

Africa Dialogue Series 2021

Cultural Identity and Ownership: Reshaping Mindsets

Session III: Geopolitical Session

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, on “Sustaining Peace for Sustainable Development”

26 May 2021, from 3 – 5 pm

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, brothers and sister,

1. At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa for convening this important interactive public policy forum that always offers a good opportunity to debate about challenges and opportunities for Africa. It is also a pleasure being among the distinguished speaker of this session.
2. As highlighted in the program of this session, I will focus my intervention on “sustaining peace for sustainable development”.
3. I will begin by reiterating a phrase we often say and repeat, but yet to be concretized on the ground, which is “there is no peace without development, there is no development without peace”.
4. The Aswan Forum for sustainable peace and development, which is an annual forum owned by Africa and was launched during Egypt’s

Chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in 2019, has been an important step in that direction, as it seeks to operationalize the “peace-development nexus”, by championing African solutions to African problems, including through strengthening the links between policy and practice.

5. The Discussions in the Aswan Forum over the past two years have shown that for this to be achieved, there is an urgent need for a paradigm shift from “crisis management” to “conflict prevention”, anchored in a national and continental vision and ownership of the development and peace agenda.
6. This would unleash the full potential of existing frameworks and leverage the complementary mandates, resources and expertise of available institutional structures and mechanisms. It would ensure that operationalization of the “peace-development nexus”: (1) is proactive, rather than reactive; (2) breaks silos and achieves integration, coherence and coordination of actions of various actors on the national, regional and international levels; and (3) embraces complexity, rather than simplifies it, in the planning, design, and implementation of operational engagements, programs and projects.

Excellencies,

7. The United Nations has a pivotal role to play in accompanying the African continent in its path towards sustainable peace and development.
8. The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is well positioned, through its unique convening, bridging and advisory roles, to lead efforts aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of sustaining peace activities in Africa through mobilization of international support and attention as well as coordinating and aligning international support with the continent's peacebuilding needs and priorities.
9. In this context, and as an African Chairmanship of the PBC, Egypt remains fully committed to ensure that the UN peacebuilding architecture's (including PBC and PBF) engagement in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa will continue to receive the requisite attention as the continent occupies 80% of the PBC agenda.
10. In this connection, allow me to share with you some highlights on the progress achieved and the way forward:

First: in fulfilling its advisory role, the PBC continues to advise the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC on African matters under its consideration. Most recently, the PBC advised the General Assembly on the latter's resolution on "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" on

practical means for the UN system and the African Union to collaborate in support of the AU's evolving effort and ownership of its sustaining peace efforts.

Second: We must continue to leverage the PBC's role to promote and expand partnerships with Regional and Sub-regional organizations, as well as International Financial Institutions, with a view to ensure more efficiency and coherence in support of peacebuilding efforts.

Earlier this year, the PBC partnered with the WTO and joined the "Trade for Peace" T4P Network which is meant to assist conflict affected countries in the accession process to the WTO.

Moreover, we are exploring ways to better utilize the annual joint meeting between the PBC and the AU PSC to advance the AU- UN strategic partnership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace at both strategic and operational levels.

Third: It is important to continue to enhance the overall performance of the UN system in delivering on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, taking into account the impact of UN reforms, which should advance a more coherent and effective actions.

Fourth: The world is still grappling with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 twin resolutions on the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture recognized that progress towards achieving

the SDGs could be hampered, and peacebuilding and development gains reversed, and emphasized the need to integrate peacebuilding and sustaining peace into efforts to build back better.

The PBC, as it was the first to quickly respond to the pandemic, will continue to play its role in mobilizing support for recovery efforts in countries under its consideration.

Last but not least: Ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, is critical for the ability and effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts. Financing remains the most critical challenge facing the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. Member States must continue to explore options to realize that objective, to be submitted to the high level GA meeting next session. The PBC will continue to convene relevant stakeholders to generate action oriented recommendations to that end.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.