

Electronic consultation on the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review

Written statement by Denmark on

Financing and Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Mr. Chair,

Denmark shares the UN Secretary General's commitment to conflict prevention as the cardinal priority in our efforts to bring about positive peace and lasting human security. To this end, we see the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) as an important instrument, as part of the UN's broader Peacebuilding Architecture. A well-functioning Fund also plays an essential role in ensuring that the UN reforms on peace and security succeed. This is why Denmark was among the first set of donors to the Fund and the reason behind our recent decision to double our annual contribution in response to the Secretary General's call for a "*quantum leap*" in Member State support to prevent conflict and address their root causes.

We recognise the need for more predictable funding for peacebuilding and encourage further diversifying the donor base of the PBF. Denmark could also support a gradual transition to including assessed contributions to the PBF. However, we firmly believe that focus must be on efficiency and results as well as ensuring that the Fund plays the transforming role that was identified in the reforms.

Denmark notes that the Fund has proven particularly effective in the following areas, which we consider consistent with the priorities of the SG's reforms and critical to further advancing this agenda:

1. When it operates in complementarity with other funding streams, including UN resources channelled through multilateral humanitarian, development and peace instruments, bilateral assistance as well as assistance provided via the various international financial institutions (IFIs) serving as a catalyst for mobilizing more long-term assistance; and
2. When it offers a quick and flexible seed funding instrument for fragile settings, with focus on priority cross-cutting areas, such as women, peace and security and climate-security;
3. In addition, Denmark believes the PBF needs to constitute a funding instrument that continues to be risk tolerant, allowing the international system to innovate, learn new lessons and build new policy practice, when unprecedented challenges present themselves.

In order to enhance its complementarity with other funding instruments, the PBF could consider actively encouraging joint stakeholder engagements and possibly require reporting on achieved coordination and coherence. This is particularly important in the analysis and

assessment stage, and for this, collaboration would ideally extend beyond the close-knit UN family to also include IFIs and bilateral donors. Enhanced transparency and accountability in contributions could also help shepherd coherence. Finally, coherence in funding can be aided by ensuring strong national ownership and leadership, particularly in the phases of conflict analysis and subsequent priority identification for building and sustaining peace.

In terms of partnerships, we wish to underscore the critical importance of the PBF working closely with national and local stakeholders on the one hand, and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, on the other. Collaboration needs to go beyond the level of policy frameworks, to also include a more operational focus in support of strengthened field partnerships.

On the ground, local civil society actors and the private sector can play a key role in building and sustaining peace if partnerships are fostered and leveraged through a conflict sensitive approach. This involves, among other things, ensuring the meaningful engagement with and participation by women and youth entrepreneurs and civil society actors. The private sector, if appropriately leveraged, may serve as a key engine for economic reconstruction and recovery by offering jobs and livelihoods to people. Opportunities for financial partnerships and blended finance mechanisms should also be explored. Broader civil society, on the other hand, when properly empowered and included, offers to play a critical role in connecting peace processes at local, sub-national and national levels. Here, it is critical that the partnership is leveraged constructively to ensure a conflict sensitive approach to restoration and recovery.

The IFIs, and particularly the World Bank, play a key role in a country's reconstruction and recovery as well. This calls for better strategic alignment between World Bank funding streams for fragile and conflict affected settings and the PBF, as well as a shared framework for analysis and outcomes. One practical way to structure this work could be to kick off deepened UN-World Bank collaboration around an operationalization of the *Pathways for Peace* report in the countries eligible for funding from both the World Bank's new Prevention and Resilience Allocation under IDA19 and the PBF.

In closing, we wish to underscore that Denmark remains a committed partner for the UN peacebuilding architecture, in general, and the PBF, in particular. We are heartened by the progress seen in recent years on the policy side and look forward to seeing this progress translate into operational advances on the ground in fragile and conflict affected settings.

Thank you.