

High-level Partner Event

Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

Remarks of the PBC Chair, H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima

Thank you very much for the invitation and the opportunity to contribute to this timely discussion. In my capacity as PBC Chair, I am speaking today from the perspective of a client if I may say so, having witnessed firsthand the important contributions of the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme, and those of the Peace and Development Advisors in particular, to the work of the Commission.

In recent years the Commission has benefited from enhanced and action-oriented United Nations analysis as a result of the reforms of the Organization's development and peace and security pillars.

The percentage of Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators or Resident Representatives briefing the Commission increased from almost 4% in 2020 to almost 18% in 2021, which indicates that the Commission has assumed enhanced importance as a platform for development-focused discussions in support of conflict-affected countries and regions, based on national priorities. The valuable contributions of RCs, with support from the Joint Programme, have helped enhance the Commission's understanding on the important role of United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in support of national peacebuilding priorities.

As the Commission embarks into its 2022 Programme of Work, it will continue to reinforce the principle of national ownership and to support country-contextual responses with a focus on effective delivery of development results on the ground. The contributions of the Joint Programme, working in synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund and other key instruments at the disposal of RCs, will be critical in this respect. The Joint Programme can also support and strengthen the capacity of a wide range of stakeholders including local peacebuilding organizations.

In preparation of the 2022 Program of Work, I have been consulting with representatives of countries and regions who engage with the Commission. Many have emphasized the need to continue promoting and supporting inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by empowering women and youth peacebuilders, as we have done recently in Burundi, Colombia, Central African Republic, Great Lakes, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Many countries have emphasized the importance of integrating peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the COVID 19 recovery efforts.

My counterparts representing the Sahel region, the Lake Chad Basin and the Pacific Islands continue to seek the Commission's attention in mobilizing support for peacebuilding challenges, including the impact of climate change on development and peacebuilding in those specific regional settings.

The role of the Commission is to encourage coherent support from multiple partners in response to such requests. In doing so, we will continue to encourage the innovative and context-specific peacebuilding initiatives under the Joint Programme, in synergy with the PBF. Peace and Development Advisors are one concrete example of an innovative and joint approach to conflict sensitive analysis and programming, thereby also giving tangible shape to the UNDS reforms and responding to the call of many countries for greater collaboration at country level.

Also, allow me to emphasize that the PBC is the only intergovernmental body which has adopted a gender strategy and action plan as well as an action plan for youth and peacebuilding. We strongly support global efforts to empower women and young peacebuilders. We would like to encourage the Joint Programme and all concerned United Nations entities to incorporate gender dimensions in their analysis based on verified, reliable and sex-disaggregated data. The Commission makes proper use of such data. A recent stock taking exercise showed that 94 percent of its submissions to ECOSOC, the General Assembly, and the Security Council between October 2020 and October 2021 contained references that support gender responsive peacebuilding. We are committed to keeping this practice up.

Finally, let me note the upcoming High Level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing in April. I look forward to constructive engagement in advance of this meeting, to formulate and agree on tangible steps to reach adequate, sustainable and predictable funding for peacebuilding.

Thank you for your attention.
