



EU and Member States` Statement on Institution Building and System-wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

(Electronic Consultation on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture)

1. The 2016 Twin Resolutions on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture recognise the Peacebuilding Commission as a “dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring **a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts**” and encourage an improved cooperation and coordination in peacebuilding, “to **increase synergies and ensure the coherence and complementarity of such efforts**”.
2. The EU and its Member States have supported the development of a solid UN Peacebuilding Architecture since its establishment in 2005, including through the implementation of **UN reforms** ensuring that institutions, structures and instruments deliver tangible results. The EU and its Member States are at the forefront of promoting a more fit for purpose, efficient, transparent and accountable UN. We should **continue to work together** to ensure the success of these reforms.
3. Institutions and **institutional cooperation lie at the very core of European integration**. Through their normative and convening power, institutions enshrine a set of rules, processes and mechanisms supporting the elaboration and implementation of decisions, ensuring the vital link between societies, states and supranational authorities. EU institutional culture based on the respect for human rights, the Rule of Law, transparency, inclusivity, good governance and democracy safeguards the fundamental values and basic principles to which our societies are anchored. We advocate in this spirit continuous efforts **to develop and enhance institutional capacities** serving populations on the ground.
4. The **UN Peacebuilding Architecture** has become one of the tenets of the UN peace and security pillar, projecting coherence within the UN system as a whole, **enhancing cross-pillar cooperation and bringing together actors and partners** – old and new, and those within and ‘outside’ the system. Building and sustaining peace requires continuous efforts from all stakeholders to **ensure that peace is built and sustained through a truly integrated approach, especially at the operational level**, linking up conflict prevention, human rights and the 2030 Agenda, with particular focus on SDG16.
5. **The UN PBA needs to adapt to the new type of challenges that the world is facing today compared to 2015** – climate change, demographic changes and migration flows, forced displacement and humanitarian crisis. This includes challenges created or amplified by the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The pandemic is a **game changer** and a stress-test for the peacebuilding architecture and the global system. Attention has to be put on ensuring community resilience, supporting countries in imminent risk of or in conflict, as well as fragile countries. It can deepen existing conflicts and inequalities, generating new inter-communal and geopolitical tensions. That is why the European Union is one of the **earliest and strongest supporters** of the call by the UN Secretary General for a **global ceasefire**.

6. The EU and the UN share a strong commitment to the **conflict prevention agenda**. The Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture should be used as **an opportunity to explore how to further systematically institutionalise and incentivise conflict prevention**. Addressing grievances and the root causes of conflict is a prerequisite for enabling communities and individuals to engage in reconciliation and in building peace. It is key to countering social disintegration and breaking cycles of conflict.
7. Going forward, it is essential that the **UN Peacebuilding Architecture focuses its work on implementation** through further engagement with UN presences on the ground and building **new and innovative partnerships across all structures and areas of cooperation**. The **field perspective has to be strengthened, translating policy to actions and fostering a whole-of-society approach** that reaches a wider range of peacebuilding actors with special focus on women and youth. A shared understanding of peacebuilding in each unique context and a sense of local ownership of the peace process is required.
8. We advocate the **central role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in convening the various partners from the UN system** – from UN Agencies to inter-governmental structures to bring the added value of peacebuilding to the attention of the international community. Its unique role in bridging the three pillars of the United Nations should be further leveraged to **enhance a whole-of-system approach**. Through its advisory role to the UNSC and ECOSOC, the PBC can also play a critical role in complex situations calling for an integrated approach and preparations for transitions.
9. The EU welcomes the **enhanced advisory role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission towards the UN Security Council**, including in transition processes and the mandate renewals of UN peace operations. The PBC is particularly well-placed for sharing common analysis and developing joint recommendations. It is essential that this practice is further structured, and systematically fed by the work of the **Peace and Development Advisers** and the **Resident Coordinators** in the field. This will help to ensure both that support for building and sustaining peace is generated earlier on the process, and that it is sustained longer into the peace process.
10. Cooperation with the **International Financial Institutions** is essential in ensuring the viability and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. The articulation between the priorities addressed in the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the projects financed by the Peacebuilding Fund should be improved in order to **enhance the consistency between political aims and actions on the ground**. The UN should make full use of its most agile and rapid tool for peacebuilding and conflict prevention – the Peacebuilding Fund, and combine actions with its full range of political tools.
11. **Partnerships** are essential in sustaining peace: **regional and sub-regional organisations** often constitute the entry point to engage with local, national and regional actors for peace. **PBC partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations can be further institutionalised**, including both formal meetings and informal interactive dialogues building on best practice and already functioning mechanisms. The **PBC's network of partners should be widened** enhancing the meaningful participation of civil society and local actors.
12. Throughout its activities and the implementation of its **gender strategy, the PBC strives for empowering women's full, effective and meaningful participation in political and peacebuilding processes**. Equally, we **encourage the participation of youth in peace processes and decision-making mechanisms** as a matter of priority with a view to ensuring increasingly inclusive, participatory and context-specific engagements in support of building and sustaining peace.

13. **The way in which we respond to the current global crisis and proactively use the opportunities created will determine the future of multilateralism, which must deliver results for the people who need it.** The UN system and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture has a decisive role in tackling current challenges and ensuring a better recovery, gaining resilience and enhancing global solidarity. We should **use this crisis as a wake up call** to make sure that we shape a better version of the world tomorrow.
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