



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
to the United Nations – New York

SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL OPEN DEBATE ON  
PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE: FUTURE-PROOFING  
TRUST FOR SUSTAINING PEACE  
Wednesday, 3 May 2023, 10:00 AM

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI-PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE

**( 3 minutes)**

1. **Thank you, Mr. President** (*H.E. Ignazio Cassis- Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs- Switzerland*).
2. Trust is in short supply in the UN. We are ranked in our regional and economic groupings, debating each other across gulfs of understanding, solidarity, and, sometimes, even goodwill.

3. Mr. President, we fully subscribe to your concept note embracing the strengthening of trust through inclusion, implementing the norms of accountability and predictability, by all states, in all situations, and making decisions on the basis of objective evidence.
4. These are fine principles, and we will join with other members in realising them practically. However, given the low levels of trust at present, we want to propose specific actions by the Security Council , which is suffering the greatest trust deficit.
5. **First** is that existing pen holding should be shared with non-permanent members. Specifically, we would like to see Africa files with African pens and co-penholders. This does not require elaborate reform. It can be implemented in January 2024 and beyond.
6. **Second**, there will be little trust if there's no urgent reform of the Council's membership. The attitude of the permanent members to the IGN process will reveal their individual commitment to reform and rebuilding trust. The *New Agenda for Peace* will be made new by furthering the demand for reform.
7. Trust will also be built by the countries that are aspiring to permanent membership demonstrating, through action and not just rhetoric, that they will take their responsibilities seriously. They

should start immediately showing concretely that they are listening and responding positively to the views of the African Union, African countries, and Small Island Developing States. Trust demands new permanent members who will stand for our values and collective interests, and not the narrow pursuit of national interests.

8. **Third**, during the annual consultations between the Security Council members and the African Union Peace and Security Council, PR level participation by all will increase trust. As will ensuring that every year's outcome has at least one practical and impactful outcome.
9. **Fourth**, the Council needs to be more welcoming and actioning of advisories by the Peacebuilding Commission. Enhanced coordination will be even more effective if efforts are made to reinforce the Peacebuilding Commission and to deliver an adequately resourced Peacebuilding Fund.
10. **Fifth**, and finally, trust will be increased if states ensure that the Fifth Committee acts on the financing for peacebuilding resolution of September 2022. Delay degrades trust. Let us deliver a way forward that includes assessed funding.

11. There is a famous saying that ‘a single thread of trust can hold together the strongest bond.’ Our suggestions can be the threads urgently needed by us all.

**Thank you**