

## **2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture**

### **“Institution building and system-wide engagement for peacebuilding”**

**Electronic Consultation: 1 June 2020**

**- Written Statement by Germany -**

Germany congratulates the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, for his continued leadership in advancing the review process of the peacebuilding architecture in difficult circumstances. We also extend our appreciation to the insightful briefings shared as part of these consultations, among others by Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization.

The Review Process of the Peacebuilding Architecture 2020 is an important opportunity to take stock and to explore how we can further advance our efforts towards inclusive and effective peacebuilding.

“Institution-building and system-wide engagement for peacebuilding” integrates several key dimensions of peacebuilding: the importance of effective institutions for sustainable development, for peacebuilding and, therefore, also for reducing humanitarian needs; national ownership; and joint international action.

There is a shared understanding that advances in building peace, protecting human rights and in promoting development can only be realized in conjunction and that these are indispensable in order to reduce humanitarian needs in line with the triple nexus approach. We cannot talk about peace and security without considering the inherent link between human rights, sustainable development and sustaining peace. The human rights approach, just like the SDGs, pledges to leave no one behind and thus ensures inclusive development, which in turn contributes to prevent conflict. Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions play a central role in this context. They are not only a key objective of the sustainable development agenda. They are also a necessary component of building and sustaining peace as well as a vital instrument for reducing humanitarian needs.

To realize these objectives, institutions need to be able to effectively deliver services, to integrate perspectives and needs of those they serve, and to account transparently for their work.

The current public health emergency is an illustrative example for the cascading consequences across sectors, societies and regions. It is equally illustrative of the imperative

demand for cross-cutting responses, inclusive decision-making and transparent communication.

As we consider the international efforts to support national peace and institution building, the international community needs to reinforce and improve its support to national actors to meet these criteria, but also to reinforce and improve its own action, in line with the conclusions of the UN-World Bank report on “Pathways to Peace”: coherent, cross-sectoral strategies; integrated planning; joint, effective implementation.

Within this context, Germany seizes the opportunity of these consultations to underscore the following points:

- 1. State capacity:** State capacity lies at the heart of institution-building. Building state capacity aims at increasing the ability of a government to collect taxes, to enforce law and order, and to provide public goods. State capacity comprises two essential components: legal capacity, which ensures that a government is able to enforce its rules across the entirety of its territory, and fiscal capacity, which enables a government to mobilize sufficient tax revenues to implement its policies. Hence, any sustainable peacebuilding effort needs to include the enhancement of both legal and fiscal capacities at local and national levels.
- 2. Human rights:** Human rights are at the core of “people-centered” state institutions that are accountable, inclusive, responsive and effective. Institution-building as a key element of sustaining peace requires enabling institutions to respond to those who are least able to claim their rights and to ensure rights-based delivery of services. Thus, the PBA Review should give consideration to a strengthened role of human rights defenders and peacebuilders, with particular attention for the engagement of women, as well as to support human rights education, particularly of youth, as key to meaningful and inclusive participation in peacebuilding processes. In this regard, the PBC should take a strong role in facilitating dialogue and consultations with all segments of society in order to ensure meaningful participation of civil society in peacebuilding processes and efforts.
- 3. Peacebuilding Commission-Security Council cooperation:** The Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission play important, complementary roles in maintaining and sustaining peace. A shared understanding in both bodies along an entire conflict cycle is essential to effectively prevent, maintain and sustain peace. Support to institution-building is part and parcel of many peace operations mandates and the logic of a wide-range of peacebuilding efforts. Particularly in moments of transition, such efforts in the PBC and the Security Council need to go hand-in-hand. As a member of both bodies, Germany remains committed to closer

align the work of these bodies and to draw attention to contexts that might otherwise not be a focus for the Security Council.

- 4. System-wide action and partnerships:** Partnerships lie at the core of successful peacebuilding. Working across pillars within the UN system is rarely enough. With national actors and institutions as the lynchpins of any successful peacebuilding intervention, the UN, regional and international partners – governmental as well as non-governmental – must be guided by common strategies and effective collaboration in support of national efforts. As such, Germany welcomes the prioritization of this point in strategic documents of the UN Secretariat, such as the DPPA strategic plan, as well as, for instance, in the World Bank's FCV strategy. Beyond strategic goal setting, partnerships must materialize concretely at all levels of cooperation in order foster common understandings of shared challenges and synergies in peacebuilding.
- 5. Joint analysis and institutional learning:** To reinforce a shared understanding of challenges to peacebuilding – both thematically and in concrete country settings – joint and integrated conflict and peacebuilding analyses constitute an important tool to institutionalize cross-cutting and joint peacebuilding approaches and strategies. The cooperation with the World Bank and the European Union to provide Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments as well as Post-Disaster Needs Assessments is an important example in this regard. Similarly, joint conflict analyses can contribute to concerted, early action in preventing the outbreak and relapse into conflict as well as to transitions. Therefore, we also call on the UN to use the full potential of its human rights instruments as these can deliver firm warning signs of a looming conflict. Alongside, institutional learning is a necessary and vital component to improve peacebuilding approaches and tools across topics, countries and regions as well as across institutions. Therefore, Germany welcomes efforts to reinforce institutional learning and transparent exchanges between peacebuilding actors, with a view to ensuring that the UN is an even more responsive, anticipatory and operational actor in peacebuilding processes.

In closing, Germany would like to reiterate its continued commitment to advancing the peacebuilding work of the United Nations, across all pillars and institutions within the UN system and based on effective partnerships at the local, regional and global levels.

Thank you.