



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

**at the
Security Council**

**Maintenance of international peace and security
"Conflict prevention and sustaining peace"**

New York, January 10, 2017

Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY. 10017*

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by congratulating your delegation (Sweden) and the delegations of Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Italy and Ethiopia for the beginning of their tenure as elected members in the Security Council. I would also like to commend the excellent job done by the five outgoing delegations of Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, and Venezuela. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, for his very comprehensive briefing.

Mr. President,

The idea of preventive diplomacy is rooted in the purposes and principles of the United Nations, which are defined in its Charter, in particular Article 1, paragraph 1, (and I quote): “*to maintain peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace*” (end of quote). It inspired successive Secretary-Generals, from Dag Hammarskjöld (your fellow citizen, Mr. President), to Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and our current Secretary-General, to move the United Nations from “a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention”. It was also the central piece of many debates in the Security Council including the one organized by Lebanon in September 2011 entitled “*strengthening and consolidating preventive diplomacy*”. This concept has been reinvigorated in three global policy reviews and many reports and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Suffice it to mention here the preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goal 16.

Yet, at the beginning of 2017, our world continues to face a multitude of challenges: from occupation and protracted conflicts, to large movement of refugees and migrants to extreme violence, terrorism, violation of human rights, and crisis in global governance. Today’s debate should be an opportunity to sharpen the existing tools on prevention and to restore our faith in multilateralism to push forward the agenda for peace and its sustainability.

In an attempt to answer the questions in your concept note framing the debate, allow me to highlight the following points:

The United Nations currently has at its disposal in the field of conflict prevention a significant array of assets, including the Secretary-General’s good offices, envoys, resident political missions, United Nations country teams, “horizon scanning” briefings, the Mediation Support Unit of the department of Political Affairs, regional offices, peacekeeping operations, groups of friends and their diplomatic support, fact finding missions, inquiries and investigation. We look at the Secretary-General for a reinvigorated approach to strengthen these assets and streamline their roles. The close cooperation between the Council and an effective and efficient secretariat is pivotal in our preventive endeavors. Moreover, Partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, youth, women, civil society and academia will improve the early warning systems to identify the source of tension, to address it and to consolidate national, regional and international support to accompany peaceful and developmental processes built on the respect of human rights.

We, Member States should remain committed to achieve the reform of the United Nations which will strengthen its ability to fulfill its mandate in our increasingly interconnected world with its new threats to peace and security.

While respecting the respective mandates of different organs, the nature of these challenges requires an integrated approach within the United Nations. It is imperative to build on the preventive initiatives taken by other agencies such as UNESCO in the field of education, and UNDP in the field of good governance, democratic processes and election just to name few.

Mr. President,

My region, the Middle East, is a clear example of the importance of having on top of our agenda the need to address the root causes of conflicts. Moreover, in the context of conflict prevention, shall I remind this council of Lebanon's initiative in 2016, to seek, based on the Charter of the United Nations and operative paragraph 10 of UNSC resolution 1701, the "good offices" of the Secretary General in the delineation of the disputed maritime border and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between Lebanon and Israel, emphasizing that the non-resolution of this issue shall remain a source of conflict that threatens the peace and security in our region.

The authority entrusted to the Secretary-General in Article 99 of the charter to "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security" should always be considered in the context of shared responsibility in maintaining peace and security.

Regular briefings, frank "horizon scanning", and open debates just like the one we are having today, will help pave the way toward collective ownership of conflict prevention and sustaining peace.