

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

The increased complexity and geopolitical changes in the world dictate a strong need for adoption. The Pact for the Future emphasizes the necessity to review all forms of United Nations peace operations. Albania firmly supports UN initiatives and activities aimed at maintaining international peace and security, upholding international humanitarian law, managing arms control, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation, fostering sustainable economic development, addressing climate change, ensuring good governance, enhancing security, and advocating for the protection of human rights, including women's rights, as well as supporting women's empowerment.

Albania advocates for reforming the United Nations and its major bodies to enhance the Organization's capability to address emerging challenges and threats to international peace, security, and development.

Albania remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the UN Charter. We are convinced that a rules-based international order, supported by effective multilateral institutions, is the best way to ensure peace, security, respect for human rights, development, and prosperity. Our commitment to the UN Charter is unwavering, and we will continue to uphold it in all our endeavors.

Today's crises and challenges know no geographic borders. Therefore, we believe that close collaboration with other Member States is the most effective and sustainable approach to finding common and impactful solutions to global challenges, ranging from climate change to refugees and poverty eradication. We are much stronger when we collaborate, and regional cooperation plays a crucial role in this collective effort.

I want to echo the independent study commissioned by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations on "The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities," which presents 30 plausible models to inform thinking about future UN missions with the proper Security Council mandate will

responses to a broad range of threats and challenges we face nowadays.

Coming from the region of the Western Balkans, I would like to emphasize the indispensable role of the UN Peacekeeping Missions, which stopped the genocide and the ethnic cleansing during the bloody wars in the 90s in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo. I take this opportunity to express Albania's gratitude to all men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations.

Albania's unwavering support for UN peace operations is demonstrated through the deployment of police and military personnel to South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Georgia. Additionally, our active participation in peacekeeping missions in Mali, the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO), and others underscores our commitment to global peace and security. For the last 3 decades, over 9,000 Albanian military personnel have contributed to peace operations.

Albania supports UN initiatives aimed at increasing the efficiency of UN Peace Operations in the future. In this context, it is important to reform the UN's approach to peacekeeping, aligning resources with actual needs and ensuring that peacekeeping operations remain relevant and efficient. Therefore, periodically reassessing each mission's effectiveness and relevance is essential.

Albania considers the United Nations Mission in Kosovo—UNMIK—to have long completed its role. Since the mission's inception in 1999, the situation has fundamentally changed, with Kosovo becoming an independent, democratic state with functional institutions. A gradual closure of UNMIK would reflect a pragmatic approach to peacekeeping that balances cost-efficiency with the evolving political realities on the ground. Shifting the focus towards areas where UN peacekeeping could have a more substantial impact is a logical next step to ensure resources are directed where they are most needed.

At the regional level, Albania actively fosters regional cooperation and maintains good neighborly relations. Regional cooperation remains one of Albania's primary foreign policy priorities.

Albania is committed to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1325 at the national level. We have adopted a yearly budgeted National Action Plan, including costs, and increased women's participation in the security sector and missions and operations abroad.

Our foreign and security policy promotes protecting and advancing human rights as a foundation for mutual trust and respect. This policy aims to foster cooperation with various regional and subregional organizations. We believe that progress in human rights-related matters—civil, cultural, economic, political, and social—is a fundamental component of crisis prevention.

In countering violent extremism and terrorism, Albania has supported policies and practices that address all drivers. The focus remains on countering terrorist narratives, both online and offline, while promoting religious harmony and respect for cultural differences as effective measures against rising ethnic tensions, intolerance, and violent extremism.

Last but not least, we have drawn attention to addressing the adverse effects of climate change as part of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. Climate change is not only an environmental phenomenon but also a human behavior and one of the main security threats of the 21st century. Wherever climate change threatens people's livelihoods, the international community must intervene before conflicts erupt or escalate.

Thank you.