



Statement submitted by Sonke Gender Justice in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Date: 30 September 2023

Distr: Restricted

Original: English



Secretariat Address: Sonke Gender Justice, 1st Floor, Sir Lowry Studios, 95 Sir Lowry Road, , Cape Town, 8001, South Africa, Tel: +27 21 4237088, Fax. +27 21 424 5645

Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke) is desirous of promoting lasting peace and security through an inclusive peacebuilding framework for global solidarity, and equitable multilateralism.

Consequently, Sonke submits as follows;

Item 1: - Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace – Priority issues!

- a.** The threat of nuclear weapons is an existential threat to everyone living on the face of the earth. **Eliminating nuclear weapons** is both a collective responsibility and a commitment to preserve humankind as we know it.
- b.** Prioritising **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is key for peace and security. Peacebuilding and eradicating conflict are essential for sustainable development. Conversely, conflict and violence have the potential to impair and erode progress on sustainable development.
- c.** **Promoting women's equal participation** in peace, security and, amplifying their voice in decision making. Transforming masculinities and dismantling patriarchy will enable women to fully contribute and benefit the prevention and resolution of conflicts.
- d.** **Supporting the African Union** is crucial to strengthen and consolidate Regional Mechanisms in the Operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This will help in to solidify solidarity and collaborative elements around working with sub-regional peace support operations and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- e.** Combating **climate change** and fully implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Item 2: - Addressing shared challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace – Summit of the future and sustaining multilateralism - key considerations!

- a.** To deliver on coherent and durable multilateralism, coalescing around **2030 Agenda and the UN Charter** is as instructive as it is promising. It is crucial to invest in pushing the 2030 Agenda as an essential element for eradicating conflict and curbing its recurrence.
- b.** **Build Trust:** Cultivating trust among member states including the security council. Refreshing commitment around the charter and reform on the constitutive elements of the Charter's architecture.
- c.** **Human rights and rule of law** holds great promise to rally together member states, providing value and currency for solidarity and identity. They provide a key rallying point and premise of commitment to sustain multilateralism amidst contestations of interests, agendas, and conflicts.

Item 3: - Priority setting - UN Peacebuilding architecture Review (2025)

- a.** Efficiency: Sonke believes that the Review (2025), should see the PBC thinking deeply on responsive, organic work formats that facilitate formal joint activities, and collaborative efforts with other UN agencies, commissions, and structures. The PBC should leverage on its advisory role to cross pollinate solidarity and multilateral cooperation principles using peacebuilding as a convergence premise. Consequently, its stakeholder profile and targets need to deliberately widen to maximise positive outcomes for multilateral cooperation.
- b.** Gender equality, women and youth inclusion should be prioritised as review parameters in line with Resolution 1325 of the Security Council.

Sonke is the secretariat of the MenEngage Africa Network (MEA). MEA is the largest regional network of the MenEngage Global Alliance.