

Statement by the

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia**

**Mr Boštjan Malovrh**

at the

**Security Council Open Debate on Peace and Security in Africa:**

**Capacity-building for sustaining peace**

New York, 8 August 2022

Mr President,

At the outset we would like to thank you for organizing this timely open debate and thank the distinguished briefers for their valuable remarks. Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Slovenia highly values contributions of African regional organizations towards a peaceful and secure Africa, supporting capacities and capability of the African states to manage security challenges on the continent. African organizations have come to play an increasingly important role in mediating internal disputes, thus we emphasize the importance and the need for African solutions to African problems.

While the African Union and other sub-regional organizations are best placed to support the needs of African states, a strengthened AU - UN cooperation, as well as AU cooperation with other organizations including the European Union, could further empower African states in strengthening conflict prevention capabilities, strengthening of peace, security and governance architecture. We also support promotion of the relationship between civil society and regional organizations, all with a strong gender component.

The International community needs do its outmost to support predictable and flexible financing that will enable peacebuilding capacities on the continent. Tailor-made approaches play a critical role here.

Mr. President,

On our national level, Slovenia allocates 30% of our humanitarian assistance for post-conflict activities. It focuses on peacebuilding, support to women and children and post-conflict rehabilitation. These activities are further complemented by resilience building and preventive action. We would be happy to learn further from the experiences of our African partners as well as continue to provide our support.

Mr. President,

There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. The aspiration of governments is providing peaceful environment, good governance combined with rule of law, and thus enabling environment of inclusivity, equal opportunity, education, as well as health. At the same time these aspirations can be achieved only through a holistic approach, where the needs for sustainable development are taken up together with peace and security, including the respect for human rights, that is also an important tool for early warning. The international community also needs to increase its support to capacity building of the African states to manage security challenges arising from terrorism.

In conclusion, Mr. President

Any capacity building for sustaining peace must take into account societies as a whole and should, in spirit of Agenda 2030, leave no one behind. We echo the need for meaningful and equal participation of women and youth in peace processes, as this paves the way for more equal societies and greater respect for human rights in the future.

We hope that debates such as the one that we are having today can enhance trust between member states, as well as between member states and the wider UN system. While we are at times confronted with misinformation on these relations, more must be done to enhance trust.

I thank you.