Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand and my own country, Slovenia, with South Africa as an observer. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach into the policies and programmes at international, regional and national levels.

The Network advocates a people-centered, holistic approach to human security, complementing the more traditional notion of security with the current global challenges. As such, a human security approach is the perfect tool to create synergies among the various pillars of the UN system – peace and security, development and human rights – thereby increasing the effectiveness of action in all three areas. We are therefore very pleased by this timely initiative that highlights the connection between inclusive development and the maintenance of international peace and security.

History has proven time and again that peace, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We are therefore pleased that 2030 Agenda for sustainable development incorporates such thinking and thus includes elements of a human security approach.
Development which is anchored in human rights will undoubtedly help sustain peace and security by preventing some of the root causes of conflict from emerging in the first place.

To achieve sustainable development and sustain peace, the world needs inclusive partnerships. Only by working together and breaking down the silos can we ensure a comprehensive response to global challenges.

When confronting multiple challenges affecting different countries, societies and communities, human security proposes responses that encompass the elements of peace and security, development and human rights – the three interdependent pillars of the United Nations system. Its prevention-oriented approach allows for a timely and effective policy planning, addressing underlying causes of threats endangering prospects for peace, stability and development.

In addition, we must ensure that no one is left behind, placing more emphasis on the empowerment of all segments of the population, including women, youth and the elderly.

Furthermore, international organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society actors working in various fields must come together to ensure integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals. Through engaging communities in the development and implementation of solutions to the current and imminent challenges, the human security approach has led to more effective and sustainable responses, which promote the inclusion of all stakeholders.

With this in mind, we call upon all present here today to integrate the human security approach into their policies and programs, to help address the global challenges at hand and to provide for sustainable peace, a cornerstone of empowered and inclusive societies.

Thank you.