Report

2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture African Regional Consultation Report

30 June 2020

Contents

1. Executive Summary

The 2020 United Nations (UN) peacebuilding review takes stock of the progress made over the first 15 years of the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA). ACCORD consulted a number of stakeholders in Africa on their experiences to date with the PBA between March and May 2020, culminating in a virtual webinar consultation that took place on 10 June 2020 in partnership with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the African Union (AU) Commission.

The 2020 UN peacebuilding review has a special interest on the impact of peacebuilding efforts at the field level. In this regard, ACCORD decided that the theme for its African Regional Consultation will be "Sustaining Peace in Africa: Local Capacities for Peace". Inputs received for the African Consultation show that despite policy commitments to local ownership and investments in **local and national capacities for peace**, the funding, coordination, planning, and the state-centric decision-making structures still favour UN agencies, international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and national authorities. Local peacebuilders are not sufficiently involved in the identification of needs, the framing of the issues or the design of the programmes and results frameworks.

The majority of those who were consulted for this report had little knowledge of the **Sustaining Peace** concept. Those who are more familiar with the concept feel that the degree to which it emphasizes local and national ownership, early preventative action, and system-wide cooperation, collaboration, and coherence is exemplary. However, they felt its implementation strategies or mechanisms were weak.

Even before **COVID-19**, there was concern about the degree to which the international, regional, and national systems valued and mobilized funding towards sustaining peace. Now, with an emerging global recession in the wake of COVID-19, the challenge for peacebuilding financing is even more accentuated. Almost all peacebuilding initiatives and programmes have been affected by COVID-19, and especially the measures introduced to prevent the spread of the disease. Many activities necessary to prevent, manage, and redress tensions and violent conflicts have been disrupted.

The AU and UN's exemplary work to operationalize their strategic **partnership** at the political and Commission-Secretariat levels now needs to move to a more meaningful partnership in the field where AU, UN, and other partners are still operating largely in silos alongside each other. COVID-19, climate change and other such system-wide social-ecological stressors should motivate these partners to work closer together, including with national and local peacebuilders, to maximize their collective capabilities and resources, and to focus their efforts where most needed.

Women continue to be disproportionately affected by structural and material barriers that limit their participation in peacebuilding activities. For the UN Peacebuilding Architecture to strengthen its relevance to **women**, it has to move away from the state-centric, blueprint-focused, and technically oriented approaches. A field- and people-oriented approach is needed, rooted in the local context with strengthened local and national capacities for peace. It is time to shift from demonstrating inclusion to assessing the quality of the involvement of women and youth, assessed against the agency they have to influence the purpose and content of the peacebuilding programmes that they are meant to benefit from.

Young people are affected by conflict, yet they are excluded from peace and decision-making processes. Generally, programmes are designed by practitioners or experts who are far removed from the lived realities of young people. Local **youth**-led organisations and networks have a nuanced understanding of the local context and know how to navigate the environments in which they operate. However, they face various barriers in accessing funding as few donors fund youth-led initiatives directly.

Since the previous UN peacebuilding review in 2015, the impact of climate change on people's lives has become noticeable. Investing in local and national capacities for peace is critical, as local and national resilience, adaptive capacity, social capital, and social cohesion are critical for communities and societies to withstand shocks and climate-related stress. Thus, peacebuilding has to develop better ways in which international, regional, national, and local peacebuilders can support and strengthen local and national capacities for peace, taking into account climate-related peace and security risks.

2. Background

The 2016 twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) call for a "comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding architecture" to be conducted during the 74th session of the General Assembly (GA). Resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) request the Secretary-General to submit to the GA, at its 74th session, "a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture, focusing on the continued implementation of resolution 70/262, and progress in the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace."

The **2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture** takes stock of the progress made and looks forward to reflecting on, and enhancing, the work of the United Nations (UN) on peacebuilding. This exercise places particular emphasis on implementation at the field level, taking into account the context of the ongoing reforms of the UN. Member States and UN agencies have been encouraged to engage with relevant think tanks, policy and academic institutions, and regional organisations to organize **inclusive thematic and regional consultations** to review the progress on the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture and produce an outcome report to be shared with relevant stakeholders.

In collaboration with the South African Government, ACCORD and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), were set to organise an African Consultation for the 2020 Peacebuilding Review in Durban on 17 and 18 March 2020, with the theme: "Sustaining Peace in Africa: Local Capacities for Peace" However, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 virus outbreak a pandemic on 11 March 2020. In line with the COVID-19 directives and in consultation with our partners, ACCORD took the decision to cancel the Durban meeting and hold a virtual seminar instead. In preparation for the seminar, a questionnaire was sent out, and based on the dozens of inputs received ACCORD has prepared this draft African Consultation Report.

The virtual webinar consultation took place on 10 June 2020. It was co-organized by the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), the AU Commission, and ACCORD. The discussion was introduced by a panel comprised of: Dr Vasu Gounden, Founder and Executive Director, ACCORD; Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda, DIRCO, South Africa; Ms Sandra Adong Oder, representing Dr Admore Mupoki Kambudzi, Director, Peace and Security Department, AU Commission; Dr Sarjoh Bah, Chief Advisor, Peace, Security and Governance, AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN; Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, member of the Independent Eminent Persons panel for the 2020 Review of UN Peacebuilding, and Mr Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Dr Cedric de Coning, Senior Advisor, ACCORD, facilitated the consultation, and more than one hundred and forty (140) people participated from African civil society, governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the AU Commission, and the UN system.

The African Consultation process had a particular focus on six African countries, namely: Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Lesotho and The Gambia. The countries were selected in consultation with the UN taking into account the following criteria: countries on the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) agenda, countries in which the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has made investments, countries where the AU and the RECs are engaged in, and countries where ACCORD has offices or programmes. In addition, ACCORD consulted with representatives from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the AU, the UN, PBC Member States, African and international Civil Society Organisations involved in peacebuilding work in Africa, and international peacebuilding partners. This African Consultation Report is based on the inputs received via the questionnaires, comments on the contributions made on the draft report, as well as on the discussion and comments posted during the 10 June 2020 webinar.

3. Local Capacities for Peace

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace calls for inclusive national ownership and people's participation in peace processes, transitional justice, and a prevention-based approach to development. The 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture seeks to emphasize the impact of peacebuilding efforts at the field level.

Local peacebuilders are the front-line responders when it comes to mitigating the impact of violent conflict, preventing escalation, and finding solutions for local grievances. However, despite policy commitments to local ownership and investments in local and national capacities for peace, the funding, coordination, and planning mechanisms, and state-centric decision-making structures still favour UN agencies, international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and national authorities. The funding that does reach local peacebuilders is typically activity-based and does not include core funding that can be used to build or expand the capacity of local peacebuilding organisations or make them more sustainable.

Most peacebuilding funding still seems to flow from donors via multi-lateral agencies or international NGOs, and these 'middle-men' consume significant proportions of the funding themselves. They, in turn, partner with local peacebuilding organisations for the actual delivery of the outputs. The local peacebuilders are not sufficiently involved in the identification of needs, the framing of the issues or the design of the programmes and results frameworks. As a result, local peacebuilders lack the opportunity to contribute their local and context-specific knowledge, insights, and networks effectively, which is the intended value that they are meant to provide to support the planned activities. Instead, their roles are often reduced to event organizers, where they are only expected to convene local participants for events that have been designed by others.

Many of the challenges that civil society is facing today are similar to those raised in the 2015 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review and the 2018 Secretary Generals' Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. If the UN peacebuilding system is to move the needle on local ownership and investing in local and national capacities for peace, then it would need to address the systemic and structural barriers that are currently relegating local peacebuilders, especially women and youth, but also chiefs and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, to a peripheral role in peacebuilding.

For example, in The Gambia, there are tensions and instability associated with questions of unresolved disputes over farmland and cattle track trespassing. Land ownership claims, and related transactions and practices related to land-lending and land-borrowing, are becoming significant sources of conflict. Natural resource-based conflict and its impact on the environment also contribute to communal tension and violence. The Conflict and Development Analysis, conducted in 2018 and 2019, highlights the need to invest more appropriately and continually in the process of participatory analysis and related national capacity-building activities to orient and adjust peacebuilding programming investment.

As reforms and policies develop, investments must also be made to build institutional capacities in mediation, dialogue, collaborative negotiation skills, processes, and systems, in both government and civil society sectors at national and local levels. This can be drawn upon, and deployed more readily, in flash-point situations such as those related to the management of land disputes, de-escalation of security sector tensions, or crises revolving around food security.

4. Sustaining Peace

The majority of those who were consulted for this report had little knowledge of the Sustaining Peace concept. Those who are more familiar with the concept feel that the degree to which it emphasizes local and national ownership, early preventative action, and system-wide cooperation, collaboration, and coherence is exemplary. However, they felt its implementation strategies or mechanisms were weak. Those who were not aware of the concept were sceptical of the potential value of a new normative framework when the existing peacebuilding concept is poorly understood outside of the international funding community.

There is broad agreement that peacebuilding should include conflict prevention; to include the earliest possible stages when emerging tensions are not yet identified as 'conflicts.' This implies that development and other measures, such as food security, climate change adaption, gender equality, public health, and education needs to be comprehensively employed to contribute to greater inclusion of women, youth, and other context-specific marginalized groups to sustain peace and avoid harm.

5. The Impact of COVID-19

Even before COVID-19, there was concern about the degree to which the international, regional, and national systems valued and mobilized funding towards sustaining peace. Now, with an emerging global recession in the wake of COVID-19, the challenge for peacebuilding financing is even more accentuated. Almost all peacebuilding initiatives and programmes have been affected by COVID-19, and especially the measures introduced to prevent the spread of the disease. Many activities necessary to prevent, manage, and redress tensions and violent conflicts have been disrupted.

ACCORD's COVID-19 Conflict and Resilience Monitor has established that COVID-19, and the measures taken to contain it, adds considerable additional stress on weak governance systems, formal and informal social institutions and coping strategies. This means that the social capital, resilience, and social cohesion of many communities and societies in Africa are forced to absorb, process, and adapt to additional pressures, without, in most cases, additional resources or capacities to cope with the added stress. Under these conditions, an increase in negative coping strategies, social unrest, and even violent conflict is more likely, and such trends are already emerging in several countries in Africa. At the same time, the established response mechanisms to these developments have been disrupted at all levels (local, national, regional, global), and the amount of funding, and thus the related capacity and scope of the responses, is likely to shrink in the face of the global recession, at least in the short-to-medium term. The COVID-19 crisis has simultaneously increased the need for investment to sustain peace, and disrupted and reduced the capacity to scale up and respond to the increase in demand for peacebuilding.

6. Peacebuilding Partnerships

Some progress has been made in the area of partnerships. For example, at the level of the PBC and the AU's Peace and Security Council, as well as the PBF funding for Human Rights observers in the AU office in Burundi. Another positive example to highlight is the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin. This strategy demonstrates that multi-lateral cooperation at the sub-regional level, when amplified, echoed, and supported at the AU and UN levels, can significantly contribute to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace.

A number of best practices are emerging. The Regional Stabilization Strategy in the Lake Chad Basin connects the networks to the capabilities and resources of the local, sub-regional, and multi-lateral governance mechanisms. Thus, it serves as an example of how such strategic frameworks can be used to connect key stakeholders both horizontally and vertically. It also establishes mechanisms and instruments that facilitate and institutionalize stakeholder roles in co-governing a shared social-ecological system. It does so by mobilizing and leveraging political, technical, and financial support at sub-regional, regional and international levels, and by focusing on locally coordinated context-specific needs-driven initiatives. The cooperation between the Office of the Special Envoy of the Great Lakes (OSESG) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), particularly the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, is another example of a peacebuilding partnership with a regional focus.

However, these examples are rare, and much more needs to be done to develop more meaningful peacebuilding partnerships across Africa. One such area that needs further attention is the relationship between the PBF and the AU's Peace Fund. Another is the AU's African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) that encourages South-South inter-African exchange and cooperation. Countries like Nigeria already have a sizeable exchange programme, and valuable lessons have been learned from the secondment of civil servants from countries in the region to South Sudan. The ASI can benefit from better alignment with UN and other peacebuilding efforts in Africa, to make better use of existing expertise based on a shared regional context and similar peace trajectories in neighbouring countries, or others that share a language and/or other characteristics.

The AU and UN's exemplary work to operationalize their strategic partnership at the political and Commission-Secretariat levels now needs to move to a more meaningful partnership in the field where AU, UN, and other partners are still operating largely in silos alongside each other. COVID-19, climate change and other such system-wide social-ecological stressors should motivate these partners to work closer together, including national and local peacebuilders, to maximize their collective capabilities and resources, and to focus their efforts where most needed. The partnership is not an end in itself. The transaction costs are only justifiable if it leads to a more significant impact on the ground and on the lived experiences of those that these peacebuilding initiatives are meant to benefit and support.

7. Women and Peacebuilding

Women continue to be disproportionately affected by structural and material barriers that limit their participation in peacebuilding activities. They often have to continually prove that they are 'qualified' to participate in political fora, and we see a tendency to give women symbolic roles in internationally driven processes. Too often women are included at the peace table as token additions or engaged superficially in peace talks without any formal role or follow-up and are void of any real impact. Women Mediation Networks have emerged as one of the more effective ways in which women have organised themselves to participate in peace processes.

Overall, efforts to advance gender equality have been haphazard and not truly 'mainstreamed' in a meaningful, comprehensive, cross-sectoral, or coordinated way. Increasingly, research and practitioner's guidelines argue that the mere inclusion of women does not per se increase the probability that more peace agreements are signed and implemented; and what makes the difference is the influence women have on the process. Thus, there needs to be a 'twin-track' (i.e. gender mainstreaming and gender focus) that delivers greater numbers of women (defined quantitatively) and more impactful outputs (defined qualitatively).

For the UN Peacebuilding Architecture to strengthen its relevance to women facing the double burden, it has to move away from the state-centric, blueprint-focused, and technically oriented approach. A field- and people-oriented approach is needed, rooted in the local context with strengthened local and national capacities for peace. The AU, RECs, and UN-led peacebuilding initiatives must assess the extent they have meaningfully involved women and youth at the local level in the conceptualization, design, development, implementation, and evaluation of their programmes. It is not only necessary to demonstrate inclusion but to assess the quality of the involvement of women and youth, assessed against the agency they have to influence the purpose and content of the peacebuilding programmes that they are meant to benefit from.

At its core, translating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) normative framework into meaningful outputs requires political will, access to more funding, influence, and decision-making power for girls and women during times of crisis and peacebuilding. For the WPS framework to create this access, a 'pipeline' is required to build reliable links between international resources and local women-focused Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who are at the forefront of building resilience against the outbreak and effects of conflicts and other emergencies.

Within this context, the consultations have identified several key challenges/opportunities:

a. Limited/inaccessible funding for local CSOs, especially those with a focus on women and youth.

b. Inadequate attention to psycho-social support for victims (in particular women and girls).

c. Women and youth CSOs are not meaningfully engaged in decision-making. Limited coordination between international actors and women and youth-focused CSOs.

d. Capacity sharing/building opportunities favour regional/continental agenda's over CSO priorities.

e. Insufficient accountability to and for local CSOs.

f. Inadequate and low-level reporting from donors regarding successes, failures, and lessons learned from their implementation of gender-related peacebuilding projects, even those financed by the PBF.

8. Youth and Peacebuilding

Young people are affected by conflict, yet they are excluded from peace and decision-making processes. Generally, programmes are designed by practitioners or experts who are far removed from the lived realities of young people. The donors' priorities or those of implementing organizations (usually an International NGO) determine the issues to be addressed. Local and national consultations tend to be tokenistic, exclusive, and generally treated as once-off events, and capacity building programmes are designed with youth as recipients only.

Local youth-led organisations and networks have a nuanced understanding of the local context and know how to navigate the environments in which they operate. However, they face various barriers in accessing funding as few donors fund youth-led initiatives directly. Usually, Youth Peace and Security (YPS) programmes benefit the educated and connected – the "elite youth." These elite youths do not necessarily represent the perspectives of most youth.

YPS is a cross-cutting issue that intersects with WPS, social protection, and peacebuilding programmes. Youth engagements with political and governance structures and policy-makers are slowly gaining traction and momentum. Many African countries do not yet have national youth policies, and where they do exist, they are either outdated or unimplemented. As organizations compete for scarce resources, there tends to be little room for collaboration or coordination. As a result, programme fragmentation and duplication have been the norm. Where data exists, it is usually contextually blind, and does not capture regional or gender disparities. Weak data leads to over/under-estimating programmatic impact, which can result in inadequate and ineffective policies or strategies. Based on these challenges, the consultations have generated the following recommendations:

a. Conduct evidence-based and participatory research to understand the complex and nuanced lived realities of youth in conflict settings, their challenges, opportunities, trends, trajectories, and contributions. Such research can be made more effective if youth are trained as researchers and if it is disaggregated by age, gender, geographic location, education, and other factors.

b. Inclusive and evidence-based policies must be formulated in conjunction with youth, and formal and informal mechanisms of participation should be supported and strengthened to ensure the meaningful participation of youth in peace processes. A clear youth roadmap should be established. Political support must be mobilised to ensure that policies and strategies are implemented and evaluated.

c. Support and strengthen local and national capacities: enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders in the youth engagement space (youth-led/focused organizations, government, CSOs, International NGOs, academia, etc.) in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of context-specific programmes, with the meaningful engagement of youth in conflict prevention, transformation, and peacebuilding.

d. It is important to leverage existing mechanisms, structures, and knowledge systems.

e. Supporting inter/intra-generational dialogues fosters a collective understanding of the needs, perspectives, roles, and contributions of young people as well as building bridges, trust, and counter negative stereotypes.

f. Support, strengthen, and build the organisational capacity of youth-led/focused organisations and initiatives: the capacity building should not be limited to conflict management. To access funding and ensure that they have accountability mechanisms in place, training in financial management, participatory action research, and report writing

is essential. To strengthen and provide a platform for innovation and new initiatives from the youth.

g. Ensure national and local ownership through funding modalities that allow grassroots organisations, that would not typically receive funding, with the opportunity to collaborate with established institutions and benefit from their technical expertise and leverage on their networks. For example, the PBF funding modalities allow local NGOs, community-based organisations, or women and youth networks to have a say in the design of activities, how the funds are used, the target beneficiaries, and most importantly, allows for local decision-making.

h. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems by strengthening local and national capacities to collect and analyse more targeted and timely data and document and evaluate impact at various levels.

9. Climate Change and Peacebuilding

Since the previous UN peacebuilding review in 2015, the impact of climate change on people's lives has become noticeable. According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) August 2019 special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, Africa is disproportionately affected. Twenty (20) of the fastest-warming countries globally are in Africa. In a sample of thirty (30) African countries, two-thirds or over 60% of them are warming faster than the rest of the globe. This trend is projected to continue in the coming decades.

Many African countries are economically dependent on natural resource based-sectors, which account for roughly one-third of GDP and are a basis for food security, employment, and development. As these sectors, most notably rain-fed agriculture, are likely to be acutely affected by climate variability, populations that depend on them are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Climate change exposes and compounds vulnerabilities that are inherent in social-ecological systems – especially in conflict-affected environments. Climate change may prolong or escalate violent conflict, inhibit peacebuilding, further stress weak governance systems, and undermine communities' resilience and social cohesion.

Both the AU and the UN systems are developing and improving their early warning and assessment tools to include climate change related security risks. Their partnership arrangements should be scale-up to give more space and attention to climate-related peace and security risks. It is also essential that they cooperate with other peacebuilding actors across the globe and develop better tools and guidance for factoring climate-related peace and security risks into peacebuilding planning and practice.

Investing in local and national capacities for peace is critical, as local and national resilience, adaptive capacity, social capital, and social cohesion are critical for communities and societies to withstand shocks and climate-related stress. Thus, peacebuilding has to develop better ways in which international, regional, national, and local peacebuilders can support and strengthen local and national capacities for peace, taking into account climate-related peace and security risks.

10. Conclusion

This African Consultation Report has benefitted from inputs received from representatives from African governments, the AU Commission, RECs, African CSOs, especially women and youth groups, as well as from partners, international CSOs, and the UN system. ACCORD is grateful for these inputs and the active engagement of DIRCO, the AU Commission and the UN's Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in this consultation process.

Together with the reports of other consultations that took place in Africa and elsewhere in the world, this report will be submitted to the UN Secretary-General in order to inform the UN's 15-year review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. This report will also serve as an input into an initiative coordinated by the AU Commission to develop an African common position on the 2020 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

ACCORD appreciates the spirit within which the UN has embarked upon a review of its peacebuilding architecture every five (5) years, and is committed to continue to support this process of learning and adaptation, alongside DIRCO, the AU Commission and other partners, as it has been doing since the first review in 2010.

2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture

African Regional Thematic Consultation

"*Sustaining Peace in Africa: Local Capacities for Peace*"

Questionnaire

(Deadline 20 March 2020)

Background

The 2016 resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) call for a "comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding" to be conducted during the 74th session of the General Assembly. Resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) request the Secretary-General to submit to the GA, at its 74th session, "a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture, focusing on continued implementation of resolution 70/262, and progress in the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace."

The 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture will take stock of progress and look forward, with the view of further improving the work of the UN on peacebuilding, with emphasis on implementation at the field level, also taking into account the context of the ongoing reforms of the United Nations. Member States and UN entities have been encouraged to engage with relevant think tanks, policy and academic institutions and regional organizations to organize inclusive thematic and regional consultations to review the progress on the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture and produce an outcome to be shared with relevant stakeholders. In preparing his 2020 report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the Secretary-General is encouraged to consider these outcomes.

The South African Government and ACCORD, in association with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (PBBA) organised an African Consultation for the 2020 Peacebuilding Review in Durban on 17 and 18 March 2020. However, as you are all aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) upgraded the status of the COVID-19 virus outbreak from an epidemic to a pandemic on 11 March. In order to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, and in consultation with our partners, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), ACCORD have decided to cancel the review workshop.

We are still keen to obtain your reflections and inputs on the 2020 Peacebuilding Review, and in this context we would highly appreciate it you can complete the attached questionnaire and return it to us by 20 March 2020. We will then compile your responses in a report which we will submit to DPPA/PBSO by the end of March. No one will be quoted in the report and your responses will not be shared with anyone beyond the two persons responsible for writing the report – Nontobeko Zondi and Cedric de Coning- so we invite you to be frank and critical in your reflections.

Local capacities for peace

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace calls for inclusive national ownership and people's participation in peace processes, transitional justice and a prevention-based approach to development. The 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture will emphasize the impact of peacebuilding efforts at the field level. Local peacebuilders are often front-line responders when it comes to mitigating the impact of violent conflict, preventing escalation and finding solutions for local grievances. This African Regional Thematic Consultation will consider what "sustaining peace" means for local peacebuilders and will highlight examples of positive results of building and sustaining peace at sub-national and community level. This consultation will focus in on the experiences of six African countries where UN, AU, regional organizations, national and local peacebuilding initiatives have made an attempt to build and sustain peace and the local level. Through a series of guiding questions participants will be invited to reflect on key factors for success at the local level and elaborate on the main challenges and potential for extended support.

Questions:

1. In your experience, how has the new sustaining peace approach influenced policies, strategies and activities in your and your institution's peacebuilding work? What, if anything, has changed in your peacebuilding work over the last 5 years? (max 500 words)

2. In your country experience, have peacebuilding partnerships been established or strengthened at the sub-national and local level? And if so, has it had an effect of sustaining peace? Please give examples. (max 300 words)

3. In your country experience, what kind of support has local peacebuilding actors received, what challenges remain, and how can they be addressed? In particular, can you reflect on the extent to which the local actors in question has taken the lead in determining their needs, requesting support and in how they have made use of the support provided? Has the support been evaluated, and if so, to what degree has the local actors been involved in the evaluation? (max 500 words)

4. Can you share examples, from your country experience, that demonstrate progress (or lack thereof) in the development of local capacities for peace among local authorities and civil society to prevent the outbreak, escalation or recurrence of local conflicts? (max 300 words)

5. Please share any other reflections you may have on progress (or lack thereof) with the implementation of the UN's peacebuilding and sustaining peace policies and reforms. (max 500 words)

Please return your responses to: nontobekog@accord.org.za and cedric@deconing.net before or on 20 March 2020.

AFRICAN CONSULTATION ON THE 2020 REVIEW OF UN PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE

"Sustaining Peace in Africa: Local Capacities for Peace"

Wednesday, 10 June 2020 @ 15:00–16:30 SAST; 16:00–17:30 East African Time (+2 GMT)

MODERATOR

Dr Cedric de Coning
Senior Advisor, ACCORD

SPEAKER

Dr Admore Mupoki Kambudzi
Director, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission

SPEAKER

H.E. Amb. Mxolisi Nkosi
Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda of South Africa, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), South Africa

SPEAKER

Dr Vasu Gounden
Founder and Executive Director, ACCORD

SPEAKER

Mr Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations

SPEAKER

Amb. Liberata Mulamula
Independent Expert Panel, 2020 UN Peacebuilding Review

SPEAKER

Dr Sarjoh Bah
Chief Advisor, Peace, Security and Governance, African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

Note: Dr Admore Mupoki Kambudzi, the Director of the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission had to attend to urgent Peace and Security Council business, and was represented in the webinar by Sandra Adong Oder, a Senior Civilian Policy Officer in the Crisis Management, Post-conflict Reconstruction & Development Division of the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.

Annexure III: Webinar Registration Report

Registration Report			
Report Generated: June 10, 2020 4:58 PM			
Webinar ID: 93 195 837 637	**# Cancelled**: 1	**# Approved**: 227	
Topic: **AFRICAN CONSULTATION ON THE 2020 REVIEW OF UN PEACEBUILDING**			
Attendee Details			
First Name	**Last Name**	**Organisation**	**Job Title**
Manjula	Marimuthu	ACCORD	Coordinator
Edward	Mulbah	Liberia Peace building Office	Executive Director
Aziz	Pahad	Concerned Africans Forum	Board member
Dawit	Yohannes	ISS	Senior Researcher
B. Abel	Learwellie	Camp for Peace Liberia	Executive Director
Ashraf	Swelam	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peackeeping and Peacebuilding	Director General
Clifford	Collings	ADC	COO
Alia	Aboushanab	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	Research Assistant
Nouran	Mahran	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)	Research assistant in Peacemaking and Peacebuilding
Audun S.	Fostvedt-Mills	Permanent Mission of Norway to the African Union	Deputy Head of Mission / Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Abigail	Noko	United Nation	Regional Representative
Irantzu	Pinillos	OHCHR	Human Rights Officer
Kjertsi	Tromsdal	Norway Mission	Minister Counsellor
Liezelle	Kumalo	ISS	Researcher
Lidet	Tadesse	ECDPM	Policy Officer
Yvette	Ngandu	Aprm	Senior conflict prevention advisor
Rebecca	Adda-Dontoh	UNDP	Peace and Development Advisor
Jairam	Reddy	ACCORD	Board Member
Martti	Eirola	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	Senior Adviser on Africa Policy
Rolane	Eissa	CCCPA	Program Associate
Ashley	Neat	ECDPM	Research Assistant
Benoit	Pylyser	Challenges Forum International Secretariat	Strategic Adviser
Mariam Gamal	Geris	Ministry of Health	Public health Specaislt
Victor	Moinina	World Food Program Ethiopia	Programme Policy Officer
Kangah Hermann	Ahoua	GIZ / AGYI	AUV Alumni Advisor
Marina	Kumskova	GPPAC	UN Liaison
Jonathan	Marley	OECD	Policy Analyst
James	Murray	ACCORD	Programme Officer
Hassan	Amadou Arifa	REUEMOA	Président
Jordi	Reo	African Island Youth Organization	Co-Founder and Director of Trade & Tourism
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Note: This list of webinar participants contains only those people who had registered for the webinar.

Annexure IV: Comments and questions from the 10 June 2020 Webinar

Women and Youth in Peacebuilding:

- Twenty years after UN Resolution1325 on women and security, the participation of women is still weak. Women are often at the forefront of regime change and revolution but they are often put aside on peace process and peacebuilding.

- The lack of meaningful engagement in decision-making processes by women and youth CSOs and the limited coordination between international actors and women and youth-focused CSOs are some of the main obstacles blocking the advancement of the WPS and YPS agenda. What new measures can we advocate for, as part of the Peacebuilding Architecture review, to address these challenges effectively?

- Generally, there appears to be a gap between the global/regional policies on peacebuilding and actual implementation on the ground because most often, women and youth groups and CSOs who implement these polices are not involved in the policy formulation process. To what extent does the UN and the AU/RECs involve Women and Youth Groups at the local level in the conceptualization, design, development, and implementation of the global and regional agenda. How can we improve qualitatively and quantitatively the participation of African women and youth in the peace process on our African continent?

- The conflict settlement on the local level was on the agenda, and this aspect was not sufficiently covered. The role of youth and women is unavoidable in restoring peace devastated by conflict; it should be emphasized. The best way to get a sustainable peace is to go from the bottom to the top. Another issue is the consultation with the most concerned segments of society. It is not possible to create conditions for peace without the participation of the victims of the conflict. In the case of a civil war, when the parties join the mediation process, mainly women and youth are absent in the consultations. The politicians have their interest marked by political nature. The consequence of this situation is the inadequate capacity of the parties to implement the reached peace deal.

Peacebuilding Funding:

- Funding is one of the main pillars of fulfilled peacebuilding; how do we harness enough resources to implement peacebuilding activities, primarily when the rhetoric of multi-lateralism focuses on the individual country instead of the collective good?

- COVID-19 led the world to a global health crisis and the brink of an unprecedented financial recession. Considering that peacebuilding initiatives have already been affected by pressure to reduce costs, it would not be surprising if these financial cuts are enhanced in the coming years.

- How can peacebuilding initiatives become more responsive to an environment where there are increasing financial constraints on the one hand, and pressure for more cost-effective initiatives on the other hand?

Local Peacebuilding:

- Within the context that security is administered by some and received by others, it ultimately creates uneven power relations between people. In this regard, coordination with local leaders, e.g., chiefs, are often male-dominated, and therefore issues regarding women empowerment, curtailing gender-based violence and abuse are often, practically in many societies, merely agenda issues. Are there any strategies the AU will incorporate into their agenda in order to stop this trend?

- The Role of Peace Education and Transitional Justice in our education system in Africa must be intensified, the peacebuilding commission must also promote human security principles beyond state security, the funding of peacekeeping missions must be audited and be free from corruption and lastly the role of cultural diplomacy in peacebuilding.

- Accelerating peace in our communities requires enhancing active engagement and participation of actors at the local level who are the primary stakeholders. Active involvement of youth, women, community leaders, community peace structures, CSOs, and local governments is vital for ownership and sustainability. Equally important is the need to prioritize conflict prevention – to transform from reaction to prevention.

- Conflict does exist between the politicians and traditional authorities who both serve and lay claim to the same communities for their base and power. Complementarity should come in this instance rather than a struggle for supremacy, one over the other.

- When talking about voices from below, traditional leaders should also be an essential part of peacebuilding, especially when state infrastructures are absent in local communities.

- The success of peacebuilding and sustaining peace means that the views, needs, and experiences of people most affected by issues at hand co-determine the policies and actions affecting them, and require progress across all four

pillars of the UN's work.

- Strengthening local ownership requires attention to be given both to local peace agents and to local authorities who are the interface between the state and society. Hence, local authorities must have adequate mandates, capacities, and resources delegated to them to effectively contribute to sustaining peace at that level.

- Local peacebuilding is critical. What is the existing mechanism to encourage countries to build their own national and local peacebuilding architectures? Ghana has an excellent example of the National Peace Council, but very little is heard of what the other countries are doing?

- How viable is it to form equal partnerships with traditional structures for peacebuilding in countries like Burundi, South Sudan, and the Lake Chad area?

Partnerships:

- How can the AU and the RECs help UN peacebuilding interventions improve their analysis and responses to regional and cross-border challenges? Moreover, how do we envision the complementarity between the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the AU Peace Fund?

- Working in several communities across Africa – we have noted innovative practice and interventions rooted in local and traditional practices that are securing peace, promoting reconciliation, and social cohesion in pockets in countries like South Sudan, Mali and The Gambia. How do we leverage these gains, and how do we support this innovation through funding and resources? No recognition is given to local actors and efforts – if NGOs and the state do not lead interventions, these interventions and successes are not part of the broader peacebuilding strategies. The solution for durable peace lies with Africans and communities.

- What is the value add of the UN-AU collaboration at the regional and continental level to justify sustainable funding from and the strategic engagement of member states post-COVID in the face of the much-needed funding for local peacebuilding initiatives?

- National ownership and leadership are essential. Partnerships, particularly at the national level, between beneficiaries and the government, state and non-state actors, are critical to nationally driven successful processes.

- Another critical issue is subsidiarity. The channels are known: UN, AU, RECs.

- It is time for all the RECs to play their role in the sub-region. Their capacity to take charge of the conflict in their respective zones is of paramount importance. Sometimes weak RECs do not engage in peace processes, and the AU comes in, sometimes with the UN, and also some competition is observed. This attitude does not help to resolve the conflict sustainably. During the debate, the capacity building of the peacemakers has not been highlighted, which remains a crucial issue.

- More often than not, active multi-stakeholder engagements are hindered by diverging philosophies, capacities/resources, mandates, and appetite for risk.

- How to coordinate to make all initiatives of the UN and AU effective and having tangible impacts and how to influence the political decisions that will guarantee the achievement of all actions?

- Beyond UN Security Council Reforms and expanding the Security Council seat to Africa, the concept of veto power should be reviewed; it is making a caricature of the peacekeeping and building endeavor on a large scale.