

## Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission

### 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

#### Financing and Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

##### Electronic consultation

##### Statement by Ireland

I would like to thank the Commission for convening this important meeting on Financing and Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

Let me be frank from the outset, for **Ireland the position is clear, as a matter of both principle and prudence – the international community needs to invest more in peacebuilding and we need to do it at an increased pace and with more consistency.**

**Ireland has been a committed partner of the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)** since its creation in 2005. We recognise its catalytic and strategic role in responding to, and preventing conflict. We particularly value its flexible and responsive approach; its strong commitment to women's empowerment; its increasing focus on youth and regional, cross-border conflicts and its active engagement in UN reform processes. Our contribution over the past three years of €6 million was double the original commitment made in 2017. We remain committed to providing multiannual and predictable funding for the PBF in the future. In addition to our national commitment to the PBF, Ireland is also working within the EU to increase the commitment, coordination, and effectiveness, of the EU's peacebuilding efforts and to build strategic links with the PBF as an effective peacebuilding instrument in the field.

Ireland **welcomes the publication of PBF's latest Strategy**, as well as the recent appointment of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board to the PBF and, in particular, the appointment of Ambassador Anne Anderson as its chair. In addition to our commitment to

the PBF, Ireland provides bilateral support to civil society organisations and governments to support peacebuilding activities across the conflict nexus.

Ireland, like others, is **concerned at the lack of progress on the comprehensive proposals set out by the UN Secretary General** in his previous reports, in particular his 2018 Report. We believe more could and should be done to make these proposals a reality, to address the fragmentation of peacebuilding funding across the UN system and to increase alignment and complimentary across the key UN funds – SDG fund, CERF and PBF, as well as diversification of PBF donors and greater coherence with World Bank investments.

We believe that **a combination of increased coherence, coordination and localisation is key to progress**. All sources of financing for peacebuilding must allow for peacebuilding initiatives to be community led and driven by locally agreed outcomes. We must not lose sight of the importance of financing – and importantly community-led financing - from a diversity of flexible sources.

In tandem, **supporters of peacebuilding must do more to need to raise the profile of peacebuilding within the UN system** and within our own systems. The Peacebuilding Commission remains an important arena for marshalling funding for peacebuilding and driving greater coherence. I speak from experience, having served on the PBC now for almost two years, I have seen how discussions in the PBC have helped to highlight where unmet needs exist. The PBC must continue this trend, showing an openness to host discussions on countries or regions not already on the Agenda and to thematic discussions as demonstrated by the recent Covid 19 discussions. Discussions we have been involved in, for example on Burkina Faso, have led to increases in our own funding to peacebuilding endeavours there.

Ireland believes that **local ownership** combined with **strong and effective partnerships is a key factor in successful peacebuilding**. We welcome efforts to make the UN, in particular, instruments like the PBC, Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office, a fulcrum, or ‘hinge’, around which we can engage key assets to prevent and resolve conflict. Ireland had the opportunity to engage in the World Bank consultation in advance of their

recently launched Fragility Conflict and Violence Strategy. We welcome the spirit of cooperation between the World Bank and UN in tackling conflict and working in collaboration. In addition, the increased partnership and coordination between the UN and regional organisations such as the African Union and EU is fundamental and already yielding results.

**More systematic and strategic joint analysis and alignment of efforts by actors in fragile states is vital.** In the field, one illustrative example of emerging partnership and its potential is recent work undertaken in Burkina Faso, where the African Development Bank, European Union, UN, and World Bank undertook the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment at the request of the Burkinabe government in June 2019. Following a scoping mission, the partners laid out priority areas for investment, which allowed them to adjust and reallocate their aid accordingly and informing the next UN sustainable development cooperation framework for Burkina Faso. This kind of collaborative exercise can lead to transformational change.

Ensuring an **inclusive approach** to peacebuilding is essential. Ireland has long been and continues to be an advocate in many fora for increasing the meaningful participation of civil society, in particular women and young people in peacebuilding. We support inclusive peacebuilding through our political, development and humanitarian work. The vision of the sustaining peace agenda is an inclusive one, we must work more effectively to ensure our funding and partnerships includes local civil society who are so often the agents of change in their own communities. Our approaches must be sufficiently flexible, adaptive and innovative to be able to respond to local need and support the localisation agenda.

### **Recommendations**

- **Continuing recent emerging good practices in the PBC** as a convener and amplifier of pressing peacebuilding needs, marshaling financial support and forging partnerships.
- **Strengthening partnership for sustaining peace:** Continuing the closer strategic and operational partnerships with international financial institutions (World Bank and

IMF), and with regional and sub-regional organisations (with a focus on joint analysis, and implementation);

- **More predictable, flexible financing:** More predictable funding is a key requirement, including for the UN Peacebuilding Fund. As outlined above Ireland believes the Review provides a concrete opportunity to achieve progress on the UN Secretary General's cogent proposals. A key part of this must be a focus on **localisation and ensuring initiatives are community led**.
- **Supporting local ownership, improving leadership and broadening inclusion:** Particular support should be focused on supporting local ownership, building national leadership and broadening inclusion with special attention to gender and youth;
- **Sustaining Peace across the conflict cycle (SDG 16):** Sustaining peace must be the thread that runs through the complete cycle of UN engagement with a strengthened focus on early warning, conflict prevention and engaging all actors across the triple nexus.

Finally, as we undertake this Review, it is vital that we capture lessons and emerging good practice to allow them to be scaled and adapted elsewhere. In addition, the strengthening of the focus on prevention and supporting transitions, which has begun, must continue.

In closing, I will recall the words of Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, that in these times of global upheaval and uncertainty, **'peacebuilding is not a luxury –it is vital to building back better.'** Ireland is committed to working constructively with member states and partners to make real progress in the years ahead.