

**THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
“Peacebuilding in Africa”**

**Statement By Ambassador (Dr.) Amina C. Mohamed, EGH,
CAV, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Kenya,**

28th July, 2016

(Check Against Delivery)

The President of the Security Council, H.E Fumio Kishida

The UN Secretary General, H.E Ban Ki Moon

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E Smail Chergui

Distinguished members of the Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr, President,

I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important debate on peacebuilding in Africa. I congratulate you Mr. President on Japan's ascendancy to the Presidency of this Council for July and commend you for the manner you have conducted its affairs. I also thank you for providing the concept note to guide the debate.

Let me also thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive briefing.

Kenya is honored to participate in this debate, taking place just before the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) which will be held in Nairobi on 27-28 August, 2016. Japan's historic commitment to and its reliable partnership with Africa in peace and development, is well known. The hosting of TICAD VI in Africa reaffirms this strong commitment to the continent.

I applaud the Security Council for its role in stabilizing countries in conflict. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the role of the UN cannot be overemphasized.

As you are aware, all the countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) are from Africa. Peacebuilding remains crucial to Africa. The continent continues to face unprecedented challenges even as the world becomes more globalised, democracy spreading, and regional integration deepening. Today, Africa is still struggling with some of the same challenges; the key difference is that it is now determined more than ever to overcome them

Mr. President,

Let me outline some of the measures that Africa has taken to respond to the challenges it faces.

First, Africa in 2002 transformed the Organization for African Unity (OAU) into the African Union, complete with a framework for the development of an African Peace and Security Architecture.

The framework laid the foundation for institutionalizing peacebuilding in Africa. Through it, institutions such as the African Union Commission, the AU Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force and the AU Peace Fund were established. These institutions are still at different stages of evolution and provide the basis for peacebuilding in Africa. The recent relaunch of the revamped AU Peace

Fund by the AU Summit in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016, reaffirms this commitment.

Second, African countries have revitalized their regional economic integration initiatives in order to ensure sustained peace and shared prosperity. Today, its regional economic communities including COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, MAGREB and the EAC are determined to sustain peace through trade and economic partnerships.

Third, Institutionalized strategic partnerships were sought with the UN and its various agencies in all areas of peace and security based on consultative decision making, division of labour, and burden and responsibility sharing. These relationships have evolved from ad-hoc consultations to systematic, principled and predictable arrangements through the setting up of the UN Office to the AU (UNOAU) and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, both of which remain positive work in progress.

Mr President,

The challenge of achieving effective peacebuilding has become the main preoccupation for policy makers in Africa and beyond. The evolving nature of conflicts in Africa and elsewhere necessitated the institutionalization of peacebuilding through the establishment of the PBC in 2005.

The PBC brings together various actors, both national and international, to ensure that countries affected by conflict do not lapse or relapse into conflict. The essence remains that of building effective partnerships for sustaining peace.

True partnerships actually starts at the community level, to national, regional and international levels. The whole process must leave no one behind and must include the private sector, the civil society, women and youth. Effective partnerships remain essential to sustaining peace and development in Africa. Of course, there is sufficient evidence to show that there can be no peace without development.

Mr President

It is exactly three months since this Council and the General Assembly adopted identical resolutions A/Res/70/262 and S/Res/2282(2016) on the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. The Report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture provided a solid basis for the two progressive resolutions. This report also observed that the “fragmentation” between several intergovernmental organs dealing with peace and security, each holding a “piece of the peacebuilding puzzle,” has proved to be a significant impediment to “operations on the ground where peacebuilding actually takes place.”

The resolutions introduced the principle of “sustaining peace” that stresses the need for more investment in governance, security and development in the continuum of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

More emphasis on conflict prevention means recognizing the ‘primacy of politics’ in the pacific settlement of disputes. The importance of investing in early warning systems instead

of reacting to outbreaks of violence is clear. Full implementation of the resolutions could result in lesser emphasis on militarized responses to conflicts in Africa, and instead promote more political engagement and developmental approaches that will result in effective peacebuilding.

Nonetheless, the PBC strives to uphold national ownership and leadership in implementation of peacebuilding initiatives. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Fund has provided critical funding to the creation and functioning of national institutions that play a central role in peacebuilding processes to address the challenges.

Mr. President,

Moving forward, in order to sustain peace for effective development in Africa let me make the following observations:

- **First**, Peacebuilding cannot succeed if half of the population is excluded from the process. Across Africa, the invaluable role of women in the whole cycle of conflict and not just during the post-conflict reconstruction, as well as their capacity to shape, drive and promote peace, is well known. Bridging cultural challenges that hinder women's participation in sustaining peace, mainstreaming gender in the peacebuilding discourse and involving them in decision-making at all levels, must be a priority.

I am pleased to report substantive progress in the drafting of the PBC Gender Strategy, which I am confident will further strengthen the Commission's

engagement on gender-related peacebuilding. We intend to formally propose for adopting the PBC Gender Strategy in early September 2016.

- **Second**, the PBC can only be effective if policy and political discussions are complemented by predictable financial support to critical priorities. The revamped African Union Peace Fund to support AU led peace operations was launched during the AU Summit in Kigali Rwanda in July 2016. However, it remains underfunded.

Similarly, we all recognize the crucial role of the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) especially in Africa. Its flexibility and impact on our collective efforts to sustaining peace at short notice is not in dispute. However, it has perennially faced a desperate funding shortfall. It is against this backdrop that Kenya, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Somalia are co-hosting a Pledging Conference for the PBF on 21 September 2016 on the margins of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly. I take this opportunity to invite all Member States to the pledging conference.

Finally, Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

I come here from Chairing the 14th Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which successfully concluded in Nairobi last Friday and whose theme was “From Decisions to Actions”.

The Conference underscored the importance of international support measures such as market access; official development assistance; increased investment flows; and technical assistance and technology transfer, as crucial building blocks to enhance economic resilience of countries and communities in developing countries.

Enhancing economic development is recognized as building resilience to risks and vulnerabilities in fragile States. Peace-building has therefore to contribute to maximization of trade, investment and development opportunities.

Such effort no doubt requires the collective, coordinated and sustained support by both State and non-state actors.

Moreover, Mr. President, in the wake of the historic adoption of key global policies of 2015, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement among others, attainment of peace and security has to continue to underpin delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Interconnectivity of SDGs imply that the work of the Peace Building Commission has to feed into, and complement, the work of all other agencies and initiatives that promote social, economic, and political development.

The divide between Peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and development, needs to be overcome and addressed as a continuum so that every person, everywhere can have an opportunity to achieve peace and prosperity.

I would like to assure all that Kenya is committed to the pursuit of peace in Africa and beyond and considers it a prerequisite for development and prosperity. That is why we are concerned by the cutback by the European Union on its funding to AMISOM in Somalia and elsewhere, a move we consider not in tandem with our collective objective to achieve sustainable peace in that part of the world. I hope this matter will continue to receive the attention of the Council.

Once again, I thank Japan for organizing this debate. I wish to invite all members of the Council to TICAD VI Conference that will be held in Nairobi on 27-28 August 2016. During this conference, it is our desire that the link between peace, peacebuilding, security and the 2030 Agenda will be emphasized and given pride of place.

I thank you for your Kind Attention.