

Written Statement by H.E. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN, at Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission on 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

Theme: Institution Building and System-Wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Electronic consultation

2 June 2020

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for organizing this ‘Electronic Consultation’. I would like to commend your leadership in reaching out to the Member States through this new format as we all battle against COVID-19 in these trying times.

I would also like to thank you and other panelists for your insightful presentations.

When we think of peacebuilding, the issues of institution-building and system-wide engagement have become more relevant than ever in light of the present COVID-19 crisis. While the importance of strong and capable institutions has been reinforced by the growing need for efficient and accessible public services, broader system-wide engagement and coherence both at national and international levels have become more critical to build and sustain peace.

Nepal's own experience of peace process says that conflict prevention and sustaining peace would succeed only when the root causes of conflicts are addressed effectively. This is possible only with strong and accountable institutions, and ‘whole of society’ approach. Ensuring the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, who are hit hardest by the conflicts, is even more important for a sustainable peace process.

Against this backdrop, I would like to highlight the following points on the question of institution-building and system-wide engagement for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

First, the institutions are also crucial for strengthening the national ownership and leadership in the peace process as well as for providing a forum to the domestic stakeholders to deliberate on the issues of peace and prosperity. Equally important are the local institutions that can ensure the engagement of the local communities who are usually most affected by conflicts and instability.

Second, institution building is incomplete without the efforts and in-built mechanisms which facilitate the development, and sustaining and reforming of institutions when the need arises. On top of that, the capacity development of those who run these institutions is also important to achieve the objectives of these institutions.

Third, the international community should also support the national governments in developing the social and moral institutions focused on the culture of peace, empathy, and compassion. These institutions should focus on embracing social diversity, tolerance, acceptance and above all humanity.

Fourth, the UN Peacebuilding Architecture has a significant role to play in supporting the national stakeholders in the building and strengthening the political, developmental, and socio-cultural institutions for sustaining peace. The PBC could also act as a forum for exchanging best practices from which the conflict-affected countries can pick ‘the best fit’ to suit their social context. However, the support of the UN and other international institutions should not attach any conditionality and must not try to drive the national peace process based on their experiences elsewhere.

Fifth, the coherence and complementarity among different actors in supporting the national plans and policies can truly help achieve the objectives of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The UN should further aim at strengthening the nexus among its three pillars- peace and security, humanitarian affairs and development- as well as in enhancing the cooperation and relationship among the Peacebuilding Commission, Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the UN Secretariat.

Finally, the working of the UN agencies as ‘One’ at the national level should be further promoted to ensure coherence in their activities as well as to harmonize

with the national priorities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In order to strengthen improved UNCT cooperation and genuine partnership, all UN agencies on the ground need to come together under a common framework of governance and peacebuilding.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the role the PBC has been playing in leading the PB Architecture Review. Nepal, as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, remains committed to support and engage constructively in the process ahead.

Thank you.