improves partnerships and leads to common solutions to common security challenges and puts investing in people at the centre. In that regard, we have made a national submission to the Secretariat that takes up many of the points mentioned today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. Zellenrath (Netherlands): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Japan for organizing this open debate and for your thought-provoking questions, guiding our debate to improve our efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Let me start by highlighting three elements that, in our view, would help the Council to improve its potential in that regard: listening more to voices that are directly affected by what goes on in this Chamber, making better use of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and ensuring adequate financing of mandates.

First, we need to hear the voices of women, youth and civil society organizations much more often in Security Council discussions. Hearing directly from people affected by conflict or by the threat of conflict, from those who have a direct stake in the subject matter under consideration or who possess specific insights,

would not only enrich discussions and action-oriented decision-making, it would also improve the legitimacy and representativeness of this organ. Achieving stronger results on the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas, in particular, will fundamentally improve building and sustaining peace and, therefore, international stability.

Secondly, the Peacebuilding Commission is a body that was created specifically to improve peacebuilding and sustainable peace. As a cross-pillar, cross-cutting and bridging forum, it has, since its inception, garnered a wealth of knowledge and best practices. Proactively asking the PBC to provide advice to the Council and inviting the PBC to brief the Security Council more frequently would create synergies and strengthen the work of both entities.

Thirdly, on financing, decisions made in the Council or elsewhere by Member States cannot be carried out properly if adequate funding is not provided. To meet those needs, the United Nations and, specifically, the Peacebuilding Fund require adequate, predictable and sustainable funding. It is very disappointing that we have not yet reached consensus on assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in the Fifth Committee. We urge Member States to reconsider their positions, where needed, so that we can come to a solution where the PBF receives adequate resources via the establishment of assessed contributions.

In conclusion, that brings me to several elements that, in our view, should be included in a New Agenda for Peace, in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

First, let a people-centred, inclusive and integrated cross-pillar approach be the guiding principle in peacebuilding-related elements in the New Agenda for Peace.

Secondly, sustainable peace cannot be built on broken minds. Let mental health and psychosocial support, still so often overlooked, not be forgotten in the New Agenda for Peace.

Thirdly, history has shown us that perceived injustices can spiral into a vicious cycle, fuelling conflict down the line. The New Agenda for Peace should recognize that there can be no peace without justice and no justice without peace. Re-establishing rule of law and improving access to justice are critical components for peacebuilding and should be thus reflected.

Lastly, the New Agenda for Peace should highlight the importance of strengthening the protection of civilians in policies and practice. That remains particularly important after the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions in order to prevent the recurrence of conflict and to ensure the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding is done in the best way possible.

The Netherlands is looking forward to playing a constructive role in developing those crucial elements of the New Agenda for Peace together with the Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders working together towards conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Peñaranda (Philippines): We thank Japan and Ambassador Ishikane Kimihiro, as President of the Security Council, for convening this very important meeting.

In consideration of our theme, investing in people can indeed contribute to multi-stakeholder initiatives that foster a culture of peace as we enhance our resilience against complex challenges. One key aspect is strengthening the meaningful participation of vulnerable groups, especially women and young people.

A useful model for investing in people is the case of the peace process in the southern Philippines, during which we put a premium on fostering an effective peace and development road map that was inclusive and participatory, as well as conflict-, culture- and gender-sensitive, for the Bangsamoro peace process. Through the efforts of the Government of the Philippines, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao promoted an inclusive and participatory dialogue involving all stakeholders, including women, young people, faith leaders and civil society. The Philippines forged that peace initiative in the region after many decades of conflict among warring factions and clansmen. Investing in people's education was key in sustaining the peacebuilding process in the southern Philippines. We improved education infrastructure, built climate-resilient classrooms, hired competent teachers, provided a balance of Islamic and secular education, awarded more than 18,000 scholarships for technical skills upgrades, enabled access to higher education through 1,400 scholarships and facilitated Government internships for students. The incidence

of poverty in the region has decreased significantly in the past three years, from 56 per cent to 39 per cent — the highest and only double-digit reduction during the pandemic.

The Philippines supports the Secretary-General's call for a New Agenda for Peace. We believe it should include ways for the United Nations to provide tools and resources to people in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Providing education in those areas is critical, as it will make them more resilient and promote development. To ensure robust peace institutions, we need to further enhance the inclusion of women, young people and civil society in the programme of work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and create opportunities for their active engagement in Security Council discussions on the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding.

The Philippines recognizes financing as another critical component of peacebuilding. We should bolster our institutions for peace by infusing them with the necessary resources and strengthening participatory processes. The Secretary-General stated that too little progress has been made towards securing adequate, predictable and sustained financing for critical peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities. The Security Council may wish to consider the Secretary-General's initiative on investing in prevention and peacebuilding and his proposal for the General Assembly to approve, on an annual basis, \$100 million in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund.

The Peacebuilding Commission is an important institution that leads peace efforts in conflict-affected countries. It is a key addition to the capacity of the international community for advancing the broader peace agenda. It is uniquely placed to promote greater harmony among the subregional, regional and international dimensions of post-conflict response. Although the interaction between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission has been sustainable, we need to consider further enhancing its effectiveness. The Council could institute more purposeful and results-oriented dialogues with the PBC in order to facilitate greater interaction with non-Council members and other United Nations bodies on matters pertaining to building and sustaining peace. The Philippines looks forward to the continuation of the urgent and important collaborative work between the Security Council and

the Peacebuilding Commission to ensure that investing in people is given the utmost priority.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Ms. Chan Valverde (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica would like to thank Japan for convening today's open debate. Allow me to note some key elements that could be included in the New Agenda for Peace.

In his most recent report on women and peace and security (S/2022/740), the Secretary-General denounced the reversal of generational gains in women's rights amid the continued increase in violent conflicts, military expenditures, military coups, displacements and hunger. The increase in military spending has reduced the financial resources available for investments in health, education, justice, sustainable development and environmental protection, which are all key elements of human security. And in the absence of appropriate arms regulation efforts, we can expect that situation to further increase the diversion of the world's resources to armaments, the very thing that Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations seeks to reduce, and to exacerbate the impacts on conflict and armed violence.

It is therefore more urgent than ever for the Security Council, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee, to submit plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of weapons, which should include plans to strengthen efforts in the monitoring and enforcing of Security Council arms embargoes at the national and regional levels. Similarly, United Nations actors, such as peacekeeping missions and their troop-contributing countries, should occupy a key role in the monitoring of weapons and ammunition and share information with the sanctions committees, in accordance with their mandates. However, they currently do not do so systematically.

The New Agenda for Peace must recognize that violence is an everyday reality in many people's homes and communities in order to ensure that our efforts are not solely focused on inter-State conflicts and armed insurgencies. Costa Rica encourages all States to implement evidence-based, nationally led violence-prevention strategies to address the multiple and interconnected root causes of conflict that lead to violence through an integrated response that involves multiple stakeholders, given that the work of the United

Nations on prevention is system-wide. Costa Rica urges the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others, to call on Member States to implement conflict-sensitive policies in order to respond to major crises as well as risk multipliers, such as the coronavirus disease pandemic and climate change.

The New Agenda for Peace in the twenty-first century should recognize that, while the military may have a role in specific situations, long-term peace requires addressing the culture of militarism and excessive military spending. Accordingly, a comprehensive agenda for peace should seek to address the physical and structural violence that is committed against groups on the basis of gender, ethnicity, disability, religious or political expression, sexual orientation and gender identity. As former Secretary-General Kofi Annan rightly emphasized in his report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all” (A/59/2005), ensuring freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity is a key element of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, given that security, development and human rights are inextricably linked.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mabhongo (South Africa): We would like to congratulate Japan for convening today’s very important open debate.

The United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission, was established to prevent countries from relapsing back into conflict and to ensure that our Organization has a holistic approach to the maintenance of international peace and security. At the centre of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is the need to make peace a reality for all people. The pursuit of peace is a common agenda for all of us at the United Nations. However, sustained peace for all people will remain elusive unless the threats and risks to peace are effectively and efficiently mitigated by all involved. Moreover, there is a need to transform the way that the drivers and root causes of conflict and instability are addressed. Rhetorical iterations and actions must be replaced by transformative strategies and tangible actions.

We recognize the cardinal role of the Security Council in advancing peacebuilding activities. We

commend the peacebuilding efforts undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, particularly in supporting and promoting political stability, socioeconomic development, the rule of law, security-sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as transitional justice. However, the success of any peacebuilding activities will be determined by the political commitment, leadership, ownership and capacity of national and local actors in the countries concerned. In that context, investing in people and institutions becomes vital. Institution-building is a complex and expensive exercise for countries in transition and post-conflict situations, and it requires the support of the United Nations and the international community. Moreover, securing sustainable funding for peacebuilding activities remains a challenge and a subject of infinite discussion — understandably, because the demand for support exceeds the available funding.

As we prepare for the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Secretary-General’s New Agenda for Peace provides an opportunity to repurpose the Security Council’s approach to peace and security, and to peacebuilding in particular. It is South Africa’s view that the Council should invest more in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. Advancing conflict prevention for sustainable peace will require building and enhancing partnerships with a variety of actors at the local, regional and international levels. For our part, we have stressed the importance of finding innovative ways of involving the private sector and non-governmental institutions in peacebuilding activities. Equally, partnerships are instrumental and desirable in responding and adapting to global issues such as natural disasters, pandemics and financial crises, which require resilience on the part of people and institutions, as well as in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

In conclusion, it is imperative to invest not only in people and institutions but also in addressing both internal and external threats to peace in countries affected. In taking such an approach, we can build resilience to challenges that negate or reverse peace dividends, using the collective and complementary roles of both the Security Council and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): First of all, let me congratulate you, Sir, on a brilliant presidency, and commend you for the enormous stamina that you have demonstrated and that is perhaps unmatched by other members of the Council.

Pakistan welcomes this debate on investment in people in order to enhance their resilience in the face of complex challenges. People are at the core of the world order envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, which commences with the words “We the peoples”. That world order was constructed on the foundation of the central Charter principle of the right of peoples to self-determination. The Charter’s objectives include, as expressed in Article 55, higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development, as well as solutions to economic, social, health and related problems and universal respect for human rights.

It is obvious that over the past seven decades, the peoples of our United Nations have been accorded insufficient attention. Although most of the peoples of the 193 States Members of the United Nations have exercised their right to self-determination, there are a number that have been prevented from doing so owing to foreign occupation and suppression. Two of the most intractable conflicts on the Security Council’s agenda—Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir—continue to fester and to threaten international peace and security due to the suppression through foreign occupation of their right to self-determination. Enabling the peoples of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination must be a priority objective for the Security Council. We have also failed to ensure universal respect for human rights. We are witnessing the perpetuation of gross and systematic violations of human rights, particularly in situations of conflict and of foreign occupation. Efforts to promote human rights are often eroded by the application of double standards and by the political priorities of some who claim to champion human rights.

Neither has the United Nations so far succeeded in promoting higher standards of living, full employment or conditions of economic and social progress and development. Our world is vastly richer than it was 78 years ago, yet inequality has increased and the division between the rich and the poor is growing. More than 800 million people live in abject poverty, cut off from jobs and decent livelihoods, often on the edge of survival. Over the past three years, the prospects of the poor have

been devastated by the coronavirus disease pandemic, the effects of climate change and the proliferation of conflicts. The interdependence between peace and development is well established. It is now evident that conflicts are proliferating in the poorest parts of the world and that terrorism, which feeds on injustice and deprivation, has spread to those regions. In order to build resilient peace, we need resilient development. It is therefore imperative that we implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprehensively and universally. We must alleviate the debt burden of the 54 developing countries that are in debt distress, fulfil the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as development assistance from developed countries and rechannel the International Monetary Fund’s unutilized special drawing rights for development. We should recapitalize the multilateral development banks, vastly increase concessional lending and lower the exorbitant borrowing costs for developing countries. We must restructure unequal trade and tax regimes and align access to technology with the SDGs.

It is a tragic irony that those most vulnerable to the growing impact of climate change are peoples who have contributed the least to global warming and climate change. The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underlines that climate change is a “risk multiplier”, especially in areas under stress. To achieve durable peace, it will be crucial to implement the climate agenda for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage and ensure climate justice through adherence to the principle of common yet differentiated responsibilities, adequate adaptation support and compensatory assistance for loss and damage suffered by the most vulnerable developing countries.

In response to its recent devastating flooding disaster, Pakistan has formulated a resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction plan in cooperation with its development partners. We are gratified by the general support for the plan and its core objectives of building back with resilience. Such a demonstration of international solidarity and cooperation will, we hope, imbue all of the international community’s efforts to ensure that all peoples are adequately equipped to address the complex challenges of peace, development and climate change that we face today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic.

Ms. Carlson (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank Japan and commend it on its commitment to such an important topic like the one that has brought us together today. We also thank the Deputy Secretary-General and the other briefers.

As we begin 2023, we are already able to see that countries in every region continue to face emerging threats to stability and peace. The current environment is replete with challenges, including the growing humanitarian crisis, the security crisis, acute food insecurity and the devastating effects of climate change. The current challenge is how to resolve existing conflicts and prevent the emergence of new ones. Our responsibility is not only to prevent the escalation of violence, but also to plan for the long term and identify and address underlying issues. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has served as an exemplary mechanism in that regard by enabling the continuous exchange of ideas with various actors on how to improve responses and support specific countries and regions. We reiterate the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission deepening and broadening its advisory role and cooperation with the Security Council. For peacebuilding to be successful, it is imperative, in following the example of the PBC, to maintain close relationships with the countries in which the work is focused on national priorities and the results achieved are country owned.

As we saw in 2022, the Peacebuilding Commission advised the Council on several occasions. However, the Commission can play a more important role in calling attention to situations that might otherwise be overlooked owing to many parallel crises or on which the Council is unable to reach a consensus. Similarly, the Commission can be of great help during and after peacekeeping operation transitions. We must further channel reconciliation efforts within the programme of work of United Nations agencies, given the fact that they have a vast array of experience and tools, such as impartiality and neutrality, which can contribute to reconciliation.

We have seen that including the voices of women and youth increases to an even greater degree the potential of the tools that we have as an organization to achieve our goals. For decades, women have played a leading role in advocating for peace and security, including in response to armed conflict, political crises and armed violence. Similarly, we must continue strengthening the role of youth in peacebuilding and

security by increasing their meaningful participation and developing their boundless potential with regard to building more inclusive, just and sustainable societies. That is why we must increase coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to work hand in hand with youth as agents of change and builders of a better future in peacebuilding. Partnerships for peacebuilding and peacekeeping are also crucial, specifically with civil society, international financial institutions, academia, the private sector, donors, decision-makers and especially local communities. The Dominican Republic continues to stress the crucial importance of a global, coordinated and unified response among countries and regions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone:

Mr. Turay (Sierra Leone): I thank you, Sir, for organizing this open debate.

Sierra Leone supports the view that investing in people is fundamental to enhancing resilience against complex challenges, including, but not limited to, food insecurity, pandemic diseases and the adverse effects of climate change. For some peacebuilding proponents, resilience is like an intermediary facilitating cooperation among security, humanitarian and development actors involved in protracted crises. Resilience also relates to strengthening capacities, as opposed to fragilities or the phenomenon of so-called failed States. A key factor in enhancing resilience, peacebuilding and building sustainable peace is the amount of investment in human capital, especially in developing human capacities in various fields of endeavour. That is often inadequately attended to, or even undermined, by international actors in the process of humanitarian action, development assistance, disaster recovery and peacebuilding efforts.

Therefore, in enhancing resilience against such challenges, it is critical for all stakeholders, Governments, civil society, the private sector, women and youth to be holistically engaged in order to fulfil the potential of the people by broadening their capabilities. In that regard, our approach in Sierra Leone to develop human capital has been driven by our national policy on free quality education, including the radical inclusion of quality education for all. In order to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to the free quality education agenda, over the past four years, the Government has allocated 22 per cent of the national budget to education. The strategic policy direction emphasizes

the inclusion of historically marginalized groups, in particular pregnant girls, parent learners, children with disabilities, children from rural and underserved areas and children from low-income families. It provides guidelines for decision-making and streamlining processes so that schools throughout Sierra Leone are accessible and inclusive of all children, without stigma, harassment, intolerance or exclusion of any kind.

In terms of the elements to be included in the New Agenda for Peace in the context of peacebuilding, we would suggest that women and girls be placed at the centre of any security policy. While gender has been acknowledged and prioritized in peace and security policy, more work is needed to meet long-established goals, including in providing the necessary resources and the political will to ensure meaningful participation and to integrate gender analysis across all aspects of peace and security efforts. Furthermore, we need to support youth-led prevention efforts. Young people are important actors in achieving sustainable peace. They must be treated as partners in the long-term work of peacebuilding, in creating a culture of prevention, including through acknowledging their life experiences, leadership and expertise and in the provision of resources, such as funding and training.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nepal.

Mr. Rai (Nepal): I thank the presidency of Japan for convening this important debate.

International peace, social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom for all peoples were the primary promises that the United Nations was created to deliver. However, challenges to international peace have continued multiplying. Poverty, hunger and diseases have devastated the lives billions of people, even to this day. Development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. While we emphasize respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law to prevent conflicts and build peace, we cannot emphasize enough the accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, to reduce the drivers of conflicts. Poor and underdeveloped societies confront security challenges arising from hunger, poverty and exclusion. There is therefore a need for investment in people in order to break the vicious cycle of conflict and usher society towards a path of peace

and prosperity. Investment, particularly in women and young people, to ensure skills development, education, health, nutrition and sanitation will go a long way to transforming the human capital that propels countries' economic development. Only a competent and healthy workforce can accelerate economic prosperity and tackle complex challenges, including external shocks, with resilience.

Effective peacebuilding must involve the entire United Nations system, including the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, regional organizations and local peace actors. Regular dialogues and robust cooperation among all organs of the United Nations system are vital to identifying challenges and addressing them with appropriate tools and adequate resources. Sufficient, predictable and sustainable financing is indispensable to peacebuilding and to preventing countries from relapsing into conflict. The Secretary-General's proposal for a New Agenda for Peace in *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) calls for everyone's renewed commitment to delivering prevention and peacebuilding initiatives with a holistic approach.

From its own experience as a post-conflict country, Nepal emphasizes nationally owned peacebuilding efforts based on constant political dialogue, accountability, inclusion and participation. The meaningful participation of women, young people and ethnic and religious minorities was a cornerstone of our peace process. In terms of building peace, since 1958 Nepal has been contributing to United Nations peace operations by providing peacekeepers to maintain and build peace in many conflict-ridden parts of the world. The nature of the threat to peace is multidimensional, and our response must therefore take a holistic approach to addressing peace and security and political and socioeconomic development, including where climate issues are concerned. Our response must bring together political actors by nurturing trust and collaboration in order to end conflict situations and sustain peace.

In conclusion, investment in people not only reduces conflict and instability but also strengthens the perpetual peace, stability and development to which we all aspire.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mongolia.

Mr. Vorshilov (Mongolia): Mongolia deeply appreciates Japan's leadership in convening today's

timely debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and we would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for their briefings.

The Security Council is charged with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. United Nations-mediated peace processes have proliferated since the 1990s and have contributed enormously to advancing world peace. In today's turbulent world, beset by both traditional and non-traditional security challenges, the role of the Security Council in peacebuilding and sustaining peace is therefore ever-increasing. We suggest that in order to better address our emerging threats and risk multipliers and to realize peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Security Council should pay even greater attention to the voices of all Member States, including developing and small countries. To give just one example, we are all aware that Africa, Asia and Latin America provide more than 90 per cent of military and police personnel to United Nations peace operations and that many countries, such as my own, Mongolia, rank high on the list of per capita peacekeepers.

Many speakers before me have emphasized that of the three mutually reinforcing aspects of peacebuilding, the socioeconomic and environmental dimension is becoming ever more significant, and that is particularly true with regard to the realities of developing countries, small countries and countries with special needs. For instance, the pandemic and conflicts delayed or even wiped out hard-won progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in least developed and landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deepening their existing vulnerabilities. Persistent structural handicaps and the relentless climate crisis have been exacerbated by food shortages, rising energy costs and financial crises. We therefore need to be heard and to engage in all dimensions of peacebuilding and sustaining peace matters. To that end, developing or small countries should also increase their efforts and be provided with opportunities to constructively engage in the open debates and other activities of the Security Council.

In that connection, I would like to express Mongolia's support for the Secretary-General's initiative to develop a New Agenda for Peace. Among the six potential areas of the New Agenda, I want to underscore prevention and issues related to women and girls. The fact is that prevention and preventive diplomacy, which are at the

core of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, need strategic foresight, investment and regional and subregional cooperation. Moreover, all security and peacebuilding activities need to put young people, who are our future, at their centre, as well as women. In that regard, we warmly welcomed and supported the establishment during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Youth Office. Mongolia is firmly committed to the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions on women and peace and security and youth, peace and security, and is actively engaged in regional activities related to those agendas. Empowering women and young people builds community resilience. To bring about transformative change, we need firm commitments and concerted efforts at both the national and international levels. Governments should work to create a culture of peace and a conflict-free environment. For that, we also need leadership development programmes, and formal and informal education should be promoted at every level of society in order to support and empower young people.

In conclusion, I reaffirm that Mongolia will be an active participant in the urgent and essential endeavour of building and sustaining peace at the regional and international levels.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Kadiri (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First and foremost, I would like to warmly thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate of the Security Council. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Amina Mohammed and Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith for their detailed and exhaustive briefings earlier today.

Conflicts today involve complex and multidimensional geopolitical cross-border dynamics created by armed groups and separatists, transnational organized crime, terrorism and the illicit arms trade. In the light of those challenges, it is important to strengthen multilateralism in order to maintain international peace and security, promote sustainable development, combat climate change and poverty and promote political solutions to conflicts, while fully respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Member States and fostering post-conflict reconstruction.

Morocco supports all action taken by the Security Council, the Secretariat and the specialized agencies of the United Nations to ensure the equal representation

of women in national, regional and international institutions, as well as the efforts of Member States in that regard. We also support action to promote the key roles of women in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and to provide them with the means to influence decisions at every level. Based on that conviction and in the spirit of resolution 1325 (2000), on 23 March 2022 the Kingdom of Morocco launched its national action plan on women and peace and security, as part of the informed vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI for promoting gender equality as the basis of a just, democratic and egalitarian society.

Morocco also commends the Secretary-General's considerable efforts to promote the youth and peace and security agenda as a catalyst for achieving new objectives for peace, in line with resolution 2250 (2015) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by strengthening solidarity among generations and promoting the genuine and effective participation of young people in decision-making. In the same vein, we commend the importance that the Secretary-General ascribes to the role of young people and future generations in his report on *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982).

With regard to promoting cooperation between the Security Council and other United Nations bodies to ensure more consistent strategies in order to strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of institutions, Morocco believes that there are good practices in that regard available to the international community, such as the relationship between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which, commendably, has been strengthened in recent years.

Thanks to the work of consecutive PBC Chairs, significant progress has been made in strengthening the Commission's crucial role, particularly in terms of promoting its consultative role with regard to the Security Council, as demonstrated by the 17 times that the Commission made recommendations to the Security Council in 2022. Morocco is proud to contribute to that dynamic in its capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the PBC.

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its full support for the Secretary-General's proposal to develop a New Agenda for Peace, focused on investing in prevention and peacebuilding. We are convinced that the New Agenda will encourage Member States to develop a new

set of collective responses to our common challenges, promote the funding of peacebuilding, which remains a critical challenge, and reaffirm our commitments to pursuing action-oriented results in peacebuilding. The New Agenda for Peace should take into account certain priorities, in particular: first, further engaging in arms control and disarmament by examining ways in which the United Nations can help to revitalize that goal; secondly, focusing on the security implications of climate change, since the New Agenda provides an appropriate platform for highlighting the key and indispensable role of the United Nations in providing essential information and response on that existential threat; and thirdly, strengthening the valuable role and capacity of the United Nations in prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace by making use of the New Agenda to discuss how the United Nations can use its mechanisms to address evolving threats to international peace and security.

Furthermore, we reaffirm the critical importance of allocating appropriate, adequate and predictable funding for peacebuilding efforts. We reiterate our support for the Secretary-General's proposal to earmark \$100 million from the United Nations regular budget for the Peacebuilding Fund.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Morocco strongly supports the Secretary-General's commitment to implementing the New Agenda for Peace, which addresses the challenges of the twenty-first century. By mobilizing all the tools at our disposal in a collective manner, we can maintain a lasting and viable peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Rae (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on having organized today's open debate. We are facing new threats and new, complex challenges that undermine international peace and security, set back global development and jeopardize human rights. Russia's invasion of, and illegal war of aggression against, Ukraine are a manifestation of that trend. The same is true of the major threats, namely, conflicts, climate change and the coronavirus disease, that many countries around the world are experiencing while they also grapple with severe food, energy and financial shocks.

Trust, truth, the law and cooperation are all suffering from the harsh impact of broken promises, corruption, propaganda, aggression and bad behaviour.

We are all living with the multiple crises that surround us. We need to show flexibility, creativity and innovation in response. Preventing conflict, restoring trust and reaffirming the importance of investing in such processes with actual money are our common challenge. I would like to put forward three observations for consideration.

(spoke in English)

In brief, we need to leverage our comparative advantage of all the United Nations organs and bodies. It is true that, under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, but it does not bear the sole responsibility. We believe that the abuse of the veto makes it even more important that we become even more innovative in how we respond.

We are all responding to contemporary threats that do not recognize borders and that do not fall into neat categories, but rather cut across all the pillars of the Organization and the entire United Nations system. That is where the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), to mention only three institutions, as well as all the other agencies, can play a role that is supportive and complementary to the efforts of the Council.

The PBC is a crucial forum, in which States can engage in constructive dialogue on pressing peacebuilding challenges. Through the PBC, we can bring, and have brought, international and regional financial institutions and the private sector to the table. That has led to a better understanding of the economic drivers of conflict and instability, as well as the responses that are required to stem them. We hope that the Security Council will meaningfully utilize the PBC's advice. As a member of the PBC, we will continue to encourage the Commission to put forward timely and action-oriented advice to the Council.

Secondly, on inclusion, women need to be included in all matters of peace and security. Their meaningful participation presents unique and pivotal opportunities to create transformative solutions and, ultimately, more inclusive societies. We must do more to remove the barriers that prevent women from actively engaging on issues that fundamentally affect their lives. That means concerted efforts by the Security Council and other United Nations bodies to give effect to the voices of women and all those affected by conflict, who are too often excluded in discussions on peace and security.

Finally, with regard to resources, I have said in other places at other times that a strategy without resources is better called hallucination. Building peace requires time, patience, a willingness to listen and money. We should think of the money that we spend on peacekeeping — in the billions — after conflicts have broken out, and often when they are already deeply embedded in the societies in which we are asked to intervene. We spend a minuscule percentage of that on prevention. That is a big mistake. We should deal with it.

The demands on every aspect of the peacebuilding architecture outmatch the resources that are available. Yet we know that, if we do not do something about that, the cost of the transition from conflict to peace is much too high. We need renewed investments. We are proud to have recently confirmed our pledge of \$70 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope that we will move forward with assessed contributions, which we feel very strongly are necessary.

We have all embarked on an ambitious programme leading up to the Summit of the Future, to be held in 2024. That includes the consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal for a New Agenda for Peace. That gives us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to peacebuilding and prevention, while ensuring that the Organization is able to address the many challenges that we face. It is time for all of us to seize this opportunity. I can affirm that my country, Canada, will ensure, together with all of us, that we do our utmost to engage and succeed.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

Ms. Mrad (Lebanon): At the outset, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the presidency of Japan for having convened this open debate amid the difficult circumstances that our world is witnessing today, with 27 current conflicts breaking out in different parts of the world simultaneously.

The topic of today's meeting prompts us to reflect on the following approach: are security and stability the gateway to peace or the development and prosperity of societies? We believe that the two components are mutually reinforcing and cannot be envisaged in silos. No situation can be strengthened, no society can rise, and no peace will prevail unless an enabling environment that embraces the minimum elements of the steadfastness and resistance of people is established.

There is no development in isolation from stability. There is no social justice, sense of security or equality in rights and duties in the absence of a sound and robust institutional apparatus, capable of withstanding the brunt of any harsh crises.

Today I represent a country — and I say this with bitterness and a burning heart — that lacks the basic conditions for steadfastness in the light of an unprecedented economic and financial crisis in its modern history, which recently, and unfortunately, cost us the loss of our voting right in the Organization, of which Lebanon was one of the main pillars in its founding and in the drafting of its Charter.

In addition, the ongoing stalemate of Lebanon's constitutional institutions has been compounded by the massive influx of refugees and displaced persons of different nationalities, the burden of which Lebanon bears with all the significant challenges that entails. Despite that bleak scene, the main driver of resilience remains human resourcefulness and the ability to adapt to crises until they subside. However, that kind of resistance, resilience and steadfastness in the eye of the storm cannot be relied upon in the long term, given the absence of the basic necessities for well-being and a decent life and the lack of conditions to ensure continuity.

With regard to the important theme being discussed today, we believe that the Council is invited to address emerging threats and risk multipliers through broad and inclusive dialogue with a wide spectrum of actors, including but not limited to non-Council members, United Nations specialized agencies, regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society in all its forms, including the private sector. The importance of expanding consultations to a plurality of actors is compounded by the often transnational, interlinked and at times emerging threats, which increasingly must be viewed in a holistic manner. In the light of those elements, the Peacebuilding Commission's federating and cross-cutting mandate could be expanded to all those actors in order to potentially create new synergies among all relevant stakeholders in order to increase the agility and rapid-response capabilities of the Security Council while at the same time bolstering the public legitimacy of the Council and the United Nations as a whole.

The Security Council could make better use of the convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission

by expanding its mandate to promote more effective interaction with non-Council members and United Nations bodies and allowing a formalization of partnerships with civil society entities. In doing so, the Council would tangibly increase its efforts to create a participatory environment in the design and implementation of peacebuilding strategies, which could include women, young people and other marginalized groups, among others. A critical element in building resilient institutions is the accurate and advanced identification of the extrinsic and intrinsic vulnerabilities of those institutions. Proper consideration must of course be given to respect for sovereign principles, as well as the unique national specificities and cultures of each Member State.

Finally, assuming the appropriate identification in advance of national institutional vulnerabilities, capacity-building plays a pivotal role in creating, strengthening and developing institutional resilience. By building the capacity of Government officials, civil society organizations and other key actors, Member States can improve the effectiveness and accountability of their institutions in the short, medium and long terms, while promoting and cultivating essential civic engagement. Particular attention should furthermore be given to women and young people, as well as to marginalized and vulnerable groups in society, in order to ensure that institutions are both representative and inclusive. In that regard, the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas are useful tools for achieving that goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Mr. Mythen (Ireland): I want to thank Japan for organizing this crucial debate, and I also thank the briefers who spoke earlier today. Their briefings are a reminder that despite the Council holding the primary responsibility for peace and security, there are other United Nations bodies and grass-roots organizations that are crucial if we are to achieve that goal.

Following the recent conclusion of Ireland's term as an elected member of the Security Council, I would like to identify three actions the Council can take towards investing in peace.

The first step we must take is to focus on prevention and early action, an area in which the Council consistently fails to deliver. A focus on prevention makes sense not only politically and morally but also

financially — saving both lives and money. That means having the courage to act when we see the first signs of crises and taking a more proactive role in preventing them. The focus on prevention in the New Agenda for Peace offers an opportunity to advance that work. During our Council term, we saw the importance of an early response to an unfolding crisis in Ethiopia. Right now, the Council's ongoing attention to the situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan is critical. We will not always find solutions quickly, but early responses from the Council and prompt action and working in tandem with regional approaches are how we can fulfil our mandate. The longer we take to understand and heed the root causes of conflict, the hungrier people grow, the more destitute their poverty becomes and the more likely conflict is to arise.

For peace to be sustained and human rights to be protected, the drivers of conflict — such as inequality, climate change and displacement — must be tackled. That requires joined-up action by humanitarian, development and peace-support actors to get back on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It also requires sustainable financing for peacebuilding activities, including enhanced voluntary and assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, of which Ireland is a long-standing partner.

Secondly, the Security Council must respond to the changing world around us and empower others, including the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Every month, the PBC empowers the Council with advice. It is time for the Council to turn to that advice for action, where it can. The PBC's advice on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel included the need to address the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen democratic institutions. We believe that should be heeded in the mandate renewal and presidential statement currently being considered. Listening to such advice is not about overstepping mandates but about using them to their full potential. Pooling our strengths for the betterment of our planet and its people is the very essence of multilateralism.

You asked us, Mr. President, whose voices should be heard. My third point, as Member States and the Secretary-General embark on crafting the New Agenda for Peace, is that the Council must address inclusivity, most notably for women and young people. For generations of young people on the island of Ireland, violence was a daily reality. As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, our

conviction remains resolute — we cannot build lasting peace without empowering those who ultimately inherit that peace. We must also harness the active involvement of civil society in peacebuilding. In particular, we must implement resolution 2594 (2021) in order to ensure that the transition processes of United Nations peace operations are inclusive and effective in order for them to last.

As we craft the New Agenda for Peace, the Council must play its part. Millions of vulnerable people are relying on us to do just that. We cannot let them down.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. Mohammad (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for holding this important meeting on the theme “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges” and preparing the valuable concept note (S/2023/19, annex).

The increasingly frequent crises that our world has faced in recent years have become more complex and interconnected than in the past. There is no doubt that some of those crises could have been addressed and the situations prevented from deteriorating if the tools available to the Security Council had been used better and more effectively.

The Charter of the United Nations includes many tools that encourage the peaceful resolution of conflict, specifically Chapter VI, which, in Article 33, outlines the measures to resolve any dispute between parties through:

“negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice”.

It is well known to the Council that dealing with a crisis after its outbreak incurs a great cost upon the international community. The Security Council must not be exclusively preoccupied with dealing with the repercussions of conflicts and trying to contain them and prevent them from further escalating. There is a need to look for ways and means to effectively prevent the outbreak of conflicts before they happen.

In that context, we stress the need to give a greater role to regional and subregional organizations in the field of conflict prevention and mediation pursuant

to Chapter VIII of the Charter and through boosting strategic partnerships with the United Nations, with the purpose of conducting mediation.

The topic of our session today revolves around an important phrase, namely, “investment in people”. We must place that phrase at the heart of all our efforts, because through it we can achieve what we all seek, which is a lasting and sustainable peace and societies that are resilient to the political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges that our world is facing today.

Investing in people is done in many ways, the most important of which is by creating a general environment that allows people and societies to achieve progress, growth and prosperity. Moreover, there is a need to deal with instability that might contribute to the outbreak of political crises. As is well known, many crises are rooted in tensions, or economic or social factors such as poverty, hunger and unemployment, to cite but a few examples. Here it is important to note the nexus between peace, security and sustainable development, as there can be no sustained peace without development, and there can be no development without sustained peace. Seeking to achieve sustainable development requires providing suitable conditions, at the forefront of which is the achievement of political security, social and economic stability and addressing the root causes of any obstacles which prevent us from achieving those.

In that context, we recall that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a specific goal — Goal 16 — which calls for the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies for all. We add to that the need to invest in development and further consider and invest in women and youth as fundamental elements in peace processes and the progress of societies and their development. Moreover, we need to further invest in policies and systems that can create societies in which righteousness, justice and equality prevail.

The Security Council must make better use of the tools available to it and cited in the Charter. We also confirm the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in building and sustaining peace. It is important to enhance cooperation, consultation and coordination between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. We support the Secretary-General’s report entitled *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), which calls for a New Agenda for Peace. We believe that such an Agenda must be comprehensive, integrate peace and security and work on addressing traditional challenges

such as military conflicts and arms proliferation, and contemporary challenges, such as climate change and cyberthreats, that face our world today. Those must be addressed in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We believe that it is important for preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacebuilding and sustaining peace to constitute fundamental elements in that Agenda.

In conclusion, the State of Kuwait firmly believes in peace. One of the articles of our Constitution stipulates that peace is a State objective and approach. Preventive diplomacy, mediation and the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts form the main pillars of Kuwaiti foreign policy. The Security Council can therefore count on the State of Kuwait as a trusted partner to support all regional and international efforts that aim to peacefully settle conflict and to build and sustain peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Ugarelli (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to thank the Japanese presidency for the invitation to participate in today’s important meeting and for taking the initiative to convene it. This meeting gives us the opportunity to jointly assess the need to incorporate investment in resilience into the multilateral exercise aimed at promoting peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

The historical practice of peace operations and special political missions is being enriched by taking into account the need to structure approaches to ensure resilience in areas previously affected by conflict, taking into account the fundamental role of the people who inhabit those areas.

The structure of such approaches should correspond to the processes of transition from conflict to peacebuilding and must be considered in the mandates of the missions determined by the Security Council, taking into account fundamental principles such as respect for human rights, the promotion of gender equality, the strengthening of the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and the construction of robust, resilient institutions that enable the consolidation of peaceful coexistence.

The structuring of approaches to strengthen the resilience of people in their communities, as well as of local authorities, must be based on their own flexible criteria and independent indicators and benchmarks, as well as on ethical grounds, moral imperatives and

the fact that strengthening governance builds trust and helps to rebuild the social fabric.

In order to be effective and coherent, investment in resilience must therefore include the participation of women and youth in the various decision-making bodies and processes, especially in all aspects related to peace and transition processes. That should involve their leadership in communities, their increased participation in political life and their involvement in economic recovery and transitional justice processes.

Efforts to improve the resilience of local authorities in their work to reduce the complexity of current risk multipliers, such as food insecurity, pandemic diseases and the adverse effects of climate change, are critical. Those risks adversely affect efforts to address the root causes of conflict and increase the likelihood of conflict recurrence and escalation.

It is also essential to continue to promote investment flows that contribute to reconstruction and the building of strong institutions for the recovery of conflict-affected areas. To that end, it is important to involve the private sector and civil society in building resilient and viable institutions at the national and local levels.

Investment aimed at strengthening peacebuilding should focus on improving governance, which in turn will lead to an increase in trust, an essential component of providing incentives for local productive enterprises that emerge during transition processes in post-conflict zones. Investing in productive capacities and generating economic opportunities can help to rebuild a country's social fabric, in which the primary actors are local associations and other civil society organizations.

Finally, we believe that investments in improving the resilience of populations should prioritize disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as building capacities in the areas of justice, security and productive entrepreneurship.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar.

Mr. Tun (Myanmar): Myanmar commends the presidency of Japan for organizing today's open debate. I would also like to thank all the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Peace is the ultimate benefit that the peoples of the United Nations hope to receive from the Organization. Strengthening universal peace is therefore one of the

purposes of the United Nations, in addition to the maintenance of international peace and security. The prevalence of international peace and the absence of a world war for nearly eight decades can to a large extent be attributed to the existence of the multilateral structure underpinned by the United Nations. But we all agree that the purposes and principles of the United Nations are today being threatened as never before, while millions of people are still suffering from protracted conflicts around the world. Addressing the root causes of those conflicts is hindered not only by traditional factors, such as the breakdown of the rule of law and the culture of impunity, but also by complex challenges such as pandemics, disasters and the effects of climate change.

Sustaining peace at both the international and national levels takes much more than just managing armed conflicts and preventing them from escalating. To maintain peace at the international level, I wish to echo the Secretary-General's call for a New Agenda for Peace, emphasizing in particular the necessity to reduce strategic risks by strengthening commitment to the non-use of nuclear weapons and their eventual elimination. That commitment is more important than ever before, given the eroding trust among the major Powers. Outbreaks of armed conflict in societies can be attributed most often to the collapse or destruction, in whole or in part, of the political conditions that guarantee justice and social stability. Based on our national experience, achieving lasting peace and establishing sustainable political systems requires a comprehensive set of peacebuilding efforts to restore stability and strengthen political, economic and social institutions. Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, as stipulated in Sustainable Development Goal 16, is a key tenet of those efforts. Every society needs such institutions, through which investment in people can most effectively strengthen its resilience against complex challenges.

In my country, Myanmar, the democratically elected Government made concerted efforts to improve national institutions by strengthening transparency and accountability, in addition to allowing space for the press and civil society. As a result, we saw a significant improvement in the historically low public trust in the country's institutions. However, under a political arrangement controlled by the military-drafted constitution, the security and rule-of-law related institutions remained unchanged under the

military. Then, on 1 February 2021, the unaccountable, corrupted and brutal military generals exploited those institutions for their own interests to perpetrate an attempted coup against the elected Government. The coup was and remains illegal, even under the military constitution — but they corrupted it for their own needs. Since then, the people of Myanmar have lost trust in every institution under the illegitimate junta. The reason for that is obvious: the security forces have committed repeated atrocities against all the people of Myanmar, even crimes against humanity and war crimes, with blanket impunity. All the other institutions in the country, including in the areas of law enforcement, justice, immigration, finance, and information and communications technologies, have become tools of the illegal junta's oppression machine against the people of Myanmar.

All the investment in people and elsewhere made by the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi-led elected Government has been reversed to calamitous effect during the two-year period since the illegal military coup began. The rule of law has been annihilated and replaced by corruption. The military has even created safe havens for transnational organized crime, making Myanmar a destination for such crime for the first time in its history. The cost of the institutional destruction by the military junta is extremely high, not only for Myanmar itself, but also for the countries of the region and beyond. Under a military dictatorship defined by illegitimacy, brutality and disregard for the rule of law, there is not and will never be any investment in people's socioeconomic development, human rights and human security. The military dictatorship is willing to continue to harm the people for the sake of its ambitions. Meaningful security and justice sector reform is one of the key goals of the revolutionary movement against the fascist military in Myanmar, because peace can never be sustained without making national defence and security institutions accountable to the people.

The National Unity Government of Myanmar expresses its deep appreciation to the Security Council, the General Assembly, the other United Nations organs and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as individual Member States, for their ongoing efforts to help the people of Myanmar restore democracy and the rule of law. It is of crucial importance that the approaches undertaken towards any eventual solution to the current coup-inflicted disaster help create a transition to a federal democratic union with effective,

accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions. That is the only system that can guarantee peace and justice for all the people of Myanmar. The National Unity Government and all democratic forces in Myanmar stand ready to cooperate closely with the international community towards achieving that goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkmenistan.

Mrs. Ataeva (Turkmenistan): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five countries of Central Asia, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and my own country, Turkmenistan.

At the outset, let me express our gratitude to the Permanent Mission of Japan for organizing today's open debate. As the States Members of the United Nations, in addition to implementing in practice the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, our main tasks and obligations consist mostly of taking collective efforts to build and sustain peace with a view to leaving no one behind. However, that process needs agreed political mechanisms and a legal basis at the regional and global levels in order to proceed with further activities on the ground.

I have the honour to inform the Security Council that, with the support of all States Members of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 76/299 was adopted on 28 July 2022, declaring Central Asia a zone of peace, trust and cooperation. It is the point from which we continue to expand our efforts to build and sustain peace within and beyond our region, implementing the decisions taken during consultative meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia. The Central Asian countries have put forward a number of global initiatives that have contributed to lasting peace and stability all over the world, and I would like to take this opportunity to mention some of them.

It was 17 years ago that our five countries established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, a significant step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. General Assembly resolution 77/70, the most recent on the subject, was adopted on 7 December 2022 (see A/77/PV.46) on behalf of Central Asia. Through its resolution 77/51, the Assembly also unanimously supported the initiative to proclaim 5 March the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness. We believe that initiative will help to strengthen international peace and security

and improve the prospects for future generations to live in a world without nuclear weapons.

The high-level conference held in October 2022 in Tajikistan continued the Dushanbe process on countering terrorism and its financing, which was launched in May 2018. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions, we launched and completed a global campaign in the context of the International Year of Peace and Trust in 2021, and this year began coordinating activities in the context of the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace. We can therefore use that impetus to accelerate our common regional action for peacebuilding with a view to reinforcing and accelerating the initiative of the Secretary-General to form an ambitious New Agenda for Peace. Alongside that agenda, we in the region are pressing forward with the Secretary-General's proposed aims for reducing global strategic risks, investing in conflict prevention and peacemaking and supporting regional preventive measures.

But as we undertake practical steps to harness our political will in implementing those peacebuilding agendas, we are often brought to a halt by a lack of available resources. Our discussion today concerns those resources and their financial aspects in particular. We have already set goals in that regard. On 8 September 2022, the General Assembly, in a consensus vote, adopted its important resolution 76/305 — the first of its kind, focused on financing for peacebuilding. The Central Asian countries strongly believe that financing remains a critical challenge and needs our collective commitment to ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained fiscal sources for peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In that regard, we welcome the valuable work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Fund and international financial institutions for a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pre-positioned pooled fund that provides financing for activities to sustain peace in conflict-affected countries. We also note with appreciation the launch of the Secretary-General's peacebuilding funding dashboard and its contribution to enhancing the transparency and coordination of funds and strengthening financial accessibility. It further facilitates information-sharing while supporting United Nations peacebuilding at the national, regional and global levels.

Another important question is how and where we can best direct all the available resources. In that regard, the Central Asian countries are considering the

main opportunity gaps in addressing financial needs to enhance investments in human capital, including the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people in peacemaking, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in order to achieve social justice. The issue goes beyond gender equality and youth engagement — it is a matter of updating peacebuilding, creating solutions that reflect the needs of all people in conflict-affected settings and addressing the underlying conditions that drive conflict in the first place.

In that regard, a clear example of effective activities in the prevention nexus is the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which was established 15 years ago in Turkmenistan. With the valuable support of the Regional Centre, our countries established the Central Asia Women Leaders' Caucus and the Preventive Diplomacy Academy for young people. The Women Leaders' Caucus became the first platform of its kind aimed at increasing the political, economic and social participation of women in the Central Asian region. We marked a major milestone in November 2022, when the Central Asia Women Leaders' Caucus stepped into peacebuilding deliberations by taking part in the dedicated session of the Peacebuilding Commission and a side event preceding it, both held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The States of Central Asia firmly believe that by taking joint action and encouraging all Member States and other partners to consider increasing their contributions to peacebuilding activities and sustaining peace in the relevant countries and regions, the international community will ultimately succeed as it strives to make the world a better place.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Abd Aziz (Malaysia): Malaysia joins others in thanking you, Sir, for convening this important open debate. We also appreciate the briefers for giving us their outlook on the topic.

Malaysia welcomes all efforts towards sustaining peace. Against a backdrop of multifaceted crises, we believe that we need greater efforts to ensure a dynamic equilibrium between resolving and preventing conflicts and achieving post-conflict reconstruction. The concept of sustaining peace should incorporate a whole system of peacebuilding, peacekeeping and capacity-building alongside sustainable development and humanitarian

efforts. In that regard, Malaysia commends the Peacebuilding Commission for its vital role, whose scope has continued to broaden since its establishment in 2006. Malaysia continues to believe that the Security Council has benefited from its increased interaction with the Commission and that relations between them should be enhanced and strengthened, given the nexus between peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations.

My delegation reaffirms that efforts to support countries in post-conflict situations must be premised on the principle of national ownership. Through national ownership, any post-conflict reconstruction policy, institution-building and formulation of economic development programmes will reflect the needs of the local stakeholders and ensure inclusivity and legitimacy. We also believe in the imperative of regional engagement and commitment for sustainable peace. Additionally, the role of women and young people in peace and security should be further mainstreamed. Malaysia considers the engagement of women and young people, including in capacity-building programmes, to be vital to ensuring sustainable recovery and long-term peace.

Malaysia will continue to support enhancing resilience in peace efforts. To that end, 849 Malaysian peacekeepers, including 85 personnel, are currently serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations, among them those in Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Western Sahara. Through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, we have also provided support in terms of capacity-building programmes, including in our own region, for reconstruction and sustainable economic development. Malaysia's firm commitment to peacebuilding efforts is also manifested in its support of all Security Council resolutions related to peacebuilding efforts. Malaysia stands ready to continue supporting the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and all partners in building a New Agenda for Peace to sustain international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Nunes (Timor-Leste): It is a distinct honour and great pleasure for me to address the Security Council today. I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, and Japan on your successful presidency of the Security Council this month. I also express our appreciation for

the opportunity to present our view on the issue of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Since the establishment of the United Nations, the Security Council has played an important role in maintaining international peace and security and helping countries to navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. In addition to the procedural barriers in the decision-making process, the evolution of security threats to peace in conflict areas has made the role of the Council in the maintenance of peace and security more complex.

In order to better advance peace and security in the world, we share the view that United Nations peacekeeping operations must be given clear mandates, adequate planning, management and financial support, and sufficient time and resources to engage in multifunctional peacebuilding tasks. As a former host country for United Nations peacekeeping operations, Timor-Leste understands the importance of the genuine commitment of all parties involved and better performance in executing key goals, such as prevention, stabilization, management and partnerships. In order to better perform in conflict prevention and stabilization, United Nations peacekeeping operations need to address the issues that present long-term risks of conflict; engage with parties that are on the verge of violence; negotiate for peace; assist countries in achieving reconciliation; support inclusive political processes and democratic political culture to resolve ongoing conflicts; promote social cohesion; build resilient and inclusive societies; promote good governance and the rule of law; assist in security sector reform; and promote electoral assistance and gender equality.

At the same time, given that peacebuilding and sustaining peace represent a long-term process that requires flexible and timely resources, United Nations peacekeeping operations must make use of the adequate facilities given to them in order to achieve more effective outcomes through improved prioritization, integration and focus on efficiency. In addition, strong partnerships with the United Nations, the host country and countries with specialized experience are important for creating the conditions necessary for long-term regional stability and laying the foundation for economic growth and sustainable development, which will facilitate smooth exit and transition processes.

The improved performance of United Nations peacekeeping operations will also be determined by an

adequate understanding of the local context, including the history, culture, customary laws, national priorities and needs of the host country and its people. Such crucial knowledge can be acquired through active engagement with the local community and civil society and with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of young people and people with disabilities. Through such a comprehensive approach, we believe that the United Nations can do better in its peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts to help countries in conflict to fully transition to peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Abdelaziz (*spoke in Arabic*): I am pleased to begin my statement by expressing my deep appreciation to the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for holding this meeting and for the politically and legally sound choice of topics for discussion by the Council in open debate, which enhances the ability of the Council and the General Assembly to address the increasing challenges that the international multilateral system is currently witnessing.

I am also pleased, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, and the entire Arab world, to express to the Japanese presidency of the Council our deep appreciation for the well deserved recognition, in the concept note for this open debate (S/2023/19, annex), of the pioneering role and clear vision of the late Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the only Arab-African Secretary-General of the United Nations, who laid the foundations of post-conflict peacebuilding in a personal initiative that he introduced to the Council, upon the request of the Security Council Summit (see S/PV.3046) to present an Agenda for Peace in 1992 to specifically and exclusively cover three topics — preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Former Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali added to them an important pillar that has become, after 40 years, one of the main pillars that underpin the concept of sustaining peace, which is the main focal point for the preventive diplomacy of our Organization.

Our debate today coincides with the discussions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Secretary-General's report *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) and his ongoing consultations to propose a New Agenda for Peace, amid increased global tensions and consecutive geopolitical developments that have

had negative impacts on our ability to reach a new consensus at the United Nations over the best way to promote our international multilateral work in order to address the consecutive strategic challenges and risks in a context of universal international solidarity at the United Nations. An initial and thorough assessment of those discussions and preparations to launch the New Agenda for Peace and convene the Summit of the Future will yield a number of conclusions that must be taken into account, the most important of which are the following.

First, the vision set forth in the 1992 report of former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (S/24111), and in his subsequent reports in 1994 on an agenda for development (A/48/935) and in 1996 on an agenda for democratization (A/51/761), all received the support of the international community, which sought to implement them amid an environment of international consensus. Those agendas were and still are deep-rooted foundations for promoting the relationship between the three main pillars of the current work of the United Nations in the fields of maintaining international peace and security, enhancing economic and social development, and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those foundations were also the bedrock of the report of the next African Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005), based on the pillars of freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. Together, they made up the basis of the fundamental reforms that we adopted at the 2005 World Summit in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. Their implementation at the time provided a strong impetus to the international multilateral system.

The most important of those reforms was the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund, the Human Rights Council, UN-Women and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in addition to the adoption of several new concepts that specifically focused on the protection of and investment in people, including human security, in which Japan plays an essential implementation role, and the responsibility to protect. All those concepts were intended to strengthen the principles of security and of the economic and social protection of peoples, as well as to guarantee respect for human rights and a commitment to the foundations

of democracy, without one party imposing its views on others. Those concepts also ensured the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid in times of crisis and conflict. They are solid foundations that we, the United Nations, must continue to develop and promote consensus about for the sake of our peoples.

The recent variables and geopolitical disputes lead to divergence instead of convergence and, day after day, create shifting alliances that we never imagined and expose us to unthinkable dangers, including the danger of the use of nuclear weapons, in a manner that is contrary to all international commitments included in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Secondly, the challenges that the international community currently faces have become more global in nature and no longer affect only leaderships and Governments. Instead, they now deeply affect ordinary people, their standard of living and their ability to enjoy freedom and dignity. That may be the result of the Security Council's failure to resolve protracted conflicts, including those in our Arab region and on the African continent, which have led to the spread of terrorism, conflicts and revolutions.

That may also be the result of climate change and the negative effects of natural disasters, or because some have succeeded, under everyone's nose, in evading punishment and accountability at the international level, despite perpetrating blatant international violations. That may be because of the use of double standards on pivotal issues, foremost of which is the foreign occupation of the land of others, such as in Palestine and Ukraine.

That may also be the result of other complex challenges that threaten human security, food security and water security, leading to the loss of all or some of the gains achieved by countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome is an unprecedented international concern, especially among middle-income countries, low-income countries, small countries, island countries and African countries, in particular countries that are not part of large strategic alliances or those that do not enjoy the protection of nuclear umbrellas or military alliances. All of that destroys the concept of sustaining peace and strikes at the heart of it.

The Security Council is therefore required to take the initiative to rise to the level of those challenges, in particular the five permanent members

of the Council, until the Security Council has been reformed and expanded. Those five members are collectively responsible for leading that international effort based on joint respect of all the principles that underpin the Charter of the United Nations, and on a collective commitment to respect international law and international humanitarian law.

Thirdly, the Security Council must confront those dangers and seek to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. That requires establishing strong international, regional and national institutions that are able to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fourthly, the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace must be based on the successes achieved by the original An Agenda for Peace (S/24111).

Fifthly, we must enhance institutional cooperation among the United Nations, especially the Security Council, and the various regional organizations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Bakradze (Georgia): At the outset, let me express our gratitude to the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for convening today's important debate.

After nearly 80 years since the establishment of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, we still struggle to achieve peace in many parts of the world, including in my own region, in which Russia's continued occupation of two integral regions of Georgia, as well as the ongoing full-scale military aggression against Ukraine, causes enormous human suffering, with wider implications on global security and sustainable development. Grave threats stemming from pandemic diseases, technology-enabled threats and the rapid spread of disinformation, coupled with unmitigated climate change, exacerbate the grim reality and once again demonstrate that multilateral cooperation and the rules-based international order have no alternatives.

While we agree that the Security Council has contributed to resolving certain armed conflicts, or at least to preventing their escalation over many years, raging wars and protracted conflicts require decisive action from the Council to fulfil its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations.

As stated before, Georgia views the suggested New Agenda for Peace, in line with commitment 3 of the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, as a much-needed opportunity to promote peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen the framework for a peaceful world. Georgia strongly believes that an ambitious New Agenda for Peace must rest upon a reinforced commitment to the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter and better protection and realization of human rights.

Sustaining peace can be achieved only through Member States' strong adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the presence of strong accountability. We believe that, along with prevention, the New Agenda should envisage bold action on peaceful conflict resolution, as it is of paramount importance for ensuring peace and stability globally. It should also reinforce the women and peace and security agenda, while ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes.

A comprehensive and integrated approach to peace and security is key. Given the strong nexus between peace and development, addressing people's need for socioeconomic development and protecting their human rights are of the utmost importance for the prevention of conflicts. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underpinned by States' obligations under international human rights instruments, is one of the most important plans of action for people, the planet, prosperity and peace.

Let me stress the key role of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in guiding our efforts towards peaceful societies, which forms an important, complementary basis to our conflict resolution efforts at all stages of the conflict cycle and serves as a key enabler for the success of the overall sustainable development agenda, as hardly any of the SDGs can be achieved without the commitment of integrated societies and guidance from strong State institutions to that end.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that a holistic approach to peace and development will help us to connect the dots and better implement efforts that will bring us closer to peaceful and inclusive societies. In that regard, it is important to strengthen the Security Council's primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, which

paves the way for the protection of human rights and sustainable development.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cambodia.

Mrs. Eat (Cambodia): As a newcomer, allow me to express my warmest greetings to all members. I presented my credentials to the Secretary-General yesterday, and today's meeting is my first official engagement as Cambodia's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations. I hope to have the full support and cooperation of members in fulfilling my duties.

Let me begin by joining others in expressing high appreciation to you, Madam President, and Japan for initiating today's dialogue on investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges, as part of the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda.

We are indeed in an increasingly turbulent world, with numerous interconnected and complicated challenges that transcend national boundaries, including the impacts of geopolitical rivalries, wars and conflict, climate change, the coronavirus disease pandemic and so on. Those challenges hinder the momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

To be effective in building people's resilience in the face of those challenges, first and foremost, we need to prioritize the maintenance of peace and political stability. To that end, preventive diplomacy and sensitivity to the concerns, including security concerns, of all stakeholders should be embraced. In that respect, Cambodia supports the Secretary-General's call for enhanced investment in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in his New Agenda for Peace.

Synergies and partnerships between international and home-grown peace and peacebuilding processes are crucial to achieving lasting peace and stability. Cambodia stands as a good example in that regard. My nation suffered untold misery and destruction from three decades of war and genocide. While the country has greatly benefited from international peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, enduring peace and stability have been achieved thanks to our own win-win policy, launched in 1998. Our leadership and ownership of national development strategies have enabled us to progressively enhance our people's economic, political and social freedom, with no one left behind: women and young people are equally empowered to contribute to

the consolidation of peace and sustainable development. In fact, investing in people is our Government's top priority.

At present, Cambodia is in a position, and is ready, to enhance its contribution and its role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding under the United Nations umbrella. Currently, we have almost 1,000 peacekeepers, some 15 per cent of whom are women, in five countries. To share our success story in solidifying peace and national reconciliation and unity, we would like to do more.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that more open debates like this one would allow the Security Council to hear the diverse voices and constructive ideas of non-Council members.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Raguttahalli (India): Let me begin by thanking Japan for organizing today's open debate. I also wish to thank the briefers — Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed; Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC); and the civil society briefer — for their insights on the topic.

In recent years, the international community has come to better grasp the complex and interlinked facets of peacebuilding. Our perspective on addressing conflicts has undergone a paradigm shift from resolution, reconciliation and recovery to prevention and reconstruction. A comprehensive approach, focusing on sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and political processes, forms an integral part of our responses to conflict situations today.

As a leading troop- and police-contributing country to United Nations peacekeeping operations and a founding member of the PBC, India has the following observations to make with regard to the topic of today's open debate.

First, we need to recognize the primacy of national Governments and authorities in identifying and driving priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace. What is needed is to work closely with Member States, in line with their national requirements and needs, rather than advocate prescriptions and solutions from outside. Inclusivity in advancing national peacebuilding objectives is imperative.

Secondly, forging social cohesion and trust in governance institutions in divided societies is easier said than done, but it is indispensable to ensuring that conflict-ravaged societies do not relapse into chaos. Efforts to that end need to factor in complex layers of post-conflict scenarios and the local context.

Thirdly, as the world's largest democracy, we are convinced that representative, inclusive and resilient governance structures will help stability in securing peace, safeguarding fundamental rights and protecting the rule of law. Those elements, in turn, make governance transparent, responsive and people-centric. We need to encourage such governance structures in countries in conflict settings. That also requires giving them both the time and the space that they need to deliver efficiently.

Fourthly, gender sensitivity and inclusivity in the governance and security sector strengthen nation-building. Similarly, creating an environment that provides opportunities for young people to grow out of conflict is equally critical.

Fifthly, peacekeeping and peacebuilding are mutually exclusive. Attempts to extend the role of peacekeeping missions to peacebuilding tasks would strengthen neither, but instead would end up weakening both. The military component of peacekeeping can play only an enabling role; it cannot bring about peacebuilding on its own.

Sixthly, there is an urgent need for predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding efforts to be more effective. However, any decision to that effect must be consensus-based.

India has been playing a constructive and significant role in the context of peacebuilding through extensive development partnerships, both bilaterally and multilaterally, with countries in the global South. The India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, which was established in 2017, has grown in the short span of the past five years to a portfolio of 66 development projects in partnership with 51 developing countries, including 17 Member States from Africa. In the case of Africa, India has committed concessional loans of more than \$12 billion to various development projects since 2015.

India will continue to be a force multiplier for all peacebuilding efforts, particularly building resilient

institutions for an effective and enduring response to conflict situations.

The representative of Pakistan made an unwarranted reference to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in his statement. The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is, and will always be, an integral and inalienable part of India, irrespective of what the representative of Pakistan believes or comments. Pakistan's desperate and deliberate attempts to peddle falsehoods and the habit of abusing the sanctity of multilateral forums deserve our collective contempt, and perhaps sympathy, as well.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Greece.

Mr. Papakostas (Greece): Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy is among the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which form the bedrock of the Organization. As a candidate for non-permanent membership in the Security Council for the period 2025–2026 and a staunch supporter of the primacy of international law, Greece is ready to support a wide array of tools for the prevention and resolution of international disputes, including by addressing the root causes and drivers of conflicts.

Greece would also like to stress the central role of the Security Council, in cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Greece supports the implementation of the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) by introducing global governance reforms in order to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations-centred multilateral system in crisis and conflict responses.

Furthermore, Greece believes that the Security Council should better take into consideration the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in order to make full use of the PBC's unique capabilities in promoting common analysis among the integrated United Nations missions.

The New Agenda for Peace is yet another opportunity to reinforce the long-standing commitment of the United Nations to timely, coordinated and sustained conflict prevention. Greece is willing to cooperate with all Members of the United Nations to uphold the collective

security system established by the Charter, emphasizing the prohibition of the use or the threat of use of force. As a country of which the foreign policy is defined by the need for respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, Greece is determined to advocate for a Charter-compliant approach to all matters relating to international peace and security. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rules-based international order founded on the Charter of the United Nations and multilateralism are undoubtedly at the core of the New Agenda for Peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan): Allow me to start by thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this important open debate.

As the concept note (S/2023/19, annex) aptly recalls, the notion of peacebuilding was first introduced in the report *An Agenda for Peace* (S/24111), which was submitted by the then Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in response to a request from the Security Council. Many provisions of that report are highly relevant today, including for finding answers to the questions of how the Security Council can better address emerging threats and what elements should be included in the New Agenda for Peace. Most importantly, the cornerstone of any efforts in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is and must remain the State. Respect for its fundamental sovereignty and integrity is crucial to any progress in preventing conflicts, restoring and maintaining peace, building bonds of peaceful mutual benefit among nations, enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, protecting human security and promoting sustainable economic and social development. Although each war, conflict and dispute is unique, the principles guiding inter-State relations and cooperation are universal. *An Agenda for Peace* was very clear in rejecting fragmentation and stating that the principles of the Charter of the United Nations must be applied consistently, not selectively.

By the time *An Agenda for Peace* had been adopted and the concept of peacebuilding launched, Azerbaijan was already facing armed aggression by neighbouring Armenia. Neither the landmark messages delivered through that report nor the subsequent resolutions of the Security Council — namely, resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) — prevented

the aggressor from undertaking further attacks, mass atrocities and territorial seizures. In 1994, Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared the position of the United Nations based on four principles: the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan; the inviolability of international boundaries; the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory; and the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia ignored that position and kept the territories of my country under occupation until they were liberated by military and political means at the end of 2020.

Evidently, while committing aggression, torturing and killing thousands of Azerbaijani people, subjecting the occupied territories to total ethnic cleansing, cultural erasure, looting and destruction, Armenia cared little about the principles of inter-State relations, human rights and the decisions and reports of international organizations. The question now is whether Armenia has changed its policy 30 years later — definitely not. Following the end of the conflict, instead of engaging genuinely and in good faith in the process of normalizing inter-State relations based on mutual recognition and respect for mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity, as proposed and consistently advanced by Azerbaijan and supported by the international community, Armenia gave preference to its usual evasions and destabilizing actions.

Territorial claims, motivated by fabricated historical narratives and an ethnonationalist ideology, are still the dominating imperatives for the authorities in Yerevan. Armenia's refusal to completely withdraw its armed forces and illegal armed formations from the territory of my country and return eight occupied border villages to Azerbaijan, its continued mine terrorism and other illegal activities, its references to the localities in Azerbaijan with outdated or fake names, its widespread smear and misinformation campaigns, and its failure to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred by ethnonationalist groups operating within its territory are in no way consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law, human rights and the peace agenda. Moreover, during almost 30 years of war and occupation, Armenia refused to account for thousands of missing Azerbaijanis and conduct investigations into the numerous atrocity crimes committed by its armed forces during the conflict. Only last year, in 2022, Armenia handed over to Azerbaijan 67 bags containing mixed remains belonging to 106 persons. It can only

cause deep indignation that a country that claims to be nothing less than a centre of civilization and an ardent advocate of human rights has kept those remains for three decades, contrary to all moral canons and in violation of international humanitarian law.

Azerbaijan's experience is an illustration and a reminder of the need to do much more to prevent and resolve conflicts, ensure respect for the sovereignty and integrity of States, confront hatred and disinformation, and build and sustain peace. Providing support for States that are affected by conflict and engaged in post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration is and must remain a critical commitment of the entire United Nations system. Such support is also indispensable in the context of investment in people to enhance resilience against contemporary threats and challenges. Azerbaijan is firm in its determination to defend its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, protect its people and ensure peace and stability in the region by all available means, in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Mainero (Argentina) (spoke in Spanish): Most of the violent conflicts since the Cold War were not the result of power relations between States. Instead, they were triggered by and rooted mainly in countries with poor governance, ethnic or religious tensions and structural inequalities — all of which are problems related to development. That is why a wide range of concerns, including socioeconomic development, human rights and humanitarian issues, must be consistently addressed in order to maintain international peace and security. In that context, peacebuilding is more important than ever. Many ceasefire and peace agreements are initially unsuccessful. Many peace processes drag on interminably, with long and circular negotiations. And even if fragile agreements are reached, they may break down during the implementation phase. If sufficient attention is not paid to the needs of societies emerging from conflict, the consequences are serious for all parties. The societies themselves are exposed to the risks of poverty, population displacement, the reversal of development gains and renewed violence, sometimes at levels even worse than they were before the conflict.

Peacebuilding seeks to not only resolve conflicts, but also to build societies, institutions, policies and

relationships that are better able to sustain peace and justice over time.

Argentina has supported the development of the concept of sustainable peace, as defined in General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), understood as a continuous process that involves the peacebuilding system — not only in the post-conflict phase, but also before and during conflicts. That is based on a comprehensive approach that must take into account the need to combat the root causes of conflict by, among other things, strengthening the rule of law, promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, eradicating poverty and promoting social development, democracy and respect for human rights.

In the face of new global challenges, we must ask ourselves what the right United Nations structures and mandates are for conflict resolution. The transition from war to peace is not a technical exercise, but a highly political process that must combine various principles, priorities and approaches. We stress the need for coordination between the main United Nations entities, avoiding action in separate silos and striving for systemic coherence in peacebuilding strategies. That is why the work of the Peacebuilding Commission is central to the architecture of conflict resolution.

Argentina understands that the work of the Peacebuilding Commission has gained momentum from the debate on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals is a drive for transformative change, with more peaceful, just and inclusive societies that help to shape stronger and more inclusive institutions.

Argentina understands that financing for peacebuilding and for development are interlinked, complementary and mutually reinforcing. It is not correct to assume that more spending on peacebuilding means less funding for development. In that context, South-South and triangular cooperation are important examples of how various developing economies can benefit from one another, and similar approaches should be considered when financing peacebuilding activities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador.

Mrs. González López (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me first thank you, Mr. President, for

convening this open debate of the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustainable peace. We also thank all of the briefers for their important presentations.

The emerging risks and threats to international peace and security make it urgent for the Organization and Member States to intensify their efforts to consolidate and sustain peace. Allow me to take this opportunity to point out four areas that El Salvador considers key in the Security Council's approach to peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

First, my country believes that the search for and implementation of sustainable political solutions to conflicts must always be aimed at combating their root causes and triggers. It is therefore necessary to redouble efforts to achieve more effective security responses and to adopt measures to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of all actors of society in all stages of peace processes in order to establish effective and resilient institutions and to invest in people throughout their life cycle.

Moreover, we believe that investing in people includes addressing their socioeconomic development needs, protecting their human rights and empowering them to be agents of change. My country is therefore a promoter of the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas, considering the importance that both population groups play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the construction, consolidation and sustainability of peace.

Secondly, understanding peace as a holistic and continuous process, El Salvador believes that strengthening the advisory, liaison and convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission is highly relevant to applying a coherent collective approach in the Organization's efforts to build and sustain peace.

Thirdly, funding gaps for peacebuilding must be addressed decisively. By adopting the first resolution on financing for peacebuilding (resolution 76/305), the General Assembly established a series of mandates, the implementation of which is urgent and necessary to prevent and end conflicts, meet the demands of Member States for support and promote recovery, reconstruction and development in various parts of the world — all with adequate, predictable and, above all, sustainable financing.

Finally, El Salvador believes that it is necessary to continue bolstering integration, coordination and

coherence in the field of peacebuilding and sustainable peace at all levels. Taking into account the multiplicity of actors working to prevent conflict and consolidate peace, my country believes that strengthening dialogue and the establishment of strategic alliances will make it possible to broaden the impact of interventions and initiatives to consolidate and sustain peace.

Ms. Seid (Palau): I am delivering this statement in my capacity as Chair of the 12 members of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) represented in New York.

On behalf of the Pacific SIDS, I convey our congratulations to Japan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January and thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

We would like to highlight two threats to peace that are important to us as Pacific SIDS. The first is based on our history with nuclear testing in the Pacific and the second is the present and escalating threat of climate change in our islands.

The Pacific experienced over 300 nuclear-test explosions, conducted over the course of five decades. It is through our unique historical experience that we advocate that the New Agenda for Peace establish stronger commitments on the non-use and total elimination of nuclear weapons, as outlined by the Secretary-General in *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982). We believe that this is inextricably linked to sustaining peace and that it is of the utmost importance that the Agenda address ways for the international community to limit strategic risks.

The challenges we face to sustaining peace have also evolved. For SIDS in particular, climate change poses an ever-increasing threat as a multiplier for instability and conflict. In the Pacific, rising sea levels have flooded our coastal towns and villages, causing displacement and forced migration. Sea level rise has also created saltwater intrusion of our water tables, creating water insecurity, and has flooded our taro patches, threatening our food security. Prolonged droughts, frequent floods and severe and intense cyclones and typhoons are now a regular occurrence in our islands, leaving catastrophic damage in their wake. Warming waters are bleaching our coral reefs, which we rely on for subsistence fishing, but also to drive marine-based economic activities, such as fisheries and blue tourism. Forced migration, displacement, food

and water insecurity and infrastructure damage are all terms we associate with war zones, but for SIDS, it is climate change that is the root cause of those threats to peace.

Additionally, when much of a developing country's fiscal space is choked by ever-increasing climate disaster relief, there is less to spend on development. That means less investment in education, health, nutrition, infrastructure, social services and training. Effectively, climate change is also eroding the institutions and safety nets that we rely on for peace and stability. In that respect, we reiterate our call for a special representative of the Secretary-General on climate change and security, who would inform the future work of the Council and the Assembly.

We commend the efforts of the Council in engaging with us in this open debate, and we look forward to continuing to engage on these crucial issues.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Mr. Lippwe (Federated States of Micronesia): I wish to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, and the Government of Japan for convening today's open debate.

I align myself with the statement just delivered by the Ambassador of Palau on behalf of Pacific small island developing States.

In October 1945, when the United Nations was founded, the Security Council focused on the narrow concept of security. With the ever-changing circumstances our world faces, however, and with the security landscape becoming so complicated, the Council and the traditional concepts of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding have had to evolve. In rebuilding a country torn apart by war and other grave security threats and harms, we need to take a holistic approach. National institutions and processes need to be developed to prevent future hostilities, which we think is important.

In our Blue Pacific continent, the primary threat facing Pacific small island developing States is not the encroachment of foreign armies, but the grave and mounting threats posed by the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change on our wellbeing, security and existence as island States. And those threats on our existence and security are no less harmful than the threats of wars and their weapons of destruction on populations elsewhere. In our islands, we are in a fight

for our survival. Our existence is under assault from climate change, whose impacts do not discriminate. We are familiar with the adverse impacts of climate change, which we already see and feel in our island communities — unprecedented occurrences of king tides, the intensification of typhoons, droughts, floods, the increased salinity of our ground water, the disappearance of our beaches, heightened ocean acidification and shifts in the migratory patterns of key marine species. And the list goes on.

Peacebuilding obviously needs to be designed to be future-proof and take into account climate change. The onset of draughts, severe weather events and sea-level rise must be factored in to build sustainable peace. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Each country emerging from conflict will need a tailor-made solution, as do those threatened and impacted by climate change.

For an island State such as Micronesia, there is one element that can inform members of the Council and the international community. A good start, which Micronesia, along with the Pacific small island developing States, has raised several times in this Chamber and in the General Assembly, would be the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on climate change and security, who would oversee how the adverse effects of climate change impact or are otherwise related to current and future conflicts. We believe that information provided by the Special Representative on the security implications of climate change on regions and countries would be invaluable for the work of the Council and the United Nations in carrying out their respective mandates. I implore the Council to pay more attention to climate-related security risks, which the most vulnerable among us face on a daily basis.

Finally, I want to emphasize that we are all responsible for the future of the planet we live on. The attention paid by the Council to the security implications that climate change pose to the survival of the most vulnerable is one step in the right direction. Placing the burden on them for what they least contribute to is not a practical solution, and neither is it a fair one.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Hossain (Bangladesh): I commend the presidency of Japan for its dynamic and successful stewardship of the work of the Security Council this month. I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the other briefers for their comprehensive briefings today.

As a country with experience of bloodshed during its war of independence, Bangladesh has always been committed to United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities. We have been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception and served as Chair twice, including last year. We are also playing a critical role as the coordinator of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries caucus in the Peacebuilding Commission. Moreover, as a leading peacekeeper-contributing country, our peacekeepers help countries in transition build their national institutions, protect vulnerable civilians and support communities, including women and youth, to pursue sustainable peace and development.

I thank you, Sir, for organizing this open debate on the theme “Investing in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”, at a time when we face multiple challenges, starting from the pandemic to the ongoing financial, energy and food crises. We have been witnessing a growing demand for support for national efforts to build and sustain peace. Furthermore, in the recent years, the ongoing crises have again reminded us of the need to ensure resilient, inclusive, effective and sustainable institutions to keep intact our hard-earned gains in maintaining stability and peace in society. It is high time to enhance our collective efforts and streamline the work of all organs of the United Nations in addressing emerging threats and risk multipliers in order to realize peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

With the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council has the major role to play in strengthening United Nations efforts towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, please allow me to highlight few points.

First, as peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations to assist host countries in navigating the difficult path from conflict to peace, we emphasize reinforcing the peacebuilding mandates of peacekeeping operations.

Secondly, as we highlight the synergies among United Nations agencies, peacekeeping operations and financial institutions on the ground to support national peacebuilding efforts, coordination among United Nations organs at Headquarters is also critical. In that regard, we welcome the initiatives undertaken

to strengthen the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission and underscore the importance of having an informal interactive dialogue between the members of the Security Council and the PBC.

Thirdly, the preventative approach should be strengthened in the peacebuilding work of the United Nations. In that regard, we welcome the Secretary General's report *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), which emphasizes investing in prevention and peacebuilding, supporting regional prevention and putting women and girls at the centre of security policy. We look forward to the New Agenda for Peace to supplement the peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

Fourthly, we reiterate the urgency of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and emphasize considering all options for peacebuilding financing to address the perennial funding gap.

Finally, we underscore the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation for supporting countries as they implement their peacebuilding initiatives, in particular by facilitating the exchange of good practices among State-led organizations, as well as non-State actors and non-governmental organizations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liberia.

Mrs. McGill (Liberia): We thank the Council for convening this open debate on the theme "Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges" in connection with the item entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace".

Instability and conflicts continue to generate and exacerbate poverty and institutional fragility across the world. Undoubtedly, the key elements that are necessary conditions for sustaining peace and promoting peacebuilding priorities across post-conflict societies include effective institutions and an empowered population. My delegation therefore believes the theme of today's open debate to be appropriate, as it further elevates the need to strengthen efforts to advance towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace through investment in people and building resilient and effective institutions. To that end, my delegation wishes to highlight the following points.

There is a need for targeted investments in the most vulnerable groups, including women and young people. My delegation also believes that investing in people,

in particular women and young people, in various forms — including by advancing their socioeconomic development, protecting their human rights and human security, and empowering them to be agents of positive change in their respective societies — not only enhances countries' abilities with respect to the prevention and mitigation of conflicts, as well as recovery and peacebuilding processes, but also ensures inclusivity. We must ensure the provision of technical and other support to facilitate resilience-building among institutions in conflict-affected and post-conflict societies. That includes strengthening economic, democratic, social and governance institutions in order to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency.

At the national level, our national development plan — the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development — prioritizes, inter alia, the empowerment of women and girls, including by taking actions to reform our legal system to address inequalities, provide decent jobs and livelihoods, and reduce poverty by economically empowering young people so that they, too, can become self-employed and contribute to the growth and development of the country. For example, in our quest to leave no one behind and build an inclusive society, the Liberian Government, with the support of the United Nations, launched a national fund drive on 30 June 2022 for the rehabilitation and empowerment of at-risk young people. That initiative is geared towards rehabilitating, empowering and reintegrating at-risk young people into their communities as healthy, productive and engaged citizens.

To that end, I also wish to highlight the Peacebuilding Commission's engagements in Liberia in support of our peacebuilding initiatives, including in relation to our national programmes to empower women and young people. The Commission also engages with key Government institutions to strengthen resilience, coordination and service delivery; promote social cohesion, integration and national reconciliation; and support efforts to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and political processes. In the same vein, the Peacebuilding Fund also supports the Government's initiatives with a view to contributing to a more peaceful electoral environment before, during and after the forthcoming 2023 elections. Its efforts are aimed at strengthening the prevention of electoral violence and enhancing the policy and institutional environment for a more inclusive and effective early warning and response

mechanism, including by mainstreaming human rights, gender-sensitive and youth-based approaches.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its appreciation for the convening of this open debate and underscores that investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges, as well as building resilient and effective institutions, can be better achieved through concerted engagement and by pursuing a multi-stakeholder approach that includes Government officials, United Nations country teams, multilateral financial institutions and non-State actors, including the private sector.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Bratchyk (Ukraine): Ukraine highly appreciates the initiative of the Japanese presidency to convene this important debate, and we take note of the briefers' presentations.

We share the concerns over the serious armed conflicts, violence and instability in many countries of the world reflected in the concept paper (S/2023/19, annex). We also support the need to focus in particular on complex risk multipliers, such as food insecurity, while addressing the issue of maintaining international peace and security. Those factors could not only hinder us from eliminating the root causes of conflicts but also increase the likelihood of their recurrence, as rightly pointed out in the concept paper. The instigators of conflict also consider those challenges to be an important element of their aggressive tools aimed at aggravating and broadening the impact of hostilities. For instance, the strategy of the Russian Federation in its invasion of Ukraine included, as an immediate component, the full blockade of Ukrainian seaports and Ukrainian food exports. Millions of people worldwide were brought to the brink of famine, which in turn aggravated regional security situations and affected peacebuilding efforts in various countries and regions.

It should be a priority for the United Nations system to support national efforts to create effective and inclusive mechanisms and institutions that can address the political, social and economic drivers of conflicts across the globe. It is also important to consider issues related to promoting and protecting human rights and ensuring a prominent role for women and young people in all stages of peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. Situations of concern also demand a tailored approach that takes into due consideration the root

causes of the particular conflict. We commend the efforts undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission in that regard and support the goals outlined in the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982) initiative to extend the role of the Commission in order to address cross-cutting security issues from a prevention perspective. As a country withstanding a full-fledged armed aggression, Ukraine has persistently advocated that there is a need to develop the prevention toolbox. The United Nations failed to prevent the invasion of a sovereign, independent country, which has already resulted in human suffering, the disruption of critical infrastructure, enormous death tolls and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The task at hand is to stop the aggression and ensure a comprehensive, just and long-lasting peace.

That brings me to the assumption that our efforts to strengthen the prevention toolbox should address two important issues: how to prevent new conflicts from occurring and how to prevent the recurrence of existing conflicts. The only visible recipe for sustaining peace is to ensure that solutions to conflict are based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States within their internationally recognized borders. In that regard, if an instigator of a conflict attempts to immobilize the Security Council in its respective activities, in particular by misusing its permanent seat, the United Nations shall be ready for an adequate and resolute response to halt such attempts in order to restore respect for the Charter the United Nations and enable the Council to do its job with regard to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Ms. Oehri (Liechtenstein): Today's debate takes place at a time with the most conflicts worldwide since 1945. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which we are discussing today, undoubtedly must be at the centre of our common efforts. Conflict prevention and resolution can be successful and sustainable only when they are fully inclusive. There is clear evidence that the inclusion of women in peace talks increases the probability of lasting peace agreements. And women's full, equal and meaningful participation across all peacekeeping operations improves mandate delivery. While there is no doubt that gender equality offers a path to sustainable peace and conflict prevention, we are moving in the opposite direction, with the reversal

of generational gains in women's rights in many parts of the world. We applaud the brave women human rights defenders who have taken to the streets to peacefully protest such reversals to fight for their rights and the rule of law from Myanmar to Belarus to Iran.

The Security Council, with its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations, has the obligation to ensure that peace processes are inclusive and gender sensitive in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolutions. The women and peace and security agenda must feature across all agendas and country situations, and the empowerment of women as agents of change must be a priority.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), together with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), plays an indispensable role in implementing many of the thematic agendas outlined by the Security Council. Its advisory, bridging and convening roles have benefited many country situations. We recognize the PBC's inclusive approach for sustainable peace by integrating gender and youth perspectives in its work. And we encourage efforts to include relevant stakeholders that can further support peace processes and governance. A crucial aspect of sustainable peace, as also reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 16, is reconciliation and accountability for the most serious crimes under international law. The PBC and the PBF have addressed issues of transitional justice, notably in the Gambia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and the Sudan.

Given the breadth and importance of the work — for example, the funding for Colombia's Truth Commission — we would like to see further engagement by the PBC in transitional justice, as a standalone topic, along the lines of other similar discussions that have already taken place. In doing so, the PBC would reinforce the vital part it plays in implementing and complementing many of the thematic agendas of the Security Council — an important synergy that Liechtenstein hopes will continue. In that regard, we also would like to highlight the added value created by General Assembly resolution 76/262, also known as the veto initiative, which mandates the Assembly to step in when the Council is blocked by the use of the veto, including on conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Knyazyan (Armenia): We would like to thank Japan for convening this open debate on the topic of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We express our appreciation to Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith, and the representative of civil society for their important contributions to today's debate.

The rise of intolerance, hate, racism on ethnic and religious grounds, systematic violations of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, food and health and violence against women and children in various parts of the world are reminders of the crucial need for the international community and the United Nations to scale-up their efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and sustain peace. The comprehensive and sustainable resolution of conflicts and sustaining peace require tackling the root causes of conflicts, in particular gross violations of human rights, and pursuing accountability and justice for past crimes. A human rights-based, people-centred and inclusive approach is key to effective international cooperation to address the humanitarian and development needs of people affected by conflicts. In that regard, the resilience of the United Nations system to efforts of manipulation aimed at legitimizing the consequences of the use of force and atrocity crimes is crucial to countering misinformation and false narratives and attempts to impose unilateral solutions in utter disregard of the norms of international law, including international human rights law.

We welcome the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, with a strong emphasis on prevention, addressing violence and upholding human rights and the equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. As a consistent supporter of strengthening the United Nations prevention toolbox, the delegation of Armenia would like to stress the need for addressing the risks of genocide and other atrocity crimes, particularly in our part of the world.

In our region, we continue to face attempts to pursue a forceful resolution of the conflict, the instigation of violence and hate, the denial of fundamental human rights and violations of international humanitarian law. For 46 days, the safe and unimpeded passage of people and goods from and to Nagorno-Karabakh through the Lachin corridor has continued to be denied. Children remain separated from their families, and electricity and gas supplies are deliberately cut off. Schools and

kindergartens have closed, owing to the lack of food, and food stamps have been introduced to address the immediate needs of a besieged population of 120,000 people. The aggressive actions on the ground, war-mongering and hateful statements made by those at the highest levels of the leadership of Azerbaijan, encouraging ethnic cleansing and hate crimes, leave no doubt of the imminent threat to the physical security of the Armenian population.

The Security Council needs to uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and undertake timely and efficient measures to prevent Azerbaijan's attempts to ethnically cleanse Nagorno-Karabakh of its indigenous population and address the risks of atrocity crimes posed by the Azerbaijani Government.

The President: The representative of Pakistan has asked for the floor to make a further statement. I now give her the floor.

Mrs. Ijaz (Pakistan): I am constrained to take the floor on account of the remarks delivered earlier by the representative of India against my country.

India continues to perpetuate a factually incorrect position year after year. Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory, not an integral or inalienable part of India. Repeating the wrong position will not make it acceptable at any point, in any forum. The focus of today's debate is on people and the inalienable rights of people. The very first Article of

the Charter of the United Nations concerns the right to self-determination. The right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination has been recognized and promised to them by the Security Council through its resolutions. For more than seven decades, through force and fraud, India has prevented Kashmiris from exercising that right and holding a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to enable to Kashmiris to determine their political destiny.

India has imprisoned the entire Kashmiri leadership, illegally detained thousands of Kashmiri youths, including women and children, executed young boys, violently put down protests and burned down entire villages and neighbourhoods. India currently occupies Jammu and Kashmir, as the most militarized zone in the world, where close to 900,000 security forces personnel have been deployed by India to curb the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiris. But such measures serve only to strengthen the resolve and resilience of the Kashmiri people to continue their struggle against the illegal Indian occupation and intensify their struggle for the right to self-determination. Even in the face of the worst atrocities, as evidenced by the thousands of unmarked mass graves in Jammu and Kashmir, illegally occupied by India, the innocent people of Jammu Kashmir remain firm in their claim to the right to self-determination. Pakistan will continue to expose Indian brutality and inform the international community of the Kashmiris' plight.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.