

- My task is to highlight key findings and recommendations in the report of the High Level Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) that are of particular relevance to the work of ECOSOC and the ongoing dialogue series.
- The primary purpose of peace operations, as a spectrum of conflict management tools, is to move parties from violence to politics, create a secure and propitious political environment for the implementations of agreements and lay the foundations for less reversible and in the long run self sustainable peace.
- HIPPO devotes a sizeable section of its report to sustaining peace, as the central objective of peace operations, beyond the short-term stabilization tasks entrusted to them. The section highlights the impediments/deficits that stand in the way of achieving peace and suggests ways of overcoming these deficits. HIPPO is of the view that peace would remain elusive as long as it is pursued in isolation from, political, development and human rights endeavors. It suggests that the conceptual work done by the G7+ and offered in the World Development Report of 2011 on security, jobs and justice provide the foundation for pursuing these strands in a holistic way.
- It should therefore come as no surprise when the report, making reference to SDG 16 of the 2030 development agenda states that, “inclusive and equitable development is a pillar for sustaining peace and that the United Nations should take into account economic dimensions, including livelihoods and jobs, transparent and accountable management of natural resources, including revenues, land and, and particularly in zones of conflict, basic services. “
- On the issue of jobs, HIPPO is firm in its view that inclusive politics and youth employment are fundamental pillars for sustaining peace. It believes that “ educational systems must be rebuilt and young people involved and given voice in rebuilding their societies. Middle and small enterprise generation can make a positive impact on creating work opportunities, particularly for youth employment- as can jump-starting the agricultural sector”
- The report contends that one of the reasons that approaches to conflict prevention and sustaining peace remain ineffective is that more often than not, root causes and conflict drivers are not effectively addressed. It suggests that, “ the United Nations has not invested enough in addressing the root causes of conflict. It must do this in partnership with others, whilst strengthening its own capacities to undertake prevention work, including through inclusive and equitable development.”

- It calls on Special Representatives of the SG/ heads of peace operations” to ensure that mission structures and coordination arrangements with UN country teams provide for an integrated approach to justice, rule of law and human rights.” It further suggests that “ at UN headquarters the Secretary-General should enhance his or her efforts to bring together all parts of the UN system” so as to address the requirements of peace in a holistic manner.
- The reports recommends that an independent review of the current capacities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programs to aid in sustaining peace and their potential enhancement should be undertaken, taking into account the Analysis and recommendations of this report and all of the Advisory Group of Experts for the review of UN Peace Building Architecture.”
- As many of you recall, the title of the HIPPO report is “ Uniting our Strengths for Peace: Politics, Partnerships and People”. The Panel is of the view that people’s peace, security, development and human rights needs are indivisible and in fragile and conflict affected contexts should be pursued in a holistic way. If peace operations are to achieve the impact for which they were created, we need to address the conceptual and structural siloes that are stymying the effective pursuit of the peace and security agenda of the United Nations.