

Understanding the Inclusivity in the Peace-Development-Humanitarian Nexus: Gender, Climate and Sustaining Peace in the Pacific



A Network of People
Building Peace



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture
Thematic Expert-Level Consultation

18 June 2020 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm EST || 19 June 2020 | 11:00 - 13:00 FJT
Via Zoom Online Platform

Background: Sustaining Peace

Sustaining peace, according to the dual United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions (A/70/262 and S/2016/2282), requires coherence and effective coordination of all actions on peace and security, human rights and development. Successful implementation therefore relies heavily on a joint multi-stakeholder action to strengthen an integrated approach to policy-making, with policy coherence at its core.

The peace-development-humanitarian nexus (hereafter, the Nexus) is seen as the key vehicle for advancing sustaining peace. Born out of several processes including the World Humanitarian Summit, 2015 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review, the peacebuilding and sustaining peace resolutions, the dual Sendai Framework, the Nexus has been well cemented within the UN Reforms initiated by the UN Secretary-General in 2017.

The new joint regional divisions within the peace and security pillar facilitate shared analysis, planning and programming to support the Nexus. The UN system is increasingly working together across peace, development and humanitarian assistance, with integrated interagency committees at HQ and through, for example, the engagement of Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) at country and regional levels. The new Resident Coordinator (RC) system – delinked from UNDP and reinforced with capacities for partnership, communication and economic analysis, among others – has created opportunities to connect resources, expertise and networks to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding in UN operations at the country level.

Local peacebuilders are best positioned to appropriately localise global agendas. The work of many civil society organisations, especially those working at the grassroots level, does not traditionally fall under a specific agenda or framework (i.e., sustaining peace, development, women, peace and security) and remains cross-cutting in practice, including a variety of economic and social dimensions. Supporting this cross-cutting,

inter-sectoral work through capacity building and adequate resourcing, as well as ensuring their meaningful participation in priority and program design and implementation would be key to advancing sustaining peace in the region. Through the recently developed UN System-wide Community Engagement Guidelines (CEG) on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the UN has a commitment to work to ensure that critical local expertise informs action across all pillars of the UN work.

As such, sustaining peace requires building *strategic and operational partnerships* that include multilateral partners, national actors, local peacebuilders and regional organisations to advance *coherent and coordinated action* to advance the Nexus in a gender-sensitive and inclusive manner. The commitment to sustaining peace requires strengthening an inclusive and multi-stakeholder coordination for the advancement of norms, frameworks and actions on the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian nexus.

Case-Study: The Pacific¹

Pacific leaders and civil society activists as well as Pacific Churches continue to highlight **climate change as the single greatest threat faced by people and countries**. Loss of land, even whole islands, increased hunger, more frequent droughts and persistent damage to infrastructure have an intense potential to fuel instability and conflict. As with any other “existential” threat, climate change further risks falling under the purview of **current approaches that “securitise” the climate crisis**. This is a particular concern for people in the region, who understand that humanitarian crises will increase with the rise in sea level, and increased occurrences and severity of natural disasters and other impacts of climate change in the Pacific Island Countries.

Sustaining peace in the Pacific requires **the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian response**. *It means* the rethinking of peace and security sector governance in a way that allocates resources towards tackling power imbalances, sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV), and patriarchal structures across development, peace and humanitarian actions. This *also requires* shifting the power to national and local actors, to strengthen agency, amplify voice, building on collaborative opportunities, including women-led coalitions and feminist practices and local innovation.

2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

In 2020, the international community has been offered an opportunity to take stock of progress achieved on the implementation of sustaining peace and to identify challenges and implementation gaps. The 2020 comprehensive Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture will focus on the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace at the national and regional levels with a view to assess and learn from the current efforts to operationalise sustaining peace and develop a vision on how existing efforts to build and sustain peace can be improved moving forward. In the post-Review stage, it would be important to ensure that persistent gaps that challenge the implementation of sustaining peace are addressed and the findings of the Review are properly integrated in the next steps of action for sustaining peace at the local and regional level.

¹ GPPAC. (2020). A GPPAC Pacific Women, Peace and Security Report: Communicating an Inclusive Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus for the Pacific Region. Retrieved from <https://gppac.net/files/2020-02/GPPAC-Pacific-WPS2020-And-She-Persisted-Redesign-the-Table-AdvanceCopy.pdf>

Recognising the leadership of the Pacific region in advancing **the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian response as means to sustain peace**, the contexts of the Pacific can contribute good practices and lessons learned towards the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review. With this in mind, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and the Shifting the Power Coalition, in partnership with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, co-organise the online expert-level consultation in an attempt to solicit expert-level feedback from the UN, Member States and local peacebuilders in the Pacific to better unpack and understand the Nexus as one of the approaches to the implementation of sustaining peace at the local level in an inclusive and gender-sensitive manner.

Specifically, the consultation will aim at:

- Defining and understanding the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian nexus as it manifests in the situation in the Pacific;
- Identifying priorities and entry points for the strengthening of normative frameworks, policies and practice around the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian nexus;
- Assessing how can the UN peacebuilding architecture better support sustaining peace in the Pacific.

Format

The expert-level consultation will take place **on 18 June 2020 at 7:00pm EST/11:00 FJT**.

The online dialogue will not be recorded; Chatham House rule will be applied. To support an off the record space for participants, the meeting invitation will require participants to use a password to access the discussion.

All necessary information to join the virtual conversation will be shared at least two days before the meeting is convened.

The dialogue will be conducted in English.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Shifting the Power Coalition will also collect additional feedback from experts to feed into the consultation via **an online survey that is available from 2 June 2020 until 15 June 2020** at <https://forms.gle/4b8SamT4ChwDdjmWA>

Participation

The consultation will bring together government officials, experts from relevant regional organisations, the United Nations (UN), development/peace and security partners, financial institutions, local peacebuilders, including women and youth organisations, and other key actors engaged in the operationalisation of the inclusive Nexus in the Pacific.

Co-sponsors are committed to gender equality and youth inclusion in the composition for the consultation.

Expected Outcome

The outcome document will unpack the inclusive peace-development-humanitarian nexus, present good practices, identify challenges, provide specific recommendations for further scaling up of the UN role in providing coherent and strategic action to support the operationalisation of driving the Nexus, including with the focus on the situation in the Pacific.

The outcome document will feed into the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.