

EGYPT

The Permanent Mission of
the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations
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مصر

البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees
Permanent Representative of the
Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations**

**Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission 2020 Review
of the Peacebuilding Architecture**

**“Institution Building and System-Wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and
Sustaining Peace”**

22 May - 2 June 2020 (Online platform)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to thank you and the Peacebuilding Support Office for organizing this electronic consultation despite of the current difficulties. I also take this opportunity to thank all the briefers for their insightful thoughts shared with us through recorded videos.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt attaches great importance to the topic of our consultation, since building inclusive and responsive state institutions is indeed an enhancer of national ownership and leadership of peacebuilding efforts. Many literature analyzing the root causes of conflict in Africa affirmed that fragile and dysfunctional institutions contribute to severing the social contract between citizens and their governments, and hence, is a key conflict driver. Moreover, effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions help governments identify national and local priorities for building and sustaining peace, and lead implementation strategies thereof. Responsive, viable and inclusive state

institutions are, additionally, a central component of efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Along the same lines, viable and inclusive national institutions serve as critical foundation for long-lasting peace and stability, especially those that serve in delivering the basic functions of government. In conflict-affected and post-conflict contexts, governments with weak institutional and human capacities struggle to build confidence with local populations, which is an essential component of consolidating initial political and security gains. States that are able to deliver basic services, such as health, education, potable water and sanitation, as well as ensure access to justice, create the conditions conducive to reestablish livelihoods, and provide security, are better situated to gain the required confidence that help reestablish the social contract, hence contributing to building and sustaining peace over the medium to long-term.

In this connection, the 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture enshrined several guidelines and principles critical to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts, moving beyond quick fixes and short-term stabilization to creating prosperous and positive peace. Strengthening national ownership through building national and local institutions and capacities stands out as a central principle around which all other peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts revolve. We are looking forward to the ongoing review to assess the extent to which a whole-of-UN system efforts achieved tangible progress to this end. We are also keen for the review to result in concrete recommendations and commitments to enable UN cross-pillar policies and functions to impart deeper focus and more effective engagement in support of building and strengthening inclusive and capable national and local institutions.

Excellencies,

The COVID-19 outbreak tested the capacity and viability of state institutions worldwide. It revealed the need, now more than any time, to prioritize support for building resilient, inclusive and responsive institutions to deal with the pandemic's socio-economic destabilizing impacts that exacerbated existing grievances and unresolved root causes in conflict-affected and post-conflict situations.

In this context, I would like to share with you a few recommendations which emanated from the regional consultations that Egypt convened during its presidency of the African Union in November 2019, under the title the "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in Africa: Towards a Coherent Approach

to the Peace Continuum” which also constituted one of five preparatory workshop for the “Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development” held in December 2019, as follows:

- 1- There is a need to prioritize building and strengthening national and local institutions and enhancing human capacities to operate these institutions in conflict-affected contexts. As the role of the state in leading sustaining peace and development efforts is increasingly affirmed, the operationalization of national ownership, however, requires strengthened and capacitated state institutions capable of ensuring the integrity of the social contract.
- 2- Prioritization should inform programming and resource allocation, while applying a context-specific lens tailored to the cultural and social specificities, in order to avoid superimposing exogenous (and mostly irrelevant) models, that may deflect attention and resources away from accurate analysis of the root causes and assessment of the imperatives to address them.
- 3- In cases where state capacity/authority are either weak or non-existent, the UN should examine mechanisms for program design and implementation that address the short-term needs, while identifying partnerships aimed at addressing the medium to long-term objective of strengthening national and local ownership and capacities.
- 4- There is also the critical need to ensure a whole-of-government and inclusive approach to identifying national priorities. This requires UN and other partners’ support to nationally and/or locally-led processes and mechanisms aimed at facilitating dialogue among national and local stakeholders.
- 5- It is also imperative to bridge the existing gap between identifying political and programmatic objectives and the actual design, resourcing and implementation of context-specific programmes that could effectively respond to the outcomes of conflict analyses, needs assessments and nationally/locally identified priorities and goals. The UN must continue to pursue effective remedy to this dichotomy which has been hindering coherent, impact-driven and sustained system-wide engagement in support of building national institutions. In this connection, the activities and contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund over the past five years represent a repository of good practice that must be capitalized.

- 6- There is a need to rethink how peacekeeping assessed budgets can better serve peacebuilding and sustaining peace objectives during the life cycle of peace operations, from the onset of deployment and towards transition and exit. There is a need for peace operations to pursue a strategy that transcends the mere boosting of UNCT capacity towards greater focus on building and strengthening state institutions and mechanisms aimed at identifying and respond residual root causes and drivers of conflict.

- 7- Finally, and in view of the ongoing difficulty to allocate predictable and adequate financing for critical peacebuilding activities, it is imperative to prioritize and channel scarce financial resources towards efforts aimed at building and strengthening national institutions. This is a worthy investment in long-term and sustainable peace. We look forward to revisiting and operationalizing the financing-related recommendations previously presented by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Thank you,

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