



# Security Council

Seventy-fourth year

**8579**<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Thursday, 18 July 2019, 3 p.m.  
New York

*Provisional*

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*President:* Mr. Popolizio Bardales . . . . . (Peru)

*Members:*

Belgium . . . . .	Mrs. Van Vlierberge
China . . . . .	Mr. Wu Haitao
Côte d'Ivoire . . . . .	Mr. Moriko
Dominican Republic . . . . .	Mr. Singer Weisinger
Equatorial Guinea . . . . .	Mr. Elé Ela
France . . . . .	Mr. De Rivière
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Indonesia . . . . .	Mr. Djani
Kuwait . . . . .	Mr. Alahmad
Poland . . . . .	Ms. Wronecka
Russian Federation . . . . .	Mr. Polyanskiy
South Africa . . . . .	Mr. Matjila
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	Mr. Allen
United States of America . . . . .	Ms. Norman-Chalet

## Agenda

### Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Strengthening partnerships for successful nationally-owned transitions

Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/540)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

#### **Strengthening partnerships for successful nationally-owned transitions**

#### **Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/540)**

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Haiti and Timor-Leste to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Bocchit Edmond, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti, and His Excellency Mr. Fidelis Leite Magalhães, Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank; Mr. Yero Baldeh, Director, Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank; and His Excellency Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo García, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2019/540, which contains a letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, to whom I now give the floor.

**The Secretary-General** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Peruvian presidency for convening this meeting.

*(spoke in English)*

United Nations special political missions and peacekeeping operations are some of our most effective tools to promote and maintain international peace and security, but they are temporary. We are strengthening our focus on moments of transition, when our missions are reconfigured or leave the country. A mission transition is usually the result of progress towards peace. It is a moment of hope, potential and promise — an opportunity to re-engage and re-energize our commitment. It is a time to help national Governments themselves take forward policies and programmes that address the root causes of crises and conflicts and to put the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the centre of our efforts.

But mission transitions also pose risks. The international community may pay less attention to the country concerned. Strategic gains achieved during decades of international support can hang in the balance and the loss of life, economic devastation and reversal of development gains caused by a relapse into conflict can go far beyond the country's borders.

We must learn from previous examples, including those of Timor-Leste and Côte d'Ivoire, which provide important lessons on partnership and continuity. Nationally-owned and forward-looking transitions are therefore a priority for the entire United Nations system. As national authorities and communities assume increased responsibilities for security and peacebuilding tasks, they need the continued support of reinvigorated United Nations country teams and multilateral and bilateral partners so that their path towards durable peace and development is irreversible. We must prioritize and strengthen partnerships with national stakeholders across the United Nations system and with international financial institutions and Member States for collective action to ensure their success.

The United Nations role in transition processes must be comprehensive and coherent and work in an integrated way to address the interlinked and often stubborn drivers of conflict: poverty, exclusion, inequality, discrimination and violations of human rights, exacerbated by climate change and the movement of people. Our ongoing reform process is enabling more joined-up engagement in support of national efforts along the entire peace continuum, from the deployment of a peacekeeping or political mission to withdrawal or reconfiguration.

But the United Nations cannot and does not handle the transition of a peace operation alone. Many other institutions and groups are involved. As I mentioned earlier, Governments are the most important partners, but donors, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, local institutions and the business community all play an essential role. The United Nations can add great value by bringing ideas expertise and resources from different sectors together around nationally determined priorities. The changing nature of our support puts greater responsibility on us to collaborate, to communicate and to participate in a collective effort in which everyone has a role to play and a stake in success.

I welcome representatives from the World Bank and the African Development Bank here today. They have been extremely valuable partners in several of the transition processes we have witnessed. Strong partnerships between the United Nations and other organizations, including regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, can help avoid a sudden drop-off in support as our presence is reconfigured. We already have successful models to inform transition processes. For example, in 2016, the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union supported the Government of the Central African Republic in drawing up a national recovery and peacebuilding plan, and donors have pledged \$2.2 billion to implement it.

The convening power and advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, the President of which is with us today, has also proven to be an effective way to enhance coherence among stakeholders and ensure the continued attention of the international community to longer-term needs. The Peacebuilding Fund's transition window now covers two years before and five years after a mission drawdown. I encourage all Member States to donate to these important resource and to substantially increase its capacity.

Earlier this year, I made transitions a corporate priority for the United Nations and I have dedicated special attention to transition contexts in several countries. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the country team have been working with the Government on a comprehensive transition strategy. This year, UNAMID made \$32 million of its budget available for joint activities with the United Nations country team in priority areas, including the rule of law, human rights

and durable solutions for displaced people, in close coordination with the Government.

In Haiti, the peace and development pillars of the United Nations have formulated a common approach to support the rule of law and governance institutions since the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti in 2017. The country team is finalizing a package of projects in priority areas identified by the Haitian Government, including some to be financed for the first time in Haiti by the Peacebuilding Fund. Working with the European Union, we have allocated \$12 million in funding from the Spotlight Initiative to combat gender-based violence over the next three years.

In Colombia, we have responded to the Government's request for support for the peace process with two successive political missions, working in close cooperation with our country team. I also welcome initiatives under way here at Headquarters to provide more holistic support. For example, the Department of Peace Operations and UN-Women have developed a joint initiative on gender-responsive conflict analysis that has informed planning for our integrated office in Haiti.

Countries that are healing after conflict may face urgent and complex challenges, including disarmament and security sector reform, reconciliation and accountability processes and corruption. These countries require multifaceted support for political leadership, strong and inclusive institutions, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development to address the root causes of conflict. Transitional justice and accountability for serious crimes and human rights abuses are essential to securing lasting peace. We are committed to advancing the four pillars of transitional justice: truth, to acknowledge the atrocities committed; justice, so perpetrators are held accountable; reparations, so victims and communities are compensated for harm they have suffered; and, last but not least, putting in place reforms so that atrocities and serious crime will never happen again.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is a central tool for multilateral support under the leadership of the strengthened and empowered resident coordinator system. Our regional political offices also support resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams to consolidate peacebuilding gains in the post-mission phase. For

example, the good offices provided by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel were critical to addressing the political crisis in Liberia following the 2017 presidential elections.

Delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development means delivering for those who have been left furthest behind — people in countries affected by conflict and crisis. The United Nations is strongly committed to supporting countries as they strive to heal after conflicts and fulfil their aspirations for peace, stability and a better future. We will continue to bring stronger partnerships to improve coherence and increase accountability across the peace continuum.

In return, I urge all to remain engaged with countries where United Nations missions are in transition to deliver the 2030 Agenda and sustainable peace for the people we all serve.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Bousquet.

**Mr. Bousquet**: At the outset, I am very grateful for the opportunity to appear before the Council today.

On behalf of the World Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Kristalina Georgieva, allow me to commend the leadership of the United Nations and the members of the Security Council, particularly the presidency of Peru, for organizing this crucial meeting.

The issue at hand today — how to effectively support countries impacted by fragility, conflict and violence — is one of the key challenges of our time. For the World Bank Group, it is absolutely central to our mission of eradicating extreme poverty.

Over the past three decades, the international community has made impressive strides in reducing poverty around the world. However, we know that poverty is, in fact, rising in countries impacted by fragility, conflict and violence, and it is estimated that, if business continues as usual, by 2030 around 50 per cent of the global extreme poor will live in those fragile settings. Furthermore, we know that levels of conflict are on the rise. In fact, we see more violent conflicts today than in the past 30 years, and we have unprecedented numbers of people fleeing conflict and violence, with over 70 million forcibly displaced people around the world — double the level of 20 years

ago. These figures demonstrate that if we are to end extreme poverty by 2030 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must focus our collective efforts on addressing fragility, conflict and violence.

The World Bank Group has indeed significantly scaled up its investment on this agenda in recent years by doubling our financial resources from \$7 to \$14 billion for low-income, fragile and conflict-affected situations, as part of the International Development Association (IDA), our fund for the poorest countries.

While financing is essential, we also know that it is not enough. Indeed, we must do things differently if we are to make a positive and lasting change in fragile settings. That is why we shifted our approach under IDA to invest in prevention; to support refugees and host communities, in recognition that it is both a humanitarian and a development challenge; and to catalyse private sector investment in the most difficult environments. Perhaps more importantly, we have scaled up our partnerships across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. Let me commend the Secretary-General for his personal leadership on this matter. In his briefing, he clearly and compellingly spelled out the need for a more coherent approach that builds on the complementarities and comparative advantages of all actors.

In this context, we at the World Bank are very pleased about the strong partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank Group — the Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations — which has in fact helped us deepen our cooperation on the ground in over 40 countries impacted by fragility, conflict and violence. Furthermore, we have strengthened partnerships with a diverse range of actors beyond the United Nations, including the African Development Bank, the European Union (EU), civil society organizations and bilateral partners, through what we call joint diagnostics, joint recovery, peacebuilding assessments and on-the-ground operational engagements.

For example, in response to the deteriorating situation in Burkina Faso, we are currently working in full cooperation with the United Nations under the leadership of the Peacebuilding Support Office, the EU and the African Development Bank to support the country through a joint prevention and peacebuilding assessment. This type of engagement is critical to exploring how we can collectively support the

Government's efforts to promote peace and maintain social cohesion, and to ensuring that scaled-up support from international partners is well coordinated and aligned, with a comprehensive strategy that links prevention, relief, recovery and development.

Despite the important progress made, we know that more needs to be done. That is why the World Bank Group is building on the progress made under IDA and now developing the first strategy to address the challenges posed by fragility, conflict and violence. We know that providing development support in fragile settings is different than in non-fragile settings, given the low capacity, insecurity and often fractured social contract that characterize those environments.

Therefore, our forthcoming strategy will be aligned with the sustaining peace agenda and aimed at ensuring that our approach fully supports the most vulnerable communities and effectively contributes to the international community's efforts to promote peace and prosperity. Concretely, the strategy will propose tailoring our interventions to diverse situations of fragility, while respecting our mandate as a development actor and working in close partnership with the United Nations and other actors. This is critical, as we know that in order to maximize our impact on the ground, we must address the distinct root causes of fragility and offer solutions adapted to the specific local context. Let me therefore highlight four key pillars of engagement on which we are currently focusing our efforts.

The first pillar is prevention. We are scaling up our investment, as a development actor, in prevention in order to more effectively address risks before they turn into full-blown crises. Prevention saves lives and resources. In fact, we know from our flagship study with the United Nations, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, that every \$1 invested in prevention saves about \$16 down the road. Therefore, by focusing on prevention, we can direct more of our resources to sustainable development outcomes, rather than continuously responding to emergencies. For example, our support to youth, women and pastoralist communities in the Niger exemplifies that approach, as we proactively help the Government to address the grievances that often lead to the emergence of violent conflict.

Our second pillar is remaining engaged in situations of conflict in order to preserve essential institutions and maintain service delivery. For example, in Yemen

we are partnering with the United Nations to help deliver over \$1.8 billion in development programmes that focus on strengthening capacity, building the resilience of local institutions and preserving hard-won development gains, in full complementarity with the essential humanitarian work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs the World Food Programme, UNICEF and other partners.

Partnerships with security actors, such as the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali or the Central African Republic, have also been key in providing development support in the most fragile environments. In the Central African Republic, for instance, the World Bank is partnering very closely with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to support peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts by providing short-term employment opportunities to over 20,000 workers in some of the most insecure areas of the country, thereby strengthening the presence and legitimacy of the State in the eyes of its citizens.

The third pillar is supporting countries in critical moments of transition to escape the fragility trap over the long term. Critical to that effort is building State legitimacy and capacity, fostering inclusive institutions and renewing the social contract between citizens and the State. We have also partnered with the United Nations, under the leadership of the Department of Peace Operations, to assess the macroeconomic and fiscal impact of peacekeeping transitions. In Somalia, we partnered with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia to assist the Federal Government in evaluating the fiscal sustainability of the security sector and the strength of its public financial management system, in the context of a transition in the country.

The fourth and last pillar is helping countries mitigate the spillovers, such as forced displacement shocks, that are created by fragility, conflict and violence. For example, in countries hosting refugees, like Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Jordan, Lebanon, and Colombia, we are complementing the essential work of humanitarian actors by supporting long-term development solutions for refugees and host communities, including by working very closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on promoting the policy reforms needed to build social cohesion.

Let me conclude by stating that this approach is underpinned by our firm conviction that partnerships are essential to effectively prevent conflict, build resilience and sustain peace. Only through collective action will we be able to succeed in our mission to end extreme poverty, and only through a shared vision will we be able to effectively support the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Bousquet for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Baldeh.

**Mr. Baldeh**: On behalf of the African Development Bank Group President, Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, we thank the Security Council for the opportunity to participate in today's briefing. We extend our congratulations to the Security Council, especially the Peruvian Mission, on having organized this briefing session, and laud the dedication of the United Nations to strengthening peacebuilding efforts across the African continent and globally.

Peace can be built and sustained only if the underlying drivers of conflict — whether political, economic, social, environmental or otherwise — are effectively addressed. Most of the fragile situations in the world are in African countries. Those are our shareholders. That is our neighbourhood. Therefore, empowering African nations to transition out of fragility is a core part of our mission.

Over the past several years, our institution has focused on identifying the root causes of fragility and conflict, and addressing those through building more resilient economies, institutions and communities across Africa. Our 2014-2019 Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa has been central to guiding those efforts. The Strategy contributes to peacebuilding and sustainability by focusing on three main areas: first, strengthening State capacity and establishing effective institutions; secondly, promoting equitable access to employment and basic services; and thirdly, encouraging direct policy dialogue on fragility issues, advocating for actions that foster resilience and build partnerships to achieve them. All of those are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the operational level, we have focused our actions on two key pillars: first, increasing the resources

available to address situations of fragility across the continent, and secondly, strengthening our intervention approach to be more flexible and responsive to fragile situations.

In terms of financial resources, we have created a dedicated financing mechanism, which we call the Transition Support Facility. That is an earmarked concessional financing source within the African Development Fund, with three funding windows. The first window provides supplemental support to national Governments facing specific fragility challenges. The second window clears arrears to help Governments to re-engage, as was successfully done with Liberia in 2007 and Côte d'Ivoire in 2009. We are now working on Somalia's arrears. The third window targets technical assistance programmes to strengthen the delivery capacity of national and regional institutions. The Transition Support Facility's resources have been critical to addressing the vast and evolving needs of fragile situations at the national and regional levels.

As the African Development Bank Group President, Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, said recently in Madagascar, fragility must not be seen as an end state. Nations may go through fragility, but they can exit and become stable, dynamic, prosperous and resilient to shocks. That optimism towards building resilience through nationally led transitions out of fragility is at the core of the Bank's approach.

In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, for example, we played a central role, alongside other partners, including the United Nations and the World Bank, in helping them to make a successful transition over the past decade. From 2008 to 2017, Côte d'Ivoire benefited from the resources of all three windows of the Transition Support Facility, alongside the other African Development Bank Group financing instruments. That provided both the financial and the technical support that the country needed to emerge from two civil crises that devastated its economy, infrastructure, institutions and social cohesion. It was through strong complementarity between partners, especially the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, that we were able to work together to support the successful nationally led transition of Côte d'Ivoire.

In the Gambia, a successful nationally led transition of power was supported by political mediation and regional peacekeeping efforts in 2017, after two decades of structural vulnerabilities and marginalization.

However, that transition revealed the need for long-term resilience building of institutions, services, justice and national unity. The African Development Bank Group has worked since then with United Nations agencies, the World Bank and other partners to help the Gambian Government rebuild an inclusive economy, restore faith in justice and governance institutions and strengthen regional integration.

We will continue to learn from those experiences as we look at current and future transitions across the continent. Most importantly, identifying opportunities for early intervention and coordinating effectively with communities, Government and international partners are crucial to avoiding cycles of fragility.

It is not enough to just look at sources of fragility, however. We must also look at how, as a Bank and as a development community, we can more systematically identify and strengthen sources of resilience to better mitigate local, national and regional vulnerabilities.

To that end, our interventions are guided by a new data-driven analytical framework, which we call the Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment Tool. The Tool identifies national and regional pressures and capacities to manage risks and external shocks. This framework represents a multisectoral and multidimensional approach to identifying targeted entry points for addressing fragility, building resilience and consolidating peace in Africa. The Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment builds upon the Bank Group's work on fragility assessments, which have helped to generate deeper analysis, informing fragility-sensitive design of national and regional strategies and operations. Several of the assessments have been undertaken in coordination with partners, such as the World Bank Group. We need to continue to enhance our information-sharing and coordination efforts as development actors, leveraging our tools and analysis towards collective impact in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

Just last week, as my colleague Franck Bousquet said, we worked with the Burkina Faso Government, alongside the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank, to undertake a comprehensive prevention and peacebuilding assessment. Those findings will help address emerging security threats within the country and across its borders. Our interventions will focus on reaching the most vulnerable communities to enhance economic and social inclusion.

We cannot talk about addressing fragility and building resilience within national borders alone. Increasingly, fragility is regional. Spillover effects are a major source of vulnerability on the African continent and beyond. Factors, such as a lack of economic opportunities for growing youth populations, communal conflict and extremism, political instability and climate change can accelerate forced displacement and irregular migration, with destabilizing effects across regions.

Partnerships between national, regional and international actors within the humanitarian-peace-development nexus are critical to addressing regional fragility drivers. In the case of the Group of Five for the Sahel region, for example, we worked with international organizations and development partners to establish an alliance in 2017 to promote stability and resilience in the region. That is an important example of how we can work towards collective development outcomes by enhancing information-sharing and leveraging the comparative advantage of different actors to implement targeted interventions. As part of those efforts, the African Development Bank Group's projects have focused on building resilience in key areas, such as agriculture, water and sanitation, energy and climate change, youth employment and entrepreneurship and regional integration.

Building more integrated and resilient regional economies is an important part of addressing regional vulnerability. The African Development Bank Group is able to use its convening power for policy dialogue, in complement to partners who have extensive field presence in fragile and conflict-affected environments, such as the United Nations and the World Bank Group. Bringing together Governments, regional actors and development partners to harness inclusive and sustainable economic growth reduces the risk of cross-border polarization and regional instability. That includes the need for flexible solutions to encourage private sector investment in fragile situations, with a focus on including women and youth in economies.

As the Bank looks forward to its fragility agenda in 2020 and beyond, we reflect on some of the broader lessons that we have learned from working in fragile and conflict-affected situations. First, we note the importance of adopting a State-building approach that is focused on inclusive politics, citizen security and justice, in addition to more traditional human and economic development needs. Secondly, we need long-

term programming to build capable and legitimate institutions that can effectively manage the challenges of fragility. Thirdly, there is a need for the generation of sustainable employment and the improvement of livelihoods through private sector development. Fourthly, good governance, especially through improving public financial management, enhancing natural resources management and combating corruption, is key to strengthening State legitimacy.

The African Development Bank Group looks forward to deepening partnerships at the national, regional and continental levels with development partners, including United Nations agencies, with a view to harnessing collective development outcomes and building resilience across Africa. That includes conducting joint analytical work on conflict, fragility and peacebuilding; expanding operations aimed at promoting and consolidating good governance; leveraging public and private solutions to maximize development impact on the ground; consolidating cooperation and partnerships in dealing with regional challenges; and deepening complementarity for a greater division of labour among institutions in specific fragile contexts, relative to our areas of comparative advantages and mandates.

Let me reaffirm that the African Development Bank Group remains committed to working as part of the humanitarian, peace and development community to support nationally led transitions and build regional resilience.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Baldeh for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Trujillo García.

**Mr. Trujillo García** (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to extend my gratitude to the Peruvian presidency for convening this meeting of the Security Council to explore the important role of strategic transition partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for supporting the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

When Colombia took office as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission at the beginning of this year, we identified the promotion of effective partnerships with key peacebuilding actors as one of our priorities, with the intention of focusing efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace assistance, in particular good

governance, promoting national reconciliation and addressing root causes of conflict.

In that regard, the scale, scope and nature of the proposal contained in the twin resolutions of 2016 on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262) require that the United Nations not act on its own in its efforts to support national priorities. As the experience of my own country reflects, effective partnerships among the United Nations, national Governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and, where relevant, the private sector, are important for successful initiatives in that important task.

The challenge of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is crucial in transition contexts. Once peace operations are concluded, authorities have the primary responsibility of preserving the gains made in that regard upon the respective conclusion of peace operations. Recently, peace operations have developed joint transition plans with host Governments, as in the case of Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. However, the joint planning of transitions may be more complex in those instances where Government capacity in post-conflict scenarios is weak.

In such cases, strong and coordinated partnerships between the key stakeholders involved are essential to closing political, institutional and financial capacity gaps, as well as to preventing backsliding in progress made towards peace after the withdrawal of those operations. The closure of operations in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017 and Liberia in 2018 and transitions in progress in other countries are good examples of the importance of having consistent efforts in place to support peace processes in their different stages.

One of the principal purposes of the Commission is to fill the vacuum in institutional and structural capacity and to support countries in transition in the light of the growing risk of the resumption of conflict. In transition contexts, financial cutbacks constitute a latent risk. The Peacebuilding Commission has progressively used its convening power to promote such effective partnerships and thereby secure sustained international support. In Liberia, for example, the Commission advised the Security Council on developing a national peacebuilding plan. That enabled the establishment of a tripartite framework allowing the United Nations, the



World Bank and the European Union to coordinate their tasks through the joint Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment. As a result, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, for which the Peacebuilding Fund was a catalyst, was created. Liberia still needs various types of resources to achieve its development objectives.

In recognizing the role that the Commission can play in supporting successful transitions, the Security Council has requested its advice in specific cases, including prior to mandate renewals and transitions. Presidential statement S/PRST/2018/20, of December 2018, referred to the value added of the PBC's advice in withdrawing peace operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone. At the same time, it encouraged the Commission to present relevant recommendations on national peacebuilding priorities in the context of the formation, review and transition of mandates. The Council has also recognized that the PBC platform could be used to consider best practices in transitions in respective countries. As its Chair, I hope to continue implementing the presidential statement in the second half of this year.

The Commission's sessions have become opportunities to gain a better understanding of the multidimensional challenges being faced in peace operations. They also have a more holistic approach to the challenges faced by countries affected by conflict extending beyond the imperatives of peace and security.

In Guinea Bissau, for example, the PBC has advised the Council on the complex political, security, development and social challenges in the context of the upcoming transition of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea Bissau. In that regard, the Commission has also shared with the Security Council the perspectives of regional organizations and international financial institutions, thereby fulfilling its advisory role for that organ. Recently, the World Bank and the PBC conducted a formal dialogue to improve the partnership of both organizations in providing assistance through their activities in the area of peacebuilding to the countries concerned. During that dialogue, the Commission and the Bank delegation had the opportunity to strengthen those partnerships in countries of shared priority. Accordingly, we appreciate the presence of the Bank's representative at this meeting as a sign of what we can achieve if we work in a coordinated manner.

The Security Council can take advantage of the capacity of the PBC as a platform for promoting coherence between the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations and other organizations. That was particularly obvious during its consideration of relevant regional situations. It is in complex environments, such as that of the Sahel region, where a diverse range of stakeholders are involved, that the PBC can foster coherent and coordinated approaches.

Moreover, I stress that women and young people are key actors in peacebuilding processes and should be meaningfully included in all our efforts. In the implementation of its gender strategy, the Commission held discussions dedicated to gender-related issues within transition situations and to funding initiatives focused on their aspects.

It would be impossible for me not to refer to my own country. We recently enjoyed a visit by the Security Council in connection with the special political mission operating there. Colombia has benefited from the coordinated work of the various United Nations agencies and bodies, which has permitted us to be more effective in peacebuilding. That is why we just requested the renewal of the mandate of the special political mission for an additional year.

National processes must allow for the development of capacities that enable States to address the root causes of a given conflict in order to overcome them. The Commission is uniquely placed to offer the Council broad and diverse peacebuilding perspectives.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank His Excellency Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo García, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru.

I am grateful for the insightful briefings by Secretary General António Guterres, the representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank and Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo García of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. I also welcome the presence of Mr. Fidelis Leite Magalhães, Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste, and Mr. Bocchit Edmond, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti.

The holding of this meeting is motivated by the importance and priority that Peru attaches to the establishment of partnerships to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace through greater cooperation and coordination among the Security Council and the various actors involved in the promotion of peace, development and human rights.

In line with the twin resolutions adopted by the Council and the General Assembly in 2016 (Security Council 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, respectively) and reaffirmed by both organs in 2018, through the adoption of resolution 2413 (2018), under the Peruvian presidency (see S/PV.8245), and General Assembly resolution 72/276, we emphasize the need to rely on national institutions that are responsible for those processes and capable of preventing and resolving conflicts, while building national consensus to foster good governance, focusing on the population, particularly those who are most vulnerable, and leading the struggle against impunity and corruption. Over the past several days at Headquarters, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has been paying particular attention this year, for the first time, to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which commits us all to building peaceful and inclusive societies with transparent and accountable institutions.

We believe that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents the appropriate universal framework for the support that the United Nations system lends to national peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. The evidence shows that the participation of various national actors is crucial to creating a system built on the rule of law capable of overcoming conflicts and promoting sustainable development, while paying special attention to political and social inclusion, macroeconomic stability and access to justice.

As part of its own responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council must ensure that United Nations peace operations are planned and managed so as to lead to adequate transitions culminating in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. To that end, we have acquired a valuable collection of lessons learned in various parts of the world. We also know that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions. It is necessary to establish innovative partnerships to support countries affected by conflict, while taking into account their particular circumstances, needs and priorities.

To that end, every situation must be considered according to its own independent criteria, indicators and evaluation parameters. But the results of such consideration must make it possible to address the root causes of conflicts in accordance with national development priorities and establish effective mechanisms to prevent their recurrence. In that regard, we emphasize the importance for various national actors to become involved and lead their own transition processes.

The support and empowerment of women's and youth organizations are vital to building a shared vision for the future. In that vein, I highlight the progress made in Haiti — a country of our hemisphere that hosted the largest peacekeeping operation in which more than 7,000 Peruvian troops served. We hope that the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti will be strengthened and that it will, in turn, strengthen the transition process. Peru and the region as a whole will continue to support that country's efforts to achieve development and stability.

We also acknowledge the successful case of Timor-Leste and the continuous process of institutional strengthening and promotion of its development dating back to 2012 with the conclusion of United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. We are interested in hearing the lessons learned that Minister Leite Magalhães will share with us today.

The establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships, with the assistance of international financial institutions, humanitarian actors and the relevant regional and subregional organizations, is equally vital in order to link the action of the private sector and civil society with national efforts to build and achieve sustainable peace. In that regard, we highlight the World Bank's strategy to address fragility, conflict and violence, as well as the work of the African Development Bank to promote the provision of required resources in a coherent, predictable and sustainable manner.

Similarly, we believe that the Peacebuilding Commission is the right political platform to accompany transition processes and to promote synergies among the United Nations system and other international agencies, as well as to offer strategic guidance for the consideration of the Security Council. We underscore in particular the importance of quick-impact projects, through the Peacebuilding Fund, which contribute

to the main objective of sustaining the legitimacy of the process by supporting areas of greatest need and visibility, based on adequate risk analysis and the involvement of the local population, especially women and young people.

Lastly, we hope, that today's meeting can contribute to reflections on the subject and on the establishment of coordinated partnerships with the various actors of the international community involved in all phases of the transition process until its successful completion. That will allow them to achieve lasting peace, which is the ultimate objective we all long for.

I shall now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to other members of the Council who wish to make a statement.

**Mr. Polyanskiy** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are pleased to welcome you, Mr. Minister, as President of the Security Council. We thank Secretary-General António Guterres and Mr. Carlos Trujillo García, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, for their briefings. We thank Mr. Bousquet of the World Bank and Mr. Baldeh of the African Development Bank for their detailed briefings, which served as a good basis for today's discussion.

The issue before us today, ensuring the continuity of international assistance in the event of the drawdown or closure of United Nations peacekeeping missions, is clearly important in order to prevent the recurrence of conflicts in the transition period, when the long-term success of collective efforts is not yet guaranteed. Indeed, maintaining and, in particular, improving results is at times far more difficult than the initial attainment of those results. In order to ensure lasting peace in countries from which peacekeeping operations are being withdrawn, it is important that the post-conflict reconstruction phase be duly prepared. In some instances, it is wise to launch peacebuilding efforts before the peacekeeping presence is withdrawn. Otherwise, there is the risk that the decline in the level of international attention to a particular situation may be interpreted by some players as a green light to resume their destructive activities.

A mission's withdrawal and the transfer of its residual functions to other United Nations entities should be borne in mind both initially and at all

stages of the lifespan of a peacekeeping mission. At the same time, it is also important to have a holistic view of the political settlement being promoted by the mission, since it is not possible to build and maintain peace without national reconciliation. Therefore, when considering the mandates of missions, including existing peacebuilding objectives, the views of the host State must be taken fully into account.

Where necessary, the Security Council may mandate a mission to assist the host State in addressing peacebuilding issues, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as security sector reform. At the same time, the provision of assistance to States in the area of peacebuilding and peacekeeping in the United Nations system requires both proper coordination of efforts and an appropriate division of labour that does not create a conflict of authority. The inclusion in mandates of generic tasks, such as human rights monitoring, sexual and gender issues, environmental protection, development and other issues, may well prove to be an unreasonable waste of resources. Specialized United Nations bodies and international mechanisms already exist to meet those objectives.

When addressing the theoretical nexus among human rights, development and peace and security, we must acknowledge the fact that development alone cannot guarantee peace and that peaceful conditions do not necessarily guarantee development. Therefore, it is important not only to take into account the nexus but also to clearly and fully understand the difference in those processes, as well as which specific United Nations body or structure is responsible for promoting each of those areas.

In the concept note for today's meeting (S/2019/540, annex), you, Mr. President, quite rightly emphasize the leading role of States themselves in transitions, in line with the principle of national ownership. Indeed, it is the host State that has the primary responsibility for the development and implementation of peacebuilding strategies and programmes, while taking into account the needs of its society. In that regard, it is important that enhanced cooperation between the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations, as well as international financial institutions, in the area of peacebuilding be accompanied by improved relations with host States. Cooperation with local population groups and non-governmental organizations can

be complementary and should be coordinated by the authorities.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays an important role in the United Nations system by providing peacebuilding assistance to States, serving as both an intergovernmental advisory body and a platform linking a wide spectrum of stakeholders. We believe that the PBC has the potential to improve the quality of recommendations provided to the Security Council on country-specific issues on the agendas of both bodies. They can be provided to the Council upon request. We believe that the value of the Commission is that it can convey to the Council the peacebuilding priorities of the host country. That is particularly relevant in the final transition phase of a peacekeeping operation's efforts and can help to contribute meaningfully to the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

The added value and relevance of the PBC's recommendations are crucial for their possible inclusion in the work of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It should also be recalled that Council members are invariably represented in and actively engaged in discussions of the PBC, its Organizational Committee and country configurations. In order to improve the quality of interaction between the Council and the Commission, it is important to make effective use of the ample opportunities already available, as outlined in resolutions 1645 (2005) and 2282 (2016), which, in our view, are sufficient.

**Mr. Heusgen** (Germany): The fact that Peru has put the issue of transition at the top of the Council's agenda and that you, Minister, are here suggest that, for Peru, today's meeting is the flagship event of its presidency. You put the issue of transition on the agenda and Germany fully supports it because we deeply believe that the Security Council has to look at that issue.

The Council must not limit its work to addressing the origin of a conflict through to the silencing of weapons; it must look at the overall picture. It is very important that the issue of transition be considered. As the Secretary-General said in his briefing, very often, when peacekeepers leave and the conflict has ended, the international community no longer considers the situation in the country and therefore does not see if the root causes of the conflict have disappeared. It is therefore very important that we consider the issue of transition and that the relevant instruments be

developed. Such instruments also contribute to conflict prevention, which is something we consider extremely important. We must therefore address the root causes: poverty, exclusion, the lack of respect for human rights and the effects of climate change, inter alia.

Nevertheless, we must of course ensure that we implement transition correctly. As has been underlined by our Russian colleague, national sovereignty and national ownership of the process are vital. There is sometimes a tendency — and I feel that this might be happening in current cases — for countries on the path to peacebuilding and from which the Blue Helmets are withdrawing to say that they want to take ownership, that they want the United Nations to leave and that they want to regain sovereignty. However, we believe that they will regain sovereignty much more swiftly if they accept the help of the international community. Sovereignty is strengthened with the help of the international community in addressing the root causes of conflict. In this context, I would like to thank the Ambassador of Colombia and through him President Iván Duque Márquez who said, when the Security Council visited Colombia, that he wanted the United Nations special political mission to continue to work in the country owing to the added value that it recognizes in the engagement of the United Nations.

When addressing the root causes that I mentioned earlier, the international community is instrumental in coping with the challenges. I would once again like to reiterate my support for the Secretary-General's words and the reform measures that have been undertaken to achieve a coherent One United Nations approach, which, through the resident-coordinator system, is able to assist in country situations with all of the relevant instruments. The Security Council has recently visited a number of places — from Mali, to Bogotá, to Baghdad — where the One United Nations approach has been applied.

The Peacebuilding Commission is extremely important, and I wish to thank Colombia for having sent its Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend today's meeting, thereby underscoring, through his presence, the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission. Also mentioned was the Peacebuilding Fund whose ability to disperse funds rapidly supports the quick impact projects that are extremely helpful during transition periods. Germany, together with our friends from the United Kingdom, with whom I believe we are competing again for distinction as the largest donor to

the Peacebuilding Fund, encourage others to support the Fund.

With regard to the help being provided to countries, we now have many examples of good cooperation with other stakeholders and regional organizations. There are so many cases now — for example, the Central African Republic, as has been mentioned, and Colombia — in which the United Nations, with the support of the African Union and/or the European Union, is working coherently to improve country situations, for which we are extremely grateful. I do not know how frequently the World Bank has been involved, but representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank are here among us, and they are very important partners.

I would like to pick up on what the representative from the African Development Bank said with regard to the regional crisis in the Sahel: that we must move away from simply looking at one country. I fully agree with him in that we must adopt a regional outlook in the Sahel. The Council should be more proactive and do more to support the States of the Group of Five for the Sahel because we will not be able to stabilize one country without first stabilizing the entire region. I also believe in the importance of the involvement of the private sector, as has already been mentioned. We will not be able to stabilize countries and attain the Sustainable Development Goals, which essentially tackle the root causes, if we do not have the involvement of the private sector.

To briefly return to the issue of local ownership, our Russian colleague mentioned the importance of national reconciliation in resolving conflicts. We must seek national reconciliation, inclusiveness, including the involvement of women and youth — both Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo García of Colombia and Minister Néstor Popolizio Bardales of Peru mentioned the importance of including women and youth and civil society in the political dialogue. We must ensure the participation of all stakeholders in order to achieve national reconciliation. We will only be able to stabilize a situation through good governance, respect for the rule of law and accountability, and by tackling corruption.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Peru once again for having put this topic on the agenda. I believe the Council has to look much more systematically at transition — even though we already do so to some extent — from the first to the final mandate that we draw

up for a mission. We must think about transition and, as a body, continue to assess country situations, even after United Nations peacekeepers have been withdrawn.

**Ms. Wronecka** (Poland): Allow me to warmly welcome you, Mr. President, and your presence in the Chamber.

Let me also begin by thanking the Secretary-General and today's briefers for their contributions to our discussion. I would like to thank the Peruvian presidency for having organized this briefing, which addresses one of the most crucial elements of the Security Council's activity.

Tackling the complex and evolving nature of current conflicts requires a wide spectrum of activities within all three pillars: inclusive peace and security processes with the meaningful participation of women and minorities; sustainable development going hand-in-hand with resilience-building; and consistent respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations, which was endorsed by Poland last year, rightly underlines that sustainable peace implemented by peacebuilding activities is a fundamental condition for development. For this purpose, the United Nations should address conflicts in a comprehensive way by using all available instruments, including peacekeeping. Peacekeeping operations have proven to be an effective tool of the United Nations to assist host countries on the difficult path from conflict to peace. In this context, building political dialogue with the host nation at each stage of the peacebuilding process should consider the balance of power and be implemented holistically, embracing all actors on different stages, from local communities to the high political level, including non-governmental organizations, regional and subregional organizations and local communities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals containing the pledge to leave no one behind create the conditions for inclusive and sustainable development and provide the best way to prevent crises and conflicts in today's world. In that regard, cooperation among all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, academia and the business community is of utmost importance, which means we have to be prepared for new forms of partnership, converting ideas into action — action that brings benefits to all actors involved. It is therefore crucial to align the core business of the private sector

with the strategic goals of the international community. Development assistance alone is not sustainable in comprehensively tackling all post-conflict challenges, especially economic stagnation. Only this kind of approach will give us a chance of achieving a peacebuilding process that delivers expected results.

In thinking of practical options for resource-pooling in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, we might consider leveraging more private resources for development in the form of blended finance. In that regard, all stakeholders should continue to invest in new methods of generating financial resources and innovative information-gathering, data-analytics and machine-learning tools, in order to better define where the risks and threats to peace and security are most urgent and where the assistance of the international community is needed most.

In conclusion, the experience of peacekeeping operations in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia demonstrate that political dialogue, security sector reform, national reconciliation, social cohesion, the promotion of human rights and the reduction of socioeconomic inequalities are the only visible means of overcoming the root causes of crises in the region. It is equally important that the United Nations remain closely engaged in supporting countries in transition so that they can address the challenges in sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development. It is our obligation to preserve their gains and achievements and support dialogue around the challenges that these countries still face.

**Mr. Matjila** (South Africa): My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with its focus on strengthening partnerships for successful nationally owned transitions.

We thank Secretary-General António Guterres, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank for their valuable briefings. We also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti and the Minister Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste.

South Africa appreciates the work done by the Secretary-General and the progress made in addressing existing gaps in the United Nations system to assist countries in their efforts towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace. While we recognize that it is the

primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities to identify, drive and direct priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the international community has an obligation to ensure that it assists in the maintenance of peace and security, which includes partnership for development to ensure the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are necessary for addressing the root causes of conflict.

In that regard, South Africa continues to support the ongoing work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to promote national ownership in political and peace and security processes in the pursuit of peaceful and resilient societies. Such societies will be realized only when the root causes and underlying currents of conflicts are addressed. We believe that any support for post-conflict reconstruction and development activities should be tailor-made to suit country-specific needs. For that to be sustainable local ownership and leadership are required, with the meaningful participation of women and the involvement of youth.

It is also our considered view that effective peacebuilding during transition periods must involve the entire United Nations system, focusing on enhancing United Nations cross-pillar coordination, including development, peace and security and human rights. We therefore reaffirm our support for strengthened cooperation between the PBC and the Security Council, particularly when the Council is considering the review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. However, the Security Council must ensure from the outset that peace operation mandates for peacekeeping and political missions are realistic, tailored and flexible so that the mission can achieve its desired outcomes in terms of peacekeeping and creating an enabling environment for peacebuilding processes.

Consultations on sustaining peace between the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the host country during the periodic assessment and review of peace operation mandates as well as the eventual withdrawal of the mission are also important. This approach will guarantee the active involvement of all stakeholders, particularly the host country, in outlining the expectations of the mission, including milestones and time frames. It would not only ensure the success of the peace mission but also lay the foundational groundwork for the continuation of peacebuilding processes in future.

We also see merit in enhancing partnerships between the United Nations peacekeeping architecture and the regional and subregional post-conflict reconstruction and development architecture, such as that of the African Union (AU). The Peacebuilding Commission should engage strategically with the AU post-conflict reconstruction and development policy, which is centred on peacebuilding activities in post-conflict situations in Africa. All efforts must be brought together to ensure development and the good sharing of practices in peacebuilding and secure resources that will enhance sustainable development. Although we recognize the usefulness of pragmatic funding for peacebuilding activities during transitions in order to prevent gaps after the mission's withdrawal, we reiterate the need for practical, sustained and predictable funding for peacebuilding activities through assessed contributions. It is through this funding that peace activities can be sustained in the long term.

In conclusion, when the Security Council considers mission drawdowns in future, we must be cognizant of the fact that our responsibility does not end when the last phase of the peacekeeping mission ends. The Charter of the United Nations places the responsibility of the maintenance of international peace and security squarely on the shoulders of the Council. We must therefore ensure that we continue to remain engaged as countries make the transition from conflict to post-conflict situations. Our recent work in Haiti and the Council's experience with the transition in Liberia are good examples of not neglecting countries once the peacekeepers have left. We are currently faced with situations on our agenda in which we are considering missions' drawdowns. By necessity, this consideration must also include planning and resources in order to ensure that the countries are able to sustainably make the transition towards peace.

**Mr. De Riviere** (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish to thank Mr. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Bousquet, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank; Mr. Baldeh, Director, Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, who is with us in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this important debate and for having invited current host countries of peacekeeping operations.

The transition phases of peacekeeping and peacebuilding are important and delicate junctures that require us to work together.

I should like to begin by welcoming the measures introduced by the Secretary-General to reform peacekeeping and strengthen the coherence of the United Nations system in terms of peacebuilding. These reforms should in particular serve to enable preparations for the transition and peacebuilding phases from the very moment an operation is deployed. The deployment of transition experts and the releasing of guidelines in February on planning transition processes are also welcome developments.

The withdrawal of an operation must be anticipated, in particular by strengthening coordination between the mission and the country team. In this regard, we commend the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur aimed at funding joint projects and allowing the country team to take over.

The Peacebuilding Commission also has a major role to play in preparing and supporting the transition phases. The diversity of its membership and the flexibility in its functioning allow for long-term dialogue to support the host country in developing its peacebuilding strategy. I would also like to commend the work of the United Nations Police units and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations for having strengthened good governance and the institutional capacities of States in transition phases.

That brings me to my second point, which is on strengthening partnerships with national actors. Transition means, first and foremost, handing over responsibility to national authorities. Building their capacities is therefore essential. However, beyond resources and capacities, it is essential to listen to the priorities of the host State. Successful examples of transition in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017 and Liberia in 2018 have shown us the extent to which national ownership is essential.

In order to sustain national ownership, it must be inclusive and involve all peace actors, underpinned by the strong participation of women. Such peace also means putting the concerns and rights of future generations at the forefront as they will be the guarantors of its sustainability. That includes the reintegration into society of children recruited by armed groups. France has been and will remain active on that issue.

It is imperative that any approach aimed at preventing the resurgence of conflicts incorporate the fight against impunity and create favourable conditions for the flourishing of civil society and a pluralistic media with the freedom of expression guaranteed. Experience has shown that without those elements peace is rarely sustainable. That is a priority for France as part of our prevention, resilience and sustainable peace strategy, adopted in 2018, and in that regard I welcome the projects financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund to step up the international community's actions on the subject.

I would also like to touch on the partnerships between the United Nations and institutions with the means to complement our efforts. We must think in terms of complementarity, coherence and the multiplication of our efforts. We need to be innovative and intervene in a coordinated and large-scale manner in order to prevent countries emerging from a crisis from relapsing into instability a few years later.

Financing for peacebuilding remains a major challenge. The quantum leap that the Peacebuilding Fund has experienced sets a good example, but we must do more to devise innovative financing and involve the private sector. France fully supports ongoing efforts to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank. More generally, we also encourage partnerships with major donors, including the European Union and, at our national level, the French Development Agency, which now has a peace and resilience fund financed in part by a financial transaction tax and which will be endowed with €200 million per year by 2020.

Partnerships with regional organizations are obviously essential. France is particularly committed to the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. In the Sahel, where the international community must remain fully mobilized for the long term, the Alliance for the Sahel was conceived as the essential complement to what the Group of Five for the Sahel has achieved in the field of security. Several transitions will soon test our collective ability to properly address this crucial phase. I would mention in particular Darfur, Haiti, Iraq and soon the Democratic Republic of Congo. We cannot afford to fail.

**Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China commends Peru for having taken the initiative to convene this meeting and welcomes the presence of His

Excellency Mr. Néstor Popolizio Bardales, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, as he presides over this meeting in New York.

We wish to thank Secretary-General António Guterres for his briefing. We welcome His Excellency Foreign Minister Trujillo García of Colombia and thank him for the briefing he made in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. We also welcome Mr. Bousquet of the World Bank and Mr. Baldeh of the African Development Bank and thank them for their briefings.

A number of post-conflict countries and regions are currently undergoing national reconstruction as part of the transition phase towards peacebuilding and long-term development. In the face of new developments and requirements, the United Nations and the international community should strengthen partnerships and mount a collective and active response by providing constructive support and assistance.

In that regard, China would like to elaborate on the following points. First, with regard to upholding the principle of national ownership, achieving lasting peace and sustainable development in a post-conflict country ultimately depends on the country itself. Given the differences in national realities and stages of development, countries differ from one another in terms of their priorities and approaches undertaken in such transitions. The United Nations and other partners should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty and ownership of the countries concerned, provide constructive assistance based on the country's specific requirements and requests, and focus on fostering their capacity-building with a view to achieving self-driven development.

Secondly, in ensuring a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, the Council is responsible for defining the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. When drawing up a peacekeeping operation mandate, the Council should plan early to ensure that once the operation has achieved its desired objectives, it is followed up by timely peacebuilding efforts. Some peacekeeping operation mandates already include peacebuilding components. When a peacekeeping operation has come to an end, various functions should be handed over as efficiently as possible to a United Nations country team or special political mission. Throughout this



process, it is important to ensure that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are coherently linked so that the tasks in the subsequent phase can be implemented smoothly.

Thirdly, with regard to strengthening partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, these organizations are uniquely positioned to tackle issues specific to their region. In order to assist post-conflict countries in their transition phases, the United Nations and the wider international community should strengthen communication and coordination with regional and subregional organizations and fully leverage the role of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, *inter alia*, in addressing regional affairs. The United Nations and the international community should engage in partnerships and cooperation with relevant organizations and States from the region in a joint effort to assist local socioeconomic development and address the root causes of conflict.

Fourthly, with regard to creating synergies between the United Nations system and the international community, the Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, relevant funds, programmes and international financial institutions, *inter alia*, should carry out their mandated activities and create complementarity by pooling their strengths. United Nations missions and country teams should enhance their collaboration by contributing their respective expertise. International development agencies must fulfil their aid commitments and assist post-conflict countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to achieving sustainable development in these countries and ensuring that the people there can truly benefit from the peace dividend.

China supports post-conflict countries in their reconstruction efforts and has been striving to assist developing countries in post-conflict settings by actively supporting their economic, education, health-care, infrastructure and other endeavours. The China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund has been actively supporting cooperation projects in a number of countries in such areas as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, good offices and mediation, refugees and migrants and sustainable development.

China believes in the philosophy of mutually beneficial cooperation in international relations and has been seeking to build inclusive and constructive partnerships and to foster friendly cooperation between

countries in the political, economic, security and cultural fields, allowing people from all countries to collectively enjoy dignity, the fruits of development, safety and security.

**Mr. Allen** (United Kingdom): I wish to thank our briefers today.

We know that transitions are crucial for countries emerging from crisis and which, at that time, are at risk of returning to conflict and losing political, developmental, social and economic gains. We need to get those transitions right as a top priority, in particular as we in the Security Council see missions drawing down.

Let me start by saying that we know that in order for peace to endure, it must be locally embedded; it must be based on national commitment to meeting people's needs and overcoming their grievances. Aligning mandate implementation with nationally owned peacebuilding and development objectives from the earliest possible point is therefore vital to nurturing an enabling environment for effective transition.

Let me secondly touch on the importance of integrated United Nations approaches. When the Council decides to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation, it does so in order to create the space for national actors to restore security and stability through a political process and/or to protect civilians. While peacekeeping operations can contribute to peacebuilding, they cannot in and of themselves achieve political settlements, resolve the root causes of conflicts or help national authorities to develop their own capacity. We therefore need a holistic approach and cross-pillar work in the field from the outset to address these issues, which bring in humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors. In that regard, we urge the Secretariat and United Nations leaders in the field to ensure that the Secretary-General's March planning directive is fully implemented.

Thirdly, let me talk about the importance of partnership for effective transitions. Of course, the most important partners will always be national stakeholders, particularly Governments, civil society and grass-roots organizations working to build peace, and we should deepen those partnerships on the ground. But I would also like to underline the importance of coordination and cooperation with bilateral donors and with regional and subregional organizations. In that

context, I welcome the words of Mr. Yero Baldeh from the African Development Bank today.

I would like to acknowledge, as others have, the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in supported transitions. It was very good to see Foreign Minister Trujillo García here, whom many of us saw quite recently, of course. During the transition in Liberia, the Peacebuilding Commission demonstrated the value of its convening power, bringing together the World Bank, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the Economic Community of West African States and the country team to develop a plan and division of labour to support the Liberian Government.

I was also very pleased to hear from Franck Bousquet today. The partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank is a particular priority for the United Kingdom. The fragility, conflict and violence strategy is an important basis for the Bank to focus its efforts in fragile contexts, including by better partnering with the United Nations to define strategies for tackling the root causes of conflict.

Let me say a brief word, if I may, about the anticipated transition in Darfur. I would like to start by welcoming the political agreement reached by the Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change yesterday in the Sudan, which sets out a plan for the transition to a civilian-led Government. This is an important step towards fulfilling the legitimate demands of the Sudanese people. The United Kingdom will support the efforts of all sides to reach agreement on outstanding issues. We will continue to support the transition from peacekeeping, and remain hopeful that the international community will have a willing and legitimate national partner for peacebuilding. Given the level of need in Darfur, it is clear that continued international support will be necessary once the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur withdraws. We therefore look forward to receiving options for a follow-on mechanism, as requested in resolution 2479 (2019). After years of economic mismanagement in the Sudan, there is clearly a need for a more holistic approach to the situation.

Let me conclude by suggesting a few concrete ideas for consideration in taking this issue forward. First, regular reports of the Secretary-General could focus more on the risks to successful transitions and set out how the United Nations is working to align mandate implementation with national peacebuilding

priorities. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat could also include in those reports examples of how United Nations missions are working to align mandate implementation with national peacebuilding priorities through the various United Nations integrated strategic frameworks.

The Security Council could review, at the working level, its use of benchmarks, in order to take stock of what works and what does not, with a view to honing this practice in future. The United Nations, the Security Council and the broader international community should consider how to make better use of data on overall financing to improve our understanding of the so-called financial cliff associated with transitions, and we, in the Council, should be asking those questions during our considerations as missions start their drawdowns.

The Peacebuilding Commission should consider providing short one-page submissions to the Council on peacebuilding priorities and challenges when the Council is discussing countries on which the Peacebuilding Commission is focused.

Finally, the Secretariat should consider how to engage the World Bank in strategic assessment and planning exercises.

**Mr. Alahmad** (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, whom I wish to thank for convening today's meeting. I also thank the Secretary-General, the representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo García, who is with us in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for their briefings. Moreover, I wish to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti and the Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste.

The concept note (S/2019/540, annex) is a comprehensive and informative document that serves as a road map for today's debate. We are pleased this meeting provides a timely opportunity to exchange views and shed light on ways to enhance peace, security and stability in conflict areas. After several decades of United Nations experience in peacekeeping, it has become clear that there is no single model or approach for transition phases, which are adapted to the specific situations in host countries. The nature and characteristics of conflict vary from country to

country, but the similarity of some conflicts must also be taken into account, where necessary.

The Security Council has recognized the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, particularly with regard to consolidating peace, recovery and reconstruction during transition periods and the withdrawal of peacekeeping operations, which are the most delicate and critical of stages once the mandate for a special political mission has begun to be implemented. It is therefore important to emphasize the role of national institutions and their full ownership of all points of the conflict cycle and of the withdrawal of peacekeeping operations, so as to ensure that countries do not relapse into conflict. Transitions can be smooth only with the support of robust and competent national institutions, which must play a fundamental role in post-conflict reconstruction.

In recent years, we have seen the cooperation grow between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council. I would emphasize that the Peacebuilding Commission briefs the Security Council on its role on an annual basis, but the Chairs of the Commission's country-specific figurations should be able to play a greater role, and the Council should support the PBC's recommendations when renewing peacekeeping mission mandates. Such momentum must be maintained bearing in mind that achieving lasting peace involves acknowledging national ownership, as national reforms are more effective when there is robust cooperation with the host country.

Unpredictable financing remains one of the major challenges for peacebuilding, peacekeeping and sustaining peace. While the Peacebuilding Fund plays a significant role, its resources alone are insufficient to carry out all the required tasks. Concerted efforts are therefore needed to ensure adequate funding through international contributions, specifically from such international financial institutions as the World Bank and the myriad funds and development banks, as well as regional and subregional organizations and United Nations agencies. At the local level, the private sector is a key partner in reconstruction and development. The private sector's participation removes numerous funding obstacles, thus contributing to sustainable development, peace and security.

The Security Council's recognition, through its resolutions and presidential statements, of the importance of regional and international organizations

in the maintenance of international peace and security stems from the fact that these key organizations are best positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts and other security challenges. The Security Council has acknowledged the role that such bodies can play in peacebuilding, recovery and post-conflict reconstruction, but this role must be strengthened.

In conclusion, it is fundamental to address the root causes of conflict and conflict prevention, which helps to avert material and human losses, especially if we have preventive tools at our disposal, including early-warning mechanisms and surveys. If correctly used at the beginning of conflict, such tools can help us to prevent the escalation and outbreak of conflicts.

**Mrs. Van Vlierberge** (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for giving us the opportunity to hold a cross-cutting reflection on the subject of transitions. I also thank the speakers for their informative contributions.

When speaking about transitions, it is indeed essential to mention the importance of partnerships at different levels among peace operations and myriad actors. The drawdown or closure of a United Nations mission and the transfer of its tasks and responsibilities are complex processes. Our experience with Haiti shows us that these processes must be preceded by an evaluation mission. Moreover, an exit strategy with specific benchmarks allows us to think about transition from day one.

We must also ensure that United Nations dynamics coherently integrate with regional and subregional discussions. The example of the transition of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur illustrates that discrepancies may occur. National ownership is a prerequisite for success, but it requires the initial presence and functioning of State structures.

The transition of a peacekeeping mission to the next phase depends on many factors, but the most critical is capacity-building. Such a transition mainly involves transferring duties to the authorities of the host country. For the transfer to be effective, all United Nations pillars — peace and security, socioeconomic development and human rights — must be engaged.

Budgetary needs are important, and development banks are required to support countries in transition. I welcome the approaches of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, which dedicate specific

strategies and enhanced resources to situations of fragility and conflict. In addition, bilateral partnerships with the private sector also make it possible to benefit from other types of expertise. Work on governance, including security sector reform, is also essential for sustaining peace, rebuilding a strong social contract and, where appropriate, laying the groundwork for the exit strategy of a peacekeeping mission.

A successful and sustainable transition requires addressing the root causes of conflict. In this regard, Belgium and the European Union are taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to United Nations action on the ground, by taking into account the full cycle of conflict and the various United Nations actors. In addition to security sector reform, the organization of free and fair elections, the criminal justice system and transitional justice, education and the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups also play a key role in the transition process. Finally, the authorities of a country in transition should not overlook other conflict factors, such as competition for natural resources. Such issues often transcend national borders and are compounded by climate change.

The United Nations remains an essential partner of countries in transition. The full implementation of the various reforms of the United Nations system, including management reform, will help to optimize this partnership, and funding must also be secured.

I wish to conclude by commending the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Peacebuilding Fund. For Belgium, the PBC represents an example of integrating the United Nations pillars and seeking effective synergies. The projects that it funds demonstrate how the economic reintegration of vulnerable people contributes to social cohesion and peacebuilding. It is important that the Fund broaden its support base. Belgium calls on Member States to increase their contributions to it, and we advocate stronger relations between the Fund and international financial institutions.

Successful transitions to lasting peace require a coherent and comprehensive approach to strengthening the ownership processes of national authorities.

We wish to thank you again, Mr. President, for convening this briefing.

**Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America): The success of transitions from peacekeeping to

peacebuilding is crucial to maintaining lasting stability and security around the world. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his leadership on peacebuilding initiatives and for the valuable perspectives that he presented earlier today. I would also like to thank Minister Trujillo García, Franck Bousquet and Yero Baldeh for their important contributions to this important debate today. We also welcome the Ministers from Haiti and Timor-Leste.

The United Nations has 14 active peacekeeping missions and 11 active special political missions. The goal for each of these missions is to draw down and conclude, as we have recently achieved in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and previously in Timor-Leste. As experience has shown us, managing the transition process efficiently and effectively can be a significant challenge.

I will discuss three points today: key ingredients to successful nationally owned transitions, the importance of the role of women in these transitions, and the case of Haiti.

A transition owned by the host country, with the full support and partnership of Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations itself, is most likely to result in lasting peace and security. Planning and communication, along with distinct and achievable benchmarks, are also key elements of the process. Successful transitions require significant advance planning and communication among all stakeholders, including the host Government, the Security Council, regional actors, the Secretariat and civil society. For this reason, the United States maintains as one of its peacekeeping principles that every mission must have a clear exit strategy. Ongoing engagement on the exit strategy during the life cycle of a mission ensures that transition planning is considered, discussed and negotiated as early as possible.

Benchmarks during transitions serve as a critical metric to ensure that all stakeholders, including the host country, are meeting obligations that will help to ensure lasting peace and security. Distinct and achievable benchmarks provide the transparency and accountability necessary to ensure that the host nation is fully capable of standing on its own without the support of the United Nations.

Women must also play a more meaningful role in transitions, from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. Supporting women peace and security experts is a

good place to start. In 2018, the Department of Peace Operations and UN-Women piloted efforts to include gender in conflict-analysis work in missions to inform transitions and drawdowns in Liberia, Haiti and Darfur, which helped the host nations and the United Nations to better understand the needs of women as missions shift from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. Benchmarks for United Nations transitions and exits should ensure that they incorporate stand-alone measures on women, peace and security and gender equality, in line with the mission mandates. The United States will continue to advocate for mandates that prioritize strategic assessments that include experts evaluating the needs of women.

In October, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti will replace the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. The conclusion of the United Nations peacekeeping presence in Haiti, after more than 15 years, and the transition to a special political mission is an important milestone for the country. Once complete, we hope to be able to hold Haiti up as an example of a successfully nationally owned transition.

As the Security Council has repeatedly stated, it is the primary responsibility of the Government of Haiti to address the underlying drivers of instability in the country. A successful transition will depend, in large part, on progress from the Haitian Government on a range of issues, including holding free and fair elections, the continued professionalization of the Haitian National Police, the reduction of community and gang violence, the protection of human rights and justice-sector reform.

The United States remains committed to Haiti's future, and it is essential for the Government of Haiti to seize the opportunity that the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti represents. In addition to engaging all Haitian stakeholders, including the full and effective participation of women, the Government of Haiti must continue to work closely with the United Nations and international partners. By doing so, Haiti can lay the groundwork for a prosperous and successful future.

Transitions are, by nature, a time of flux and instability. However, through careful planning and communication, clear benchmarks and the meaningful participation of women, we can advance the cause of peace, security and stability.

**Mr. Singer Weisinger** (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to

welcome Foreign Minister Popolizio Bardales, Foreign Minister Edmond, Minister Leite Magalhães to the Security Council.

We warmly congratulate the Republic of Peru on convening today's meeting and on assuming the Council presidency for a second time. We also welcome the precise and detailed information provided by the briefers, which has allowed us to edify ourselves on the matter before us today. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the actions taken by the United Nations system to build peace and the hard work of civilians, military and police in countries in conflict.

A peacekeeping mission's transition to another type of mission necessarily implies a systematic reduction of military, police and civilian personnel. In order for such reductions not to impede the progress made, all necessary actions must be taken based on a coherent analysis of the root causes of the problem and the opportunities for and the limitations of a State to take on the responsibilities previously shouldered by the outgoing mission. If a country lacks certain economic, political and security conditions, in addition to institutional capacity, the withdrawal of a mission will lead to a high-risk situation and, in the worst case, to a recurrence of the prior calamitous situation. I repeat: if a country lacks certain economic, political and security conditions, in addition to institutional capacity, the withdrawal of a mission will lead to a high-risk situation and, in the worst case, to a recurrence of the prior calamitous situation.

The handover to a political mission needs to include due attention to the various options for dealing with major challenges, such as security and governance, in order to ensure an effective transition. The deadlines for transitions should be the result of careful political and operational assessments, with particular attention paid to balancing factors such as political demand, financial pressure and sustaining peace. A political mission must be directly involved in creating the State capacities necessary for coordinating economic and social development initiatives. We believe that the latter is essential if we wish to improve living standards in the most vulnerable areas. It is a crucial step towards addressing the origins of social problems generated by violence and instability.

Actions required during transitions include adaptation to the needs of host countries and the integration of vulnerable groups, such as women and

youth, which are important both as agents of change and in sustaining peace. Moreover, we must foster joint actions that are linked to the United Nations system. Furthermore, it is important to stress the need for adequate financial resources for programmes that support peace and development, and not forget to allow for appropriate flexibility in periods of certain political instability.

In terms of economic sustainability, such institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund fulfil fundamental tasks through their initiatives. These entities ensure that host countries have the capacity and resources for maintaining peace through their technical-assistance programmes, judicial-reform projects and social-coherence policies. Trust funds constitute a useful tool for channelling donations to emergency projects and for providing essential budgetary support for the post-conflict stage. We must also strengthen joint strategic alliances among the United Nations, bilateral and international donors, multilateral financial institutions and the private sector.

In addition, a fundamental aspect for our delegation is the vulnerability caused by both climate change and natural disasters, which are common to many conflict zones. Some countries are characterized by fragile ecosystems that generate precarious conditions, causing human displacement and threatening peace, stability and security. These are some of the many challenges to take into account when designing exit strategies and thereby avoid the escalation and recurrence of conflict. We recognize the excellent work of the Peacebuilding Commission and advocate its greater collaboration with the Security Council.

Our central concern is that all due attention be paid to countries emerging from conflict. We must use the Security Council's convening power, so that key actors and strategic alliances and regional and subregional organizations can achieve positive outcomes. For example, the African Union provides a context that ensures consistency among initiatives undertaken at the national level and allows for regular exchanges of information.

Reconciliation is a key objective in building sustainable peace. It undoubtedly contributes to the prevention of relapses into violence, as it enables the creation of interpersonal and group relationships in society and between a State and its citizens. We are aware that circumstances are not always the same,

so each society must take into account its specific situation when analysing the nature of a conflict and the character of its transition.

In conclusion, to resolve current structural conflicts, we must move towards the recovery, reintegration and reconstruction of countries in conflict, which is the only way for them to lay the foundations of sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the participation of citizens in political and economic processes for promoting equity and preventing violence at all levels must be guaranteed. Finally, we call for redoubled efforts to find political and financial solutions that allow Governments to build strong national institutions, which are an effective guarantee of lasting peace.

**Mr. Elé Ela** (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to begin by expressing our thanks to the Peruvian presidency for convening this important meeting. I also extend a warm welcome to the Ministers who have honoured us with their presence today in the Security Council and to the representatives of such relevant institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Peacebuilding Commission.

Global peacekeeping efforts need to be redesigned to deal effectively with today's conflicts and their root causes. The complexity and duration of existing conflicts, as well as their links to violent extremism, terrorism and organized crime, make it necessary to invest in the reorganization of United Nations architecture so as to support the efforts of countries to strengthen peace in the world. In that regard, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea recognizes the efforts of Secretary-General Guterres to ensure political and operational coherence and plans to improve the leadership, accountability and capacity of the United Nations to support this important agenda.

We agree in particular that investing in global, inclusive and sustainable development is the best tool for preventing violent conflicts. We therefore encourage the Secretary-General's efforts to guarantee the reform of the United Nations development system. We commend the work and the unique role of the Peacebuilding Commission in its support for these processes throughout the world — especially for the African Solidarity Initiative, the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership

in Peace and Security and the memorandum of understanding between the African Union Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office — which are actively promoting gender equality and fully respect the principle of national sovereignty.

In recent years, the consequences of conflicts have dragged certain countries down into political instability, poverty, the violation of human rights, damage to infrastructure and the weakening of institutions. Countries emerging from conflicts and wars have to face multiple challenges in the areas of economy, infrastructure, reconstruction, the eradication of poverty, the creation of employment, education, public health and social security. In these situations, the efforts of the international community should focus on providing genuine assistance to the countries concerned with the aim of achieving an economic recovery that should prioritize industrialization, the modernization of agriculture and the development of human resources, in which consolidating educational programmes should also be afforded particular importance.

It is crucial to assist countries in post-conflict stages to design comprehensive strategies for reconstruction and sustainable development, and pursuant to the circumstances of each situation. There is no single model for the construction of peace, as many of my colleagues in the Council have pointed out. In providing assistance, the international community must respect the idiosyncrasies of each country and take its views and opinions into account, as such countries are the ones primarily concerned with their own stability and reconstruction. We therefore call on the international community to pay greater attention to the socioeconomic development of post-conflict States.

The positive experiences of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, to name but a few, deserve our recognition, as they provide tangible, practical examples of lessons learned and good practices. Countries of other African regions are embarking on similar processes and we wish them every success. We invite the actors in the various conflicts to put the supreme interests of their nations first and do their utmost to achieve stability and peace in their countries.

In this context, we reiterate that the United Nations missions deployed around the world are not an end in themselves, but rather a tool at our disposal to support and accompany peace processes in countries affected by conflict. Therefore, the ultimate goal of intervention

must be to build peace. When the time comes to withdraw, this must be done in close collaboration with the local Government, with an orderly and well-defined handovers of responsibilities and tasks to local bodies and forces.

To conclude, we believe that the work of the Peacebuilding Commission provides a holistic and comprehensive vision of the challenges arising from wars and conflicts. The Peacebuilding Commission, as the coordinator of all multilateral efforts, will undoubtedly strengthen cooperation between parties, including United Nations organs and agencies, Member States, national authorities, United Nations missions and country teams, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, women's groups, youth organizations and, where appropriate, the private sector and national human rights institutions.

Such coordination is vital if we want to address these situations in a broad and inclusive manner that addresses questions of cooperation for development. In that regard, Equatorial Guinea believes that closer contact and interaction between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council are a priority. To that end, we underscore the usefulness of interactive meetings such as today's and the need for more frequent contact between that body and this organ.

**Mr. Djani** (Indonesia): It is an honour to have you, Mr. President, presiding over this Chamber. I would also like to welcome the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo García; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti, Mr. Bocchit Edmond; and my brotherly neighbour, the Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mr. Fidelis Leite Magalhães.

We thank our briefers — the Secretary-General and our colleagues from the World Bank and the African Development Bank — and the Peruvian presidency for convening this important meeting.

Peacekeeping and special political missions are among the most effective tools at the disposal of the United Nations to promote peace and stability, but they are not a magic wand. There is a limit to what they can achieve. Many of today's conflicts are intractable. The departure of such missions often takes place when challenges to sustaining peace remain — some with the potential to cause a relapse. Improving the management of transitions is imperative to laying the

groundwork for lasting peace. Today's discussion is timely as we proceed with the transitions in Darfur and Haiti. I wish to underline four important points for successful transitions.

First, we must change the way we perceive transitions. Transitions must not be seen as an end in themselves, but rather as a long-term process that starts before and stretches beyond the closure of a mission. No United Nations entity can single-handedly sustain peace throughout a transition. We need early and integrated planning, harnessing the strengths of different United Nations entities and developing a clear division of labour, including between the mission and the United Nations country team. Partnership with actors beyond the United Nations, including regional organizations and international financial institutions, is also key.

Secondly, we must recognize the primacy of national ownership and leadership. Peacebuilding must be home-grown. There is no one-size-fits-all formula. A successful transition requires strengthening local and national capacities to build on the mission's gains. The inclusive participation of relevant national actors in peacebuilding is essential. International support can play a catalytic role, but must be provided in line with the country's peacebuilding strategies and needs, in full respect for its sovereignty.

Thirdly, we need adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, especially beyond the mission's withdrawal. More investment in peacebuilding-related official development assistance is needed. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) should further explore options on innovative financing for peacebuilding, including to unlock domestic financing resources. The outcome of the first PBC policy task force on private sector partnership, facilitated by Indonesia, remains valid.

We are pleased that the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (S/2019/448) gave appropriate recognition to the valuable contribution of South-South cooperation to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. South-South cooperation enables the participation of traditional donors and international financial institutions through triangular arrangements. The senior leadership of the United Nations must further explore the potential of South-South cooperation. The Peacebuilding Support Office and the United Nations Office for South-South

Cooperation could initiate joint projects to support countries under the agenda of the PBC. Development, economic growth, improved quality of life and the eradication of poverty should also be our main focus in order to maintain lasting peace.

Fourthly, we should strengthen the advisory role of the PBC to support the Council's work in transitions. The PBC has been providing observations to the Council ahead of the mandate renewal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. These best practices could be replicated in other missions. Context-specific and tailored advice from the PBC would ensure that national priorities are factored into the Council's mandate formulation.

We see the merit in improving the Secretary-General's report for each mission by including recommendations to minimize risks related to the mission's departure and key benchmarks that must be achieved to ensure a responsible transition. The PBC should make the most of its convening role to facilitate synergy and coherence in peacebuilding throughout transitions by actively engaging with all relevant United Nations entities and implementing actors on the ground.

In conclusion, as one of the largest troop- and police-contributing countries, in our humble view the indicator of success of a peacekeeping mission or a special political mission is when it is no longer in situ and the country can grow peacefully with no peacekeepers on its territory.

**Mr. Moriko** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): Côte d'Ivoire commends Peru for organizing this Security Council briefing, presided over by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Néstor Popolizio Bardales, whom we congratulate on his exemplary stewardship of our work.

We also welcome the participation of Secretary-General António Guterres and congratulates him on the quality of his briefing and the relevance of his recommendations.

I welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia and take note of his contributions, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti and the Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste.



Finally my delegation welcomes the very informative briefings of Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank, and Mr. Yero Baldeh, Director of the Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank.

The issue of strengthening partnerships for national ownership of transitions is a part of my country's recent history and is therefore an experience that it can share during its term on the Security Council. After 13 years on the ground, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, considered by many observers to be a success story, ended on 30 June 2017. The transition in Côte d'Ivoire was fuelled by strong national ownership of the entire crisis recovery and peacebuilding process, characterized by close cooperation between the Ivorian Government and the entire United Nations system, strengthened by strategic partnerships coordinated with regional institutional actors and development partners.

Those factors have enabled the Ivorian Government to take ownership of the priority transition areas identified by the Security Council and the Secretariat, including national reconciliation, social cohesion, the establishment of security and defence institutions to ensure peace and stability in the country, and the strengthening of the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights.

In the light of its experience, Côte d'Ivoire stresses the need to define clear and specific priority objectives in areas considered essential to the success of the transition plan, while taking into account vulnerabilities that could lead to a resurgence of the crisis. Defining those objectives must be done at the request of the Government of the host country, in conjunction with all other relevant national actors and in collaboration with the United Nations system on the ground. The aim is to set forth a clear, shared political vision for a transition that is regularly reviewed to take stock of its implementation and make the necessary adjustments to the mandate of the United Nations mission. National ownership of the process is also the best way to ensure that the most vulnerable segments of the population are included in transition plans, and it generates a shared vision of priorities by national actors and development partners.

My delegation also believes that a successful transition hinges on good communication on the objectives and rationale of United Nations action, which

is essential for building the needed climate of trust between the United Nations, the host Government and local actors. In that regard, I would like to highlight the role of ONUCI FM radio, which helped promote peace and social cohesion during the transition process in Côte d'Ivoire, and today has been succeeded by Radio de la paix.

My delegation also highlights the significant contribution of regional and subregional actors, as well as the United Nations regional offices, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, whose mediation and good offices missions have buttressed transition plans. Regional and subregional organizations also play a critical role, as demonstrated by the support of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States for the initiatives undertaken as part of the implementation of the transition plan.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the national development plans implemented by the Government have enjoyed the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as international financial institutions, all of which facilitated the economic recovery, the fight against poverty and better access to education and health. In that connection, my delegation commends the productive cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, which has enabled the mobilization of the necessary resources for financing priority peacebuilding projects.

The success of any transition plan rests on a multitude of factors, based on genuine desire to emerge from crisis and robust national ownership of the transition process. That ownership must also be supported by a network of strategic partnerships with the entire United Nations system, regional actors and bilateral and institutional development partners. As attention turns to other countries in transition, Côte d'Ivoire hopes that their transition plans can benefit from similar national ownership strategies and the same support that my country received.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti.

**Mr. Edmond** (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Peruvian presidency of the Security Council for having invited me to participate in this important meeting, under the heading "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace".

I welcome the relevance of the topic of the meeting and the excellent quality of the concept note (S/2019/540, annex) to guide our discussions. I also take this opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General and thank him for his outstanding efforts to achieve peace.

It is important that we continue to engage in sustained reflection on the main requirements of sustainable peace, taking into account each country's particular situation. Our discussions must focus on the three interconnected and interdependent pillars of the Organization's action, and consider the real problems of countries, the basic needs of populations and the priorities set by national authorities.

There is therefore a need for efforts towards coherence, strengthening partnerships, building new partnerships and coordination at all levels so as to restore trust and maximize long-term development opportunities. It is those constructive exchanges that will allow us to share best practices and identify measures to improve the quality of life of the affected populations and further promote sustainable peace. I stress that lasting peace goes hand in hand with long-term development and that piecemeal solutions will always be fragile.

I commend the efforts deployed by the Organization, particularly by the Secretary-General, to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I would like to emphasize, however, that the situation in the Republic of Haiti must be well understood. Council members will naturally agree with me that my country has not emerged from a situation of armed conflict. After the deployment in 2004 of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, we transitioned into the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which, as of 16 October, will be replaced by the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, in accordance with resolution 2476 (2019), adopted by the Council on 25 June. I welcome once again the adoption of the resolution, outside Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which is a positive development and a recognition of the efforts deployed by the Haitian authorities, with the support of United Nations missions.

Undeniable progress has been made in Haiti since 2004 in a particularly difficult security and stability context, in particular in terms of strengthening the capacities of the Haitian National Police. The same is true in the areas of democracy, justice, human rights and the

rule of law. However, much remains to be done. In that regard, we note with interest the main tasks assigned to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, pursuant to paragraph 1 of the aforementioned resolution.

It would be remiss of me not to underscore the fact that sustainable peace cannot be built in a context of poverty, hunger, social inequality and exclusion. We must therefore take into account the growing importance of the effects of climate change and natural disasters on the country's security and stability. That idea was largely upheld by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council following its last mission to the country. The Group stresses the need for a better understanding of all issues related to insecurity, crime, instability and peace in Haiti. The integrated United Nations presence must, in the final analysis, seek to support the efforts of national authorities and civil society initiatives to address the root causes of mistrust, insecurity and instability, which are without a doubt genuine obstacles to the country's long-term development.

I have duly noted Council members' judicious comments on and support for the transition process from MINUJUSTH to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. Council members can rest assured that the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Jovenel Moïse, and the Government of the Republic are fully aware of their responsibility to improve the living conditions of the Haitian people and will spare no effort to that end.

The Haitian delegation will continue to call for establishing United Nations missions that can address the main emergencies faced by the countries concerned. In the case of my country, I will mention only the security, food, environmental and humanitarian emergencies, including cholera.

Allow me to highlight two issues that I believe deserve further attention: first, the importance of unconditional and sustained funding for long-term development efforts and, secondly, the need for sustained dialogue, with due respect for their respective functions and powers, between the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations system, including the Economic and Social Council, so as to ensure that the United Nations presence in a country such as Haiti is integrated, balanced and in synergy with the three pillars of the Organization's work.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the desire to promote lasting peace necessarily entails the desire to improve the living conditions of all the populations concerned, while bearing in mind the slogan of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: “Leave no one behind”.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste.

**Mr. Leite Magalhães** (Timor-Leste): I warmly salute the Security Council on behalf of my Government and all my compatriots. I also extend sincere gratitude to Peru, the President of the Security Council, for the invitation extended to me to address this body, with which my country’s history is forever intertwined.

For Timor-Leste, this discussion is timely as we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of a United Nations-administered popular consultation mandated by the Council through a special political mission, the United Nations Mission in East Timor, which enabled us to exercise self-determination. Following our independence vote, the Council mandated the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). UNTAET was followed by successive missions over a 10-year period, which ended in 2012 with the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). It is therefore an honour for me to speak from the perspective of a host country and share with Council members some reflections on the importance of partnerships and nationally owned transitions for successful peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Drawing from my country’s partnership with the United Nations, I will start by pointing out first the importance of leadership and ownership. No ownership of the transition processes, and hence no successful inclusion of the people, are possible without the full involvement of the national leaders. Regular, extensive and meaningful consultations with national Governments and local leaders throughout the life of a mission, and more intensely as a mission winds down, are paramount to ensuring ownership. National Governments must be given the space to determine the lifespan of the mission and the exit strategy for its withdrawal. In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 20 September 2012, our former Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmão, underlined the nature of the relationship during the transition as follows.

“The Government of Timor-Leste, in consultation with UNMIT and with other relevant stakeholders, is responsible for making decisions on the nature, activities and role of the United Nations after the withdrawal of UNMIT.” (S/2012/736, annex, p. 2)

In our case, a high-level committee was created, with representatives of the State of Timor-Leste and UNMIT, to draft a joint transition plan to monitor the finalization of UNMIT activities, including the hand-over process. Continued stability, the holding of free and fair elections, the formation of a national Government based on those elections, ensuring democratic space for the opposition, as well as progress in other areas identified in the transition process, such as police and security, the rule of law, justice and human rights, democratic governance and the elements of economic development, requiring the specific assistance of the Mission, were part of the joint transition plan. Once those elements were deemed to have been met, our national leaders decided that continued assistance was best done through the United Nations country team, bilateral and other multilateral partners, rather than a peacekeeping or political mission.

The Timorese leadership also proposed an innovative working relationship of cooperation in the form of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General who would focus on institutional strengthening and development based on Timor-Leste’s own strategic development plan and would also be a direct link to the Office of the Secretary-General.

A subsequent Security Council mission, undertaken in November 2012, verified the tangible progress in multiple areas, as well as a number of milestones reached, which reflected further consolidation towards sustainable peace, democratic governance, the rule of law and socioeconomic development during the transition. The mission’s report (S/2012/889) also confirmed the consensual position of Timorese interlocutors, who requested the end of the United Nations mission and articulated their vision for the next stages of development, and presented the proposal for the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General.

At the conclusion of UNMIT, local ownership, leadership and consistent dialogue had become a set of principles that contributed to the success of the Mission and its sustained withdrawal.

I wish to also underline that financing for the development aspects of the transition and the post-Mission exit phase is crucial to sustaining peace. Official development assistance needs to be well coordinated in order to be efficient and effective in supporting the exit plan. The deployment of advisers should be oriented to those strategic needs in a focused manner.

To conclude, although we do hope that our experience can be useful as the Council considers the upcoming downsizing and withdrawal of some peacekeeping and political missions, such as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and

the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, we all know from experience that one size really does not fit all and that there is no quick fix.

The right balance needs to be found, together with the leadership of each of those countries, for an integrated exit strategy that has the support of the Peace Building Commission and the continued engagement of the international and regional financial institutions, the United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations country teams and other relevant parts of the United Nations system to sustain the hard-earned peace.

*The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.*