



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 March 2016

Excellency,

In November 2015, I confirmed my intention to organize a high-level thematic debate on 10-11 May 2016 in order to engage in a strategic reflection about today's challenges to international peace and security, the means, tools and instruments available within a UN-context to address these and examine how to strengthen the role, coherence and performance of the United Nation's architecture in the field of peace and security.

Since then, the General Assembly, its Committees and other relevant bodies have given further consideration to the recommendations emanating from the major reviews and processes on UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security, in particular.

This reflection on ways to draw out synergies from all those reviews and processes has gained considerable momentum and should contribute to inform the high-level thematic debate itself. More information is available on this address:

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/hltd-peace-and-security/>

The debate will take place as the world is considering how best to implement the ambitious and wide-ranging 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change. The UN will also select its next Secretary-General in 2016 to lead the UN in this and other such vital tasks.

I hope that this crucial high-level thematic debate will draw the highest possible level of participation from your government. Further details are enclosed in the attached short outline and provisional program.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft'.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

In a World of Risks: A New Commitment for Peace

10-11 May 2016, Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

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The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, will organize a high-level thematic debate of the UN General Assembly focused on UN, peace and security, on 10-11 May 2016. This event will be a platform to identify key threats and engage in a strategic reflection about today's challenges to international peace and security. Furthermore, it will allow for a consideration about the means, tools and instruments available within a UN-context to tackle these challenges as well as the responsibilities and institutions required for an effective collective security architecture.

Building on the common trends and synergies from the most recent UN peace and security reviews, including the review of UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture review and the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, as well as a series of coordinated, independently organized regional workshops and seminars, the thematic debate will take place as the world is considering how best to implement the ambitious and wide-ranging 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change and who – as the next Secretary-General – will lead the UN in this and other equally vital tasks.

The format will combine a high-level plenary segment with interactive sessions, including a ministerial-level lunch on the first day, specifically designed to engage participants and to encourage reflection on how to address today's threats and achieve sustainable peace – internationally, regionally, nationally – and how the UN system can support Member States as the primary actors.

Member States will be invited to participate at the highest possible level. Observers, UN entities, civil society, research institutions with global and regional reach, media, and other stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

A provisional outline of the event is attached. For more information about the regional workshops and seminars, please refer to the President's webpage: www.un.org/pga/70/events/hltd-peace-and-security/

In a World of Risks: *A New Commitment for Peace*

10-11 May 2016
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN

Provisional programme

Day 1	Tuesday 10 May 2016
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<p><u>Opening Segment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the United Nations General Assembly• H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc) <p><u>Keynote speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key note address
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p><u>High-Level Plenary:</u></p> <p><i>In a World of Risks: Today's threats to international peace and security</i></p> <p>What are the unique international peace and security challenges of our time? How can the UN respond to these threats, in particular those emanating from non-state and transnational actors?</p> <p>Format: Statements by high-level Member States representatives.</p>
1:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	<p><u>Ministerial Lunch Event - Delegates' Dining Room - West Terrace</u></p> <p>The Next Secretary-General in a World of Risks: <i>Expectations vs. Realities.</i></p> <p>Format: An informal, moderated discussion.</p>
3.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	<p><u>Observed Trends in a World of Risks: What does the evidence show?</u></p> <p>Format: Short presentation of empirical research and trend lines by eminent expert.</p>
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<p><u>Input from the field – main conclusions from regional workshops</u></p> <p>Format: Brief outline of main conclusions from the regional workshops organized and led by a series of prominent research institutions, think tanks with global and regional reach.</p>

3:30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	<p><u>Interactive session 1:</u></p> <p>Sustainable Peace in a World of Risks: <i>Is the UN effective in preventing and managing conflicts?</i></p> <p>Are the means, tools and instruments available within a UN-context to tackle today's threats to international peace and security adequate? Do they effectively motivate confidence in UN peace operations – and do they sufficiently incentivize coherence and consistency in the UN's support?</p> <p>If “Motivation + Incentive = Action” then what – in a UN-context – is specifically required to transform political will to mainstream prevention into action and impact?</p> <p>Format: Panel discussion designed to encourage interactive exchanges, incl. Q&A and remarks from Member States.</p>
Day 2	Wednesday 11 May 2016
10:00 a.m.- 11:25 p.m.	<p><u>Interactive session 2:</u></p> <p>Responsibility for Implementation: <i>Beyond the current conundrum</i></p> <p>What partnerships are required for achieving sustainable peace and where does responsibility and accountability lay? How does this relate to the existing UN institutional structures?</p> <p>Format: Panel discussion designed to encourage interactive exchange incl. Q&A and remarks from Member States.</p>
11:25 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.	<p><u>Interactive session 3:</u></p> <p>Leading by Example: <i>Innovative partnerships and responses</i></p> <p>Format: An informal, moderated conversation followed by Q&A about examples from the field looking above and beyond the most widely applied approaches, exploring examples focusing on cross UN-system approaches to anchoring peace and reconciliation.</p>
12.55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p><u>Closing Remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the United Nations General Assembly