

UN Security Council

Open Debate

on

Cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

“Silencing the guns in Africa”

Statement by

Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin

Permanent Representative

27 February 2019

Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Equatorial Guinea for thoughtfully bringing much needed focus on an issue that reflects the collective resolve of all of us to work together. We also thank the briefers for their informative submissions.

2. We join in commending this unique and ambitious effort where the whole continent of Africa is committed to working together on the entire spectrum of issues, including on peace and security through the African Union.

3. India welcomes the approach that provides for the leading role for Africa to address African problems, through African solutions. We also believe that this is a work in progress and needs to be supported. On the

other hand, the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. It also entails a collective responsibility on the Member States to extend mutual support for strengthening capacities and capabilities to address threats to international peace and security. Thus, cooperation of the UN with African efforts is a natural progression.

Mr. President,

4. For want of time, I will focus only on three issues:

- (i) First, AU is playing a critical role in its contribution to conflict prevention in Africa with focus on the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. The mediation efforts by the AU and the regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa are showing positive results. We believe that such efforts, based on the interest, consent and commitment by all parties, will lead towards sustainable and peaceful settlements. We appreciate the measures taken by all stakeholders towards the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020.
- (ii) Second, as the African Union continues to make progress in addressing the resolution of conflicts, the need for peacebuilding and development becomes a priority. We believe that commitment to support peacebuilding is an imperative for sustainable peace in Africa. While there is a broad consensus at the UN to strengthen the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, there is no agreement on increasing the funding for the Peacebuilding Commission to even a 1% level of that of peacekeeping operations annually. Building the Peace cannot be a voluntary pursuit. It has to be a common objective of all. For its part, India is a regular contributor to this effort. As part of our traditional south-south solidarity for development cooperation, at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit, India has extended

concessional credit worth US \$10 billion, and doubled scholarships for African students to 50,000 over a 5-year period. India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation which is responsive to the needs of African countries. It is demand-driven, free of conditions and provided in a non-prescriptive manner.

- (iii) Third, ever-expanding terror networks have endangered the peace and security of African region in unprecedented ways. From Boko Haram to Al Shabaab, these terrorist networks are increasingly connected to terrorist networks from all around the world. Our response to terrorist threats remains less than satisfactory. The price of this indifference has been immeasurable. A scaled-up response is required. No easy recipe exists. Scaling requires working through additional partners, both regional bodies and states. Coalitions and bilateral relationships will be critical to complete key tasks. A strong, effective and coherent response that reflects the international community's collective commitment to defeat the scourge of terrorism is essential in Africa as elsewhere.

Mr. President,

5. The complex nature of modern conflicts makes it necessary to respond to the changing needs of our times. In the African Union, the UN has a willing partner. We hope the adoption of today's resolution will lead to specific steps in that direction.

Thank you, Mr. President.
