

by the general membership of the United Nations would not send a positive signal.⁴⁵

The President (Slovakia) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁴⁶ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Underlined that it was the sovereign right and the primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities of security sector reform;

Recognized the need, when mandating a United Nations operation, to consider the national security sector reform priorities, while laying the foundation for peace consolidation, which could, *inter alia*, subsequently enable timely withdrawal of international peacekeepers;

Emphasized the important role that the Peacebuilding Commission could play in ensuring continuous international support to countries emerging from conflict;

Emphasized that security sector reform must be context-driven and that the needs would vary from situation to situation; encouraged States to formulate their security sector reform programmes in a holistic way that encompassed strategic planning, institutional structures, resource management, operational capacity, civilian oversight and good governance;

Acknowledged the need for a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on United Nations approaches to security sector reform, to foster its implementation in post-conflict environments, and expressed its readiness to consider such a report within the scope of its prerogatives under the Charter.

D. Maintenance of international peace and security

Initial proceedings

Decision of 25 June 2007 (5705th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5705th meeting, on 25 June 2007,⁴⁷ the Security Council included in its agenda a letter dated 6 June 2007 from the representative of Belgium addressed to the Secretary-General on natural resources

and conflict, transmitting a concept paper for an open debate.⁴⁸

It was recognized in the paper that the Council was already dealing with conflict situations linked to natural resources through its peacekeeping operations and sanctions. The representative of Belgium, in the paper, stated that the debate at the Council, *inter alia*, aimed to explore how the effectiveness of the Council's action in the area could be strengthened. The paper also provided information on the Kimberley Process, a joint effort by States, the private sector and civil society to put in place a global system of certificates of origin for rough diamonds. The questions to be considered included the role of the Council in encouraging existing initiatives and in early identification, given that improving the governance of natural resources in the absence of conflict was not the primary responsibility of the Council; lessons learned from peacekeeping operations and ways to give their mandates adequate capacity to deal with sanctions; and the transition from a sanctions-driven approach to a reconstruction-oriented one for the natural resources sector in post-conflict situations, during which the Council should hand over its responsibilities to other bodies.

Statements were made by all members of the Council⁴⁹ and the representatives of Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada (on behalf also of Australia and New Zealand), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Germany (on behalf of the European Union),⁵⁰ Iceland, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Switzerland and Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of African States).⁵¹

The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

The Under-Secretary-General drew attention to resolution 1625 (2005), in which the Council

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14 (Egypt); and p. 16 (Honduras).

⁴⁶ S/PRST/2007/3.

⁴⁷ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. VI, part II, sect. B, case 11 (d), with regard to relations with the Economic and Social Council; chap. XI, part III, sect. B, with regard to Article 41 of the Charter; chap. XII, part I, sect. D, case 10, with regard to Article 2 (7) of the Charter; and chap. XII, part II, sect. A, case 17, with regard to Article 24 of the Charter.

⁴⁸ S/2007/334.

⁴⁹ Indonesia was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁵⁰ Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement.

⁵¹ The representative of Angola was invited to participate but did not make a statement.

recognized the link between illegal exploitation of natural resources and conflict. He noted that targeted measures imposed by the Council were playing a crucial role in sustaining peace processes, and that peacekeeping operations could be vital in monitoring developments on the ground, enforcing sanctions and embargoes, and supporting State capacity. As neither sanctions nor peacekeeping operations alone could produce sustainable solutions to the problem, however, a commitment from all stakeholders to the equitable sharing of natural resources and to good governance, accountability and transparency was required. He called for enhanced crisis-prevention strategies; inclusion of natural resources management in peace processes and constitutions; and efforts by regional organizations, Member States, and non-governmental organizations to regulate business practices and promote corporate social responsibility and attention to the potential for the natural resource challenge to provide opportunities for national cooperation.⁵²

The President of the General Assembly emphasized the need for greater cooperation and coordination between the Council and the General Assembly and added that, while the international community should respect the sovereign rights of all Member States, it should encourage a more rationalized and effective use of natural resources.⁵³

The President of the Economic and Social Council asserted that conflicts induced by natural resources required integrated, multidisciplinary approaches as such conflicts were rooted in economic and social structures. The United Nations system could support timely action by making natural resources a factor of stability and development, promoting diversification of the economy and helping to build a strong and accountable Government. He suggested the establishment of a format for the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to discuss development-oriented approaches to the use of natural resources.⁵⁴

Most speakers acknowledged the potential of natural resources in inducing, exacerbating and prolonging conflict and reiterated the view that the lack of development was an underlying cause of such conflicts. They emphasized the need for transparency and good governance in natural resource management;

called for enhanced conflict-prevention capacity and advocated a holistic approach based on coordination by the United Nations bodies, particularly the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission. A number of speakers also called for a broader definition of accountability for conflicts induced by natural resources, which included not only the supply but also the demand. Speakers also, *inter alia*, discussed ways to improve the effectiveness of targeted sanctions; the limitations and benefits of the Kimberley Process for diamonds and the appropriate balance of responsibility between the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

A number of speakers reiterated the emphasis on the sovereignty of States over their natural resources in the interest of development and well-being of their people.⁵⁵ The representative of Qatar asserted that endowing the Council with authority over natural resources contravened international law and diminished the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, as stated in General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII).⁵⁶ The representatives of Peru and Egypt suggested that the Council should strengthen national capacities for the sovereign management of natural resources agreed on in peace accords.⁵⁷

The President (Belgium) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁵⁸ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Emphasized the importance of improving the work of and strengthening the contributions made by existing sanctions committees and the various groups and panels of experts established by the Council in dealing with the impact of illegal exploitation of natural resources on conflicts in the countries under its consideration; also recalled the work done by the Informal Working Group of the Council on General Issues of Sanctions (2006) and referred in this regard to its report;⁵⁹

Acknowledged the crucial role that the Peacebuilding Commission, together with other United Nations and non-United Nations actors, could play, in post-conflict situations, in assisting Governments, upon their request, in ensuring that natural resources became an engine for sustainable development;

Noted the important contribution that voluntary principles and standards played in encouraging multinational enterprises to

⁵² S/PV.5705, pp. 3-5.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 17 (China); and p. 23 (Russian Federation); S/PV.5705 (Resumption 1), p. 3 (India); and p. 6 (Pakistan).

⁵⁶ S/PV.5705, p. 9.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 16 (Peru); and p. 30 (Egypt).

⁵⁸ S/PRST/2007/22.

⁵⁹ S/2006/997.

adopt responsible business conduct, such as provided for by Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Global Compact;

Stressed the important role, in the context of security sector reform in post-conflict environments, of transparent and effective national security and Customs structures for the effective control and management of natural resources by preventing the illegal access to and the trade and exploitation of those resources;

Recognized, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, the need for a more coordinated approach by the United Nations, regional organizations and Governments concerned, in particular the empowerment of Governments in post-conflict situations to better manage their resources.

**Decision of 28 August 2007 (5735th meeting):
statement by the President**

At its 5735th meeting, on 28 August 2007,⁶⁰ the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security: role of the Security Council in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular in Africa”, and a letter dated 14 August 2007 from the representative of the Congo transmitting a concept paper on the topic.⁶¹ In it, the representative of the Congo reaffirmed resolution 1625 (2005), in which the Council had expressed its determination to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in the prevention of armed conflicts. He then noted that the debate intended to promote a comprehensive strategy for conflict prevention that would take advantage of existing international, regional and subregional mechanisms. While deploring that too often the Council had been reactive to conflicts rather than preventive, he suggested a number of points of discussion such as the role of the Council in institutionalizing conflict prevention within the United Nations system and how to guarantee the coherence and functionality of existing African conflict resolution mechanisms.

Statements were made by all Council members, as well as the Secretary-General, the representative of

Haiti on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, the representative of Ghana in his capacity as Acting Chairperson of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Canada, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia, Norway, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and others), the Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Opening the debate, the Secretary-General stressed that more resources should be devoted to conflict prevention and mediation. Although there had been a 40 per cent drop in armed conflicts since 1990, owing partly to expanded United Nations peacekeeping, peacemaking and other conflict-prevention activities, he called for sustained international political will to reinforce preventive action in its broadest sense. In particular, he announced that in the coming months he would present proposals for strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Political Affairs with the goal of making more effective use of his good offices, as he believed in engagement and dialogue as opposed to confrontation. He added that regional organizations could also contribute and asserted that sustainable development and the building of peace in countries emerging from conflict were crucial.⁶²

The representative of Haiti, speaking on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, emphasized that there was still room for progress in enhancing cooperation and coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General. The creation in 2005 of the Peacebuilding Commission however constituted a step forward in the field of conflict prevention. He affirmed that, in the end, it was up to each State to take responsibility to prevent conflict.⁶³

The Acting Chairperson of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission called for increased cooperation between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. He recognized that the focus of the debate on Africa was particularly relevant as the centre of the Commission’s attention had so far been on African countries. He then acknowledged the work of the

⁶⁰ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. VI, part II, sect. B, case 11 (e), with regard to relations with the Economic and Social Council; and chap. XII, part III, sect. A, with regard to Chapter VIII of the Charter.

⁶¹ S/2007/496.

⁶² S/PV.5735, pp. 2-4.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention of the Security Council over the past 10 years and stressed that he looked forward to examining ways to better engage the Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.⁶⁴

Speakers were unanimous in reaffirming the importance of preventing conflict in a comprehensive and strategic manner and renewed their commitment to enhancing the Council's role in preventing and resolving conflict in all its forms.

Several speakers however deplored the Council's tendency to examine the root causes of conflict only after fighting had broken out.⁶⁵ For the representative of Gabon, while conflict prevention should be the primary function of the Security Council, in recent years it had had limited success in this field.⁶⁶ The representative of Kenya noted that too often the Council had been stuck in its traditional approach of peacekeeping, and added that, because peacekeeping was more expensive, energies should be channelled to conflict prevention.⁶⁷ This idea was shared by the representative of Algeria.⁶⁸ The representative of Slovakia for his part called for a switch from the "culture of reaction" to the "culture of prevention".⁶⁹ The representative of the Sudan suggested that it would be beneficial for the Council to include the question of political settlement among its priorities.⁷⁰ Citing the example of the "destabilizing effects" of Zimbabwe's economic and governance crisis on the region, the representative of Canada called for intensified regional diplomacy and urged the Council to receive regular briefings on "this steadily deteriorating situation".⁷¹

The representative of China, and others, also noted that preventive diplomacy needed to be strengthened.⁷² The representative of the Russian Federation proposed the establishment of an effective pan-African security architecture that aimed both at conflict prevention and resolution and at post-conflict

reconstruction issues, as a key component of a strategy to strengthen peace.⁷³

The representative of Uganda focused his intervention on peacekeeping. Citing the example of Somalia, he urged the Council to put a halt to the practice of not authorizing peacekeeping operations when there was no peace to keep, and to provide countries that were undertaking peacekeeping operations on its behalf with logistical and financial support.⁷⁴ This was supported by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷⁵ On this issue, the representative of Japan added that, on the contrary, in principle every organization should be responsible for its own costs, and that, when examining the possibility of offering financial support, the Council should do so on a case-by-case basis, "taking into account whether such support would be consistent with the principles that govern United Nations peacekeeping operations".⁷⁶

In order to strengthen conflict prevention strategies, many speakers called for effective coordination between and within United Nations organs, including the Security Council, the programmes, funds and agencies and the Peacebuilding Commission in policy formulation and implementation, risk assessment, early warning and best practices.⁷⁷ The representative of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Union, argued that more cooperation and coherence was needed in the field, not only among the main bodies of the United Nations but also with international and regional actors, including non-governmental organizations.⁷⁸ In fact, several delegations affirmed that supporting civil society was crucial as it was an important partner in preventing conflicts.⁷⁹ The

⁶⁴ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁶⁵ Ibid., p. 7 (Panama); p. 8 (Slovakia); p. 9 (Italy); and p. 12 (United Kingdom).

⁶⁶ Ibid., p. 17.

⁶⁷ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 6.

⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 10.

⁶⁹ S/PV.5735, pp. 8-9.

⁷⁰ Ibid., p. 27.

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 31.

⁷² Ibid., p. 17 (China); p. 20 (Russian Federation); and S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 5 (Viet Nam).

⁷³ Ibid., p. 20.

⁷⁴ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 3.

⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 8.

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 12.

⁷⁷ S/PV.5735, p. 8 (Peru); p. 9 (Slovakia); p. 10 (Italy); p. 18 (China); p. 20 (Russian Federation); p. 21 (Indonesia); p. 23 (France); p. 24 (Congo); p. 26 (Portugal, on behalf of the European Union); p. 28 (Norway); p. 32 (Argentina); S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 5 (Viet Nam); p. 6 (Kenya); p. 8 (Croatia); and p. 12 (Japan).

⁷⁸ S/PV.5735, p. 26.

⁷⁹ S/PV.5735, p. 26 (Portugal, on behalf of the European Union); p. 29 (Switzerland); S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 5 (Viet Nam); p. 7 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); and p. 11 (Algeria).

representative of Norway added that for the United Nations to succeed in security operations it was absolutely necessary that the Organization be perceived as a single unified actor and be able to act as one.⁸⁰ The idea of the institutionalization of the relationship between the Security Council and all entities participating in conflict prevention was also raised by the representative of Namibia.⁸¹ The representative of Japan suggested that the Council should refer to the Peacebuilding Commission the task of following up on problems relating to the consolidation of peace discussed in relevant thematic debates.⁸²

Many speakers also agreed on the need to enhance the capacity and the mandate of the Secretariat to prevent conflicts. The representative of the United Kingdom called for more Secretariat capacity in political analysis and conflict assessment, as well as for a “joined-up approach” across the system for early warning.⁸³ This was echoed by the representative of France who added that the Secretariat should be given the means to be better and more quickly informed of the precursors of a crisis,⁸⁴ and the representative of Benin suggested specific prevention measures such as awareness raising political missions, mediation missions and preventive deployment.⁸⁵ The representative of Switzerland however indicated that strengthening capacities for mediation and good offices could not depend on the good will of contributors and that new assessed contributions would have to be specifically dedicated.⁸⁶ While the representative of China called for an enhanced role of the Secretary-General in good offices,⁸⁷ the representative of Algeria thought that the Secretary-General also had a role of coordination among all actors of conflict prevention,⁸⁸ and the representative of Peru called on the Council to use such tools as early warning mechanisms provided by the Secretary-General.⁸⁹ The representative of Guatemala however warned against the institutionalization of the Group of Friends for the prevention of conflict proposed by the Secretary-General, as strengthening

coherence within the United Nations system was the priority.⁹⁰ The representative of Slovakia said that conflict prevention should be given serious consideration in the current reforms of the United Nations system.⁹¹

A number of speakers specifically supported strengthening the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs in conflict prevention and mediation. The representative of Italy in particular stressed the importance of enhancing political missions in crisis situations.⁹² Several representatives welcomed the establishment of a mediation support unit within the Department as a first step towards the fulfilment of its conflict prevention mandate,⁹³ and the representative of Japan considered it important for the envisaged unit to enhance its own partnership with regional organizations.⁹⁴ By contrast, the representative of Guatemala believed it was premature to discuss the role of the unit since it had not yet been established and called on the Secretary-General to explain the role it might play in conflict prevention in his forthcoming report to the General Assembly.⁹⁵

Speakers were in full agreement on the need to reinforce cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. In particular, most speakers called for a stronger and more structured relationship between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter and welcomed the recent adoption of a comprehensive framework of the two bodies in this regard.⁹⁶ The representative of Algeria expressed the hope that the African Union would soon be able to improve its system of early warning,

⁸⁰ S/PV.5735, p. 28.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

⁸² S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 12.

⁸³ S/PV.5735, p. 12.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

⁸⁵ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 13.

⁸⁶ S/PV.5735, p. 29.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁸⁸ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 10.

⁸⁹ S/PV.5735, p. 8.

⁹⁰ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 4.

⁹¹ S/PV.5735, p. 9.

⁹² S/PV.5735, p. 10.

⁹³ S/PV.5735, p. 29 (Switzerland); p. 30 (Canada); p. 33 (Namibia); S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 8 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); p. 12 (Japan); and p. 13 (Benin).

⁹⁴ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 12.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁹⁶ S/PV.5735, p. 8 (Peru); p. 10 (Italy); p. 11 (United States, United Kingdom); p. 14 (Ghana); p. 16 (Qatar); p. 18 (China); p. 19 (Belgium); p. 20 (Russian Federation); p. 22 (Indonesia, France); p. 24 (Congo); p. 26 (Portugal, on behalf of the European Union); p. 28 (Norway); p. 29 (Switzerland); p. 31 (Namibia); S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 4 (Guatemala); p. 10 (Honduras); p. 11 (Algeria); and p. 18 (Gabon).

collection and analysis of information and mediation.⁹⁷ The representative of Portugal announced that a joint strategy of the European Union and Africa for the next decade was currently under negotiation,⁹⁸ and the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania thought that it was time for the Council and the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a mechanism similar to the Peacebuilding Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy for conflict prevention, in partnership with regional organizations.⁹⁹

Almost all speakers also reaffirmed the need to address the root causes of conflicts in Africa, such as poverty, lack of development, lack of democracy, human rights violations, socio-economic issues, environmental issues, cultural and ethnic tensions, illicit trafficking in small arms and mismanagement of natural resources, by adopting a comprehensive approach. The representative of Peru was of the view that effective preventive efforts in Africa had to take into account the most basic needs of the population.¹⁰⁰ This was echoed by many who reaffirmed the importance of implementing the Millennium Development Goals as part of the conflict prevention strategy.¹⁰¹ The representative of Qatar expressed the view that analysing the experiences of past conflicts in Africa could be helpful.¹⁰² The representative of Canada held that the Peacebuilding Commission should expand its agenda to include additional States at risk as well as such cross-cutting themes as children affected by armed conflict and the role of women in peace and security.¹⁰³

The representative of France stressed that the protection of civilians, women and children, combating impunity and human rights violations were essential factors in preventing the resurgence of conflicts, and held that health and climate change issues had an impact on stability in Africa.¹⁰⁴ The representative of Namibia, echoed by others, also focused on the need for more efforts in the fields of disarmament, the

strengthening of judicial systems, transitional justice, reconciliation and security sector reform.¹⁰⁵

While stressing the need for the Security Council to pay attention to the underlying causes of conflicts in Africa, the representative of Ghana also remarked that this raised the question as to what problems should and should not be discussed by the Council.¹⁰⁶ Similarly, the representative of Qatar, echoed by the representative of China, noted that the Council must be able to deal with African issues transparently, while respecting States' sovereignty and territorial integrity.¹⁰⁷ The representative of Indonesia also pointed out that preventive measures called for by the international community often fell under the jurisdiction of States as most African conflicts were intra-State conflicts.¹⁰⁸

Finally, a number of speakers specifically recalled the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which codified the responsibility to protect, and others more generally reaffirmed the primary responsibility for national authorities in conflict prevention. The representative of Slovakia was of the view that this also implied the responsibility to identify potential risks and ask for the assistance of the international community.¹⁰⁹ The representative of Portugal, echoed by a few others, also affirmed that the International Criminal Court could play a role in preventing the use of force.¹¹⁰ The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo called for the establishment of an international criminal tribunal for his country, where millions had lost their lives due to conflict.¹¹¹

At the end of the meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹¹² by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Recalled that the prevention of conflict remained a primary responsibility of Member States;

⁹⁷ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 11.

⁹⁸ S/PV.5735, p. 27.

⁹⁹ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 15.

¹⁰⁰ S/PV.5735, p. 7.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3 (Secretary-General); p. 7 (Peru); p. 13 (United Kingdom); p. 27 (Sudan); and S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 18 (Gabon).

¹⁰² S/PV.5735, p. 16.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 26-27 (Portugal, on behalf of the European Union); p. 31 (Namibia); and S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 7 (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

¹⁰⁶ S/PV.5735, p. 14.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 17 and p. 18, respectively.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 18 (Belgium); p. 27 (Portugal, on behalf of the European Union); S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 7 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); p. 14 (Benin); and p. 15 (United Republic of Tanzania).

¹¹¹ S/PV.5735 (Resumption 1), p. 7.

¹¹² S/PRST/2007/31.

Requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council within 60 days on options for the further implementation of resolution 1625 (2005);

Stressed the need to carry out efforts to increase women's participation as contributors and beneficiaries in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and called for the further implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000);

Supported the comprehensive and global approach recommended by the Secretary-General in his report on the prevention of armed conflict,¹¹³ namely, structural prevention, to address the root causes of conflict; operational prevention, to ensure the effective operation of early warning mechanisms, mediation, humanitarian access and response, the protection of civilians and targeted sanctions in the face of immediate crises; and systemic prevention, to prevent existing conflicts from spilling over into other States;

Recognized that effective coordination between and within United Nations organs was vital for ensuring better coherence of the existing mechanisms and the appropriate balance between peacekeeping operations and preventive activities;

Welcomed recent developments regarding the long-term prevention of conflict, including policy work on security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, transitional justice and the rule of law, electoral practices, peacebuilding, democratic governance, development, humanitarian assistance and protection, and safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

Encouraged the Secretary-General to continue efforts in order to improve the United Nations early warning, mediation support and other preventive activities;

Stressed the importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention and welcomed the growing contribution being made by regional organizations;

Underlined the need for a stronger and more structured relationship between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

Encouraged Member States to make further efforts to ensure adequate consultation between civil society and national institutions, on the one hand, and the United Nations and the international community, on the other hand, so as to be better equipped to address the global character of questions of peace and security.

¹¹³ A/60/891.

43. Women and peace and security

Decision of 28 October 2004 (5066th meeting): statement by the President

At its 5066th meeting, on 28 October 2004, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security.¹ At the meeting, all Council members and 27 other representatives made statements.²

Pursuant to a statement by the President of the Council of 31 October 2002,³ the report of the Secretary-General was a follow-up report on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in which he presented recommendations for enhanced implementation of the resolution in the areas of intergovernmental processes; conflict prevention and

early warning; peace processes and negotiation; peacekeeping operations; humanitarian response; post-conflict reconstruction; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and preventing and responding to gender-based violence in armed conflict. He also stated his intention to present a system-wide action plan to increase attention to gender perspectives in conflict prevention and peacekeeping operations.

At the meeting, statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Statements were made by the representative of the Women's Network for the Protection of Human Rights and Peace; the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat; and Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

Introducing the report of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General cited as remaining challenges the following points with respect to women and security: more effective coordination among the

¹ S/2004/814.

² The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania.

³ S/PRST/2002/32.