



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

STATEMENT BY
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DURING

THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON:
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY: “PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE: THE
CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND
BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE PREVENTION AND
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

I extend my warm congratulations to Brazil for assuming the Presidency for the month of October. I also thank your delegation for the determined, co-operative and timely effort to negotiate a resolution on the Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question.

We value the UN Secretary-General's strong endorsement of regional frameworks and entities for maintaining the peace. However, permit me to add a layer of nuance to this applause. The success of Chapter VIII arrangements largely hinges on Security Council members fulfilling their charter obligations to focus solely on resolving specific threats to international peace.

When the Council is fragmented by national interests, or is used as a platform for geopolitical rivalries, regional peace initiatives can be weakened or even brought to a standstill. In simpler terms: the Council's internal divisions can sometimes be transferred to these regional efforts, much like a boat that

can't move forward because its rowers are pulling in different directions.

It's also important to recognise that not all regional and defensive frameworks contribute positively to international peace and security; some may actually heighten risks.

Therefore, we must be discerning in our support, endorsing only those regional arrangements that align with the fundamental values and international laws that underpin the United Nations.

Mr President, allow me to make four further recommendations for your consideration.

First: The Security Council presidency can foreground regional experiences and perspectives. Presidents can encourage the Council to conduct joint on-the-ground assessments with regional entities to generate joint diagnoses of the complex factors leading to conflict.

Secondly: The Council should be a learning environment. More regions should consider adopting a model similar to the

Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Thirdly: The Council should deepen its co-operation with the Peacebuilding Commission whose inclusive peacebuilding dialogue with regional mechanisms and national actors can produce useful insights. The existing role of informal coordinator between the Council and the PBC should be leveraged ambitiously to enhance the quality of advice the latter produces.

Fourth: In its deliberations and decisions, the Council should consistently consider the interplay between diversity and state-building in the quest for sustainable peace. This represents a key area of alignment between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Indeed, this was the central focus of an open debate we initiated during Kenya's most recent Council Presidency in October 2021. It is imperative for both the Council and regional actors to recognise that identity-based conflict serves as a significant catalyst for violence. And that sustainable peace is most achievable when prevention, mediation, and post-conflict initiatives actively

incorporate the inclusive management of social and cultural differences—a core competence for any effective state.

In closing, I commend CARICOM for its admirable efforts to foster a Haitian-led political process that can lead to an orderly transition to prepare free, fair, and credible elections in Haiti. I strongly urge the Council and its individual members to extend their full support to CARICOM and Haiti.

Thank you.