



Remarks

by

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Vice-President

on behalf of

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations
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Excellencies,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the General Assembly, I would like to thank you for a very stimulating and insightful debate and I am sure that we are leaving here with important new ideas and insights on this very important topic.

At the outset, please allow me to thank the moderators and panelists for their rich contributions, as well as the UN Secretariat staff who supported this event. In our discussions, we have taken on the issues of peace, security and stability, which are fundamental and basic to living lives of dignity and opportunity. Many of us here are fortunate to have grown up in safe and secure homelands, but many around the world do not share the same fortune and over the past days, they have been close to our thoughts.

Throughout your interventions, you made abundantly clear that there can be no peace and stability without development and no development without peace and stability. We heard from you that the three pillars of the United Nations system – human rights, development and peace and security – are intrinsically linked and require a holistic approach.

Yesterday morning, you told us that rather than securitizing development, our objective is to humanize security. You addressed a number of critical concepts such as sovereignty, measurability, universality as well as how to get to the root causes of conflict and what the role of international law should be.

Further, you spoke to us about the role of women of peacebuilding, the “price” – If you will – of our current military expenditures, how to involve governance at the local level; the need to improve law of enforcement; and the importance of freedom of expression, social integration and interregional cooperation, among others.

In the afternoon session, we focused on how responsive, transparent and strong institutions are essential for overcoming poverty, as well as promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. There were numerous topics discussed during this panel; to name but a few, we heard about the need for efficient, transparent and accountable law enforcement and criminal justice systems; the threat of corruption; how the international community can support national institutions; the role of democratic and citizen participation in areas such as overseeing public goods and the right to protest; the challenge of inequalities; the need for long-term capacity building; and that international organizations should become more democratic in their own operations.

This morning, we turned our attention to partnerships. We were reminded that peace cannot be imposed from the outside. National and local ownership is essential to forge people-centered partnerships, which are aligned with national priorities. The importance of sound institutions and an enabling economic environment providing job opportunities was highlighted. We heard numerous examples of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards building institutional capacity, promoting gender empowerment, supporting elections and community dialogue or reintegrating ex-combatants. It was also underscored that partnerships are needed at the global and regional level to address external stressors that fuel instability and conflicts such as illicit drug trade, arms trade and trafficking, illicit financial flows and trade in conflict commodities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We know all too well how violence and instability rip through the fabric of societies leaving a trail of destruction and poverty. In your interventions, you reminded us of the burden and sorrow they bring to families and societies and you brought many valuable suggestions and recommendations to our attention. I hope these discussions will inspire you in your respective areas of work as well as form a useful contribution to the ongoing processes to elaborate the post-2015 agenda.

A summary of key messages highlighted in our discussions will be prepared and shared with Member States, the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Development Financing. These key messages will be followed by a more substantial report of the discussions and presentations.

With our collective resolve, we can design an ambitious post-2015 agenda that truly leaves no one behind and that supports all societies, including those grappling with conflicts and instability, in their efforts to build a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.
