

Electronic consultation on the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review

Written statement by Denmark on

Institution building and System-wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Mr. Chair,

Four years after the adoption of the twin resolutions of 2016 and two years after the publication of the report *Pathways for Peace*, we're making important progress toward a shared understanding and broadened commitment to the sustaining peace agenda. Now, the focus across the UN peacebuilding architecture and the wider peacebuilding community ought to be on operationalizing the sustaining peace agenda in order to achieve positive impact on the ground. In this regard, we still have some way to go.

Let me share *five priorities* for how Denmark would like to see the sustaining peace agenda taken forward, and what role the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can and should play in this regard:

System-wide engagement

In order to translate the ideas and principles of the sustaining peace agenda into tangible results on the ground, peace actors need to move from a shared commitment to the sustaining peace agenda to shared analysis and shared goals.

1. In this regard, the PBC should play a more systematic role as a platform for multi-stakeholder coordination and an integrated approach centred on **shared conflict analysis, formulation of context specific peacebuilding priorities and measuring of progress toward the goals**, while helping to promote nationally led and owned processes. Here, the Burkina Faso Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment (PPBA) could serve as a valuable example, and the PBC should serve as a platform for sharing experiences and good practices from this process. The PBC should also bolster its advisory role to the Security Council and ECOSOC, particularly on the issue of transitions.
2. The UN and the World Bank – together with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations – need to **align capacities, tools and resources**. Here we see three key avenues for action: (1) Joint operational guidance for sustaining peace; (2) Shared conflict analysis and end goals for country-specific sustaining peace efforts; and (3) Coherence in the designation of pilot countries, e.g. for the World Bank FCV strategy,

UN development system reform and other frameworks for advancing the sustaining peace agenda.

3. At the country level, we need to see **a more joined up UN system on the ground**. The empowered RC function along with the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UN Cooperation Framework are important steps in this regard. However, we still need to see Resident Coordinators fully assume the political leadership role required for successfully driving the sustaining peace agenda – including preventive diplomacy, conflict management and conflict sensitive development – in specific country contexts. The CCA process needs to be driven by shared strategic goals, rather than simply bringing disparate activities into a joint matrix.

Institution building

4. **Local civil society and government actors are key actors**, both for operationalising sustaining peace and for bolstering national institutional capacity for delivering essential services. Local government and civil society actors are essential for both basic service delivery and local conflict resolution and thus serve a critical role in maintaining and building trust in public institutions. We need to find ways to ensure that these actors can get the support they need – financial or otherwise – to deliver on this essential part of the sustaining peace agenda.
5. A key goal for institutional support programs should be to **contribute to social and economic resilience**. To a large extent, this relies on the nature of public institutions at national, sub-national and local levels. Resilience is essential for achieving sustainable development and for preventing the outbreak of violent conflict and is best achieved when institutions are effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive. The inclusion of and responsiveness to women and youth is particularly important to this end.

Thank you.