
I. Background

Since taking office, the Secretary-General has prioritized conflict prevention and the need to better assist African countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General has also stressed the need for greater strategic operational and policy coherence in United Nations system support for Africa, particularly on the nexus between peace, security, human rights, humanitarian efforts and development.

Similarly, at the continental level, African leaders adopted Agenda 2063 as the roadmap for Africa’s structural transformation, with prevention at its core. These mutually reinforcing and complementary Agendas underscore the peace-development nexus, thereby reaffirming the need for a whole systems approach that aligns the various dimensions of peace, security, governance and socio-economic development.

The two agendas further emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder and collaborative partnerships in ensuring their effective implementation. The United Nations and the African Union have since signed two Joint UN-AU Frameworks on Peace and Security and Development to further the implementation of both Agendas, with a focus on peace, security and development.

Using the Sahel Region as a case study, the session will address the United Nations’ efforts to reinforce the peace-development nexus, including in its efforts to end conflicts and terrorism in the region; end poverty, hunger and inequality; advance opportunities for climate smart agriculture; improve access to social services such as education and health; invest in renewable energy sources; build strong institutions and partnerships; and take action on climate change, desertification and environmental degradation in the region.

II. Objectives

- Ensure a common understanding of the peace-development nexus, as a strategy to accelerate the achievement of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
- Promote better coordination amongst development partners for advancing Africa’s priorities.
- Promote a dialogue to advance coherence, coordination and integration of United Nations system support for Africa, in general, and for the Sahel region in particular.

III. Guiding questions

- What are the challenges to ensuring that the UN works in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner in addressing the peace-development nexus in Africa?
- How do we engage women and youth to achieve sustainable peace and development?
- How can we further coordinate the efforts by multiple stakeholders to support renewable energy projects and climate-smart agriculture across Africa, and in the Sahel Region?