

**UN Security Council
Open Debate
Peacebuilding in Africa
28 July 2016**

INDIA STATEMENT
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal
Deputy Permanent Representative



Mr. President,

We welcome this discussion on Peacebuilding in Africa, that is of relevance not only for the African continent but for all of us in our inter-dependent world.

2. India has longstanding engagement with Africa. We have worked together for de-colonialisation and anti-apartheid, for the rights of the developing countries, and now are significant development partners. Indian contingents have served in 22 UN peacekeeping missions in 16 African countries so far, including 6 countries presently.

3. India has engaged actively on international peace and security issues, including at the Security Council. India remains the largest cumulative troop contributor to the UN peacekeeping efforts and is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception. We appreciate the complexity of the changing nature of conflicts and the challenges for conflict prevention and building peace.

4. India firmly believes that conflict prevention and resolution have to be, primarily, a political activity. Also, peace and security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider development related issues and a more holistic approach is needed to prevent conflict and build peace.

Mr. President,

5. The Peacebuilding Commission is not taken seriously enough so far at the UN. Its funding is completely inadequate funding, not even 1% of peacekeeping budget. We need to empower the Peacebuilding Commission through adequate resources, capacities to gauge the requirements on the ground, and a serious consideration to its advice by the Council.

6. The recent adoption of the resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the issue of sustaining peace, reflect a growing recognition by the international community to the longer term importance of peacebuilding efforts, an aspect that is still not fully grasped. We especially welcome the emphasis given to the importance of sustainable development, economic growth and enhanced funding.

Mr. President,

7. Last year we finalised the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda that underscore the importance of sustainable development in building peace and security. The African Union also adopted Agenda 2063 last year incorporating a similar vision envisaging extensive strengthening of institutions and capacities.

8. The spirit displayed during the adoption of SDGs is, sadly, not matched in the discussions on collective resource mobilisation to achieve common goals. This once again betrays a lack of appreciation that in today's world there cannot be islands of peace and prosperity. We can see this all around us in the cross-border reach of terrorist groups, the growing refugee crisis, outbreaks of pandemics and spread of hate ideologies.

Mr. President,

9. In the last couple of decades, the AU and some African regional groupings have undertaken peacekeeping initiatives in around 20 conflicts inside Africa. Coordination between the Security Council and the AU Peace & Security Committee has become institutionalized. Over the last one decade, several African countries have emerged as major troop contributors. Six of the top 10 TCCs currently are from Africa, which today contributes the largest number of personnel to Peace keeping. There are 38 African countries who provide more than half of all UN peacekeepers; 60% of its international civilian peacekeepers and 80% of its national peacekeeping staff. This is separate from non-UN Peacekeeping participation by our African friends that accounts for several thousand more. We welcome these developments, including the recent decision by the AU to achieve greater self reliance in terms of their peace and security budget through a Peace Fund.

10. The AU, the regional organisations and national governments in Africa are best placed to address most of the challenges facing their region. It is, however, the responsibility of the international community, in our collective interest, to strengthen their capabilities.

Mr. President,

11. The huge success of the Third India-Africa Forum Summit of last October, where all our 54 African partners participated, has taken our longstanding and growing partnership to an even higher level. This has been reinforced by a series of visits to Africa by our President, Vice President and Prime Minister in the first half of this year. Our cooperation with Africa has focused on sharing expertise, resources and help build capacities as per their own priorities.

12. The areas of cooperation include education & vocational training; healthcare; women empowerment; constitutional & parliamentary processes; digital connectivity for tele-education & tele-medicine; e-governance; clean energy; agricultural productivity; agribusinesses; climate change adaptation, disaster management; blue economy & maritime security; infrastructure & trade, investment & technology linkages.

13. In the past five years, India has offered nearly 25,000 scholarships for more than 300 training programmes at over 60 institutions for Africa. In the last decade, a total of almost US\$ 9 billion in concessional credit was approved for nearly 140 projects in more than 40 African countries, with special emphasis on LDCs and SIDS partners.

14. The first ever Female Formed Police Unit provided by India and deployed in Liberia received recognition as role model for pursuing gender balance. Earlier this week, a course on UN Peacekeeping for African partners, commenced in India in cooperation with the US government. This is aimed to assist in building capacities in African TCCs to help the regional efforts to maintain peace and security.

15. All these efforts have played a part in assisting Africa in building their own capacities in terms of human resources, institutions, appropriate technologies, infrastructure and employment opportunities. Many of these efforts have been in countries emerging from long periods of conflict. All these help bring development, improve lives and help build peace and prosperity.

Mr. President,

16. What continues to elude us is the real comprehension of the importance of sustainable development to building peace and security and even more importantly the indivisibility of peace and security across borders in today's world. Unless there is this comprehension and consequently the political will to address these issues over longer term, conflicts would continue to obstruct our collective better future.

Mr. President,

17. Last week, India demonstrated its commitment to the cause of peacebuilding in the UN context, by making a contribution of USD 1 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope that other partners would come forward in committing resources, including at the pledging conference on Peacebuilding in September.

Thank You.