**Security Council**

**Wrap Up Session**

**February 26th, 2016**

**Statement**

Mr. President,

First of all, we would like to congratulate the delegation of Venezuela for the manner it conducted the work of the Council during the month of February.

We commend the coherence of Venezuela's program of work, by promoting debates on crucial issues of fundamental interest for the work of the Security Council, such as general issues relating to sanctions and the working methods of Security Council subsidiary Bodies; the respect of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; and the review of peace building architecture.

We shall highlight these thematic issues, considering their importance in the general and specific work of the Security Council.

On the working methods and general issues related to sanctions, the debate was an important contribution to further clarify this very sensitive issue.

We praise the determination of the Venezuelan delegation to adopt a Note of the President of the Security Council on the issue, the pertinent and useful provisions contained therein, regarding improvements on transparency, on selecting and preparing the chairpersons of the subsidiary organs, on the interaction and coordination between the subsidiary organs and the Council itself.

Considering that the UN Security Council makes extensive use of sanctions regimes, as an important tool in its attempts to restrict, impose a determined change in behavior or deter certain states, individuals and entities regarded as threats to international peace and security, the sanctions committees play and will continue playing a substantive role as a strong political tool of the Security Council.

Such powers imply the enforcement of sanctions regimes and the permanent need to improve them, in particular the decision making process, their adoption, targeting, enforcement and the lifting of sanctions.

Another important moment in the monthly program was the debate on the respect of purposes and principles of the UN Charter, an occasion for the entire UN membership to reiterate their attachment to those provisions.

For its principled commitment to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations**;** to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems; and to become a center for harmonizing the actions of the nations;

The purposes and principles, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, became pillars of international law, established a system of collective security that, in the last 70 years, despite setbacks, made the United Nations the main front in the struggle for a more peaceful world, based in respect of international law, human rights and cooperation among all peoples and nations, with a final aim to strengthen universal peace.

In fact, the founding of the United Nations and the adoption of its Charter were remarkable achievements of the international community: the principles set in the Charter of sovereign equality of all States; the fulfillment in good faith of their obligations; the peaceful settlement of disputes; non-interference in other countries internal affairs; to refrain from the threat or use of force; and solidarity with UN preventive or enforcement action against any State, became pillars of international relations and common wisdom.

The third debate, held during the month, pertained to the Review of Peace building architecture, now under way.

The debate provided Member States with the opportunity to express their views on such crucial issue, when negotiations are under way for a resolution on the subject, its linkages to conflict prevention and the need for the United Nations to strengthen its capacity in this regard.

The Advisory Group Report points out that in the Agenda for Peace, Peace building was seen as the logical follow-up to peacekeeping and peacemaking, with the main objective of preventing the relapse into conflict once a peace settlement had been secured.

Based on such assumption, two aspects mentioned in the Advisory Group report are of particular relevance: the need of a change in the mindset on the role of peace building in the United Nations system, based on the concept of sustaining peace, and on a vision that peace building must be aimed at preventing the outbreak, the recurrence and continuation of armed conflict, therefore encompassing a wide range of political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights programs and mechanisms. Sustaining peace, according to the report, is a permanent venture, before, during and after conflict, imposing the need to adjust the approaches to peace building.

Regarding the UN system responsibility and based on the objectives outlined above, peace building covers the three pillars and the main organs of the United Nations, whose activity must be better coordinated, harmonized and better devoted to the prevention of armed conflict, and the maintenance of peace, by promoting the higher values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

As such, by running through the whole activities of the United Nations, Peace building must be understood as an evolving concept based on the need to constantly adapt to the realities on the ground, and on timeframes for political transition after violent conflict.

To conclude, Mr. President, we would like to underscore that what is at stake with the current review of the peace building architecture is the strategy of the United Nations system to address conflict prevention, the root-causes of conflict and the creation of sustained peaceful societies in a context of diversity, challenges and continuous threats to the international peace and security.

Finally, we want once again congratulate Venezuela for its Presidency.

Thank you Mr. President.