

Non-Paper

Main conclusions and recommendations for the UN Peacebuilding Support Office from Informal EU Consultation for the 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Agenda 2030 – ‘leaving-no-one behind’ 27 April 2020, Brussels (virtual)

Informal consultations on how, within the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, to more effectively operationalise conflict prevention, reinforce human rights protection and strengthen linkages between peacebuilding and Agenda 2030 (Goal 16) and “leaving no-one behind”, with more than 100 persons from EU institutions and its main conflict prevention and peacebuilding partners and stakeholders, and EU Member States, resulted in the following main conclusions and recommendations:

- The UN PBA needs to adapt to the new type of challenges that the world is facing today compared to in 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). To prevent the pandemic from being a driver of conflict:
 - Attention has to be paid to **supporting building and sustaining** both peace in countries that are in imminent risk of or in conflict, *and* reforms in fragile countries.
 - The UN PBA needs to prioritise ensuring the availability of high-quality granulated and up to date **conflict prevention data to guide actions**.

- Continued progress is necessary to ensure that peace is built and sustained through a truly integrated approach, in particular at the operational level, effectively linking conflict prevention, human rights and Agenda 2030.
 - **Cross-pillar cooperation** has to be further enhanced and a peacebuilding and sustaining peace mind-set and posture has to be fostered across the UN system.
 - The space for the **PBC, PBF, UN Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers and the UNDP-DPPA joint conflict programme** – influence, visibility, responsibilities and resources – needs to be maintained and expanded.
 - **Peace and Development Advisers** should be further drawn upon to help shockproof actions, with particular attention to multi-stakeholder long-term horizon scanning.
 - The role and resources of **Resident Coordinators** should be further strengthened – their offices reinforced, and their specific capabilities revisited.
 - **Shared/joint analysis** should be systematically applied and result in more joint-up and coordinated efforts, from the ground and up.
 - **Partnerships** must continue to be strengthened, and new partnerships should be established within and across the UN System, and with civil society.

- A further operationalisation of the prevention agenda within the UN PBA should be a priority. The crucial link between humanitarian, development and conflict prevention actors must be more explicitly acknowledged.
 - Recognising **the primacy of politics**, the UN PBA should increase support for inclusive dialogue, strengthening local governance structures and capacities, while also ensuring transitional justice and the addressing of grievances and reconciliation.
 - The focus on **inclusive dialogue and early mediation** has to be enhanced, going beyond the directly engaged conflicting parties.

- Peace Processes need to focus on the **implementation of peace agreements** (rather than the signing), countering recurring cycles of violence and rebuilding sustainable peace. Mediation and dialogue are key, as is establishing partnerships for peace.
 - **Human rights** have to be more systematically used as an indicator for conflict prevention, and linkages between the PBC and Human Rights Council strengthened.
 - Further attention is required to **the social media realm**, to reduce hate speech and counter disinformation.
 - **Gender equality and the Women, Peace and Security agenda** need to be more systematically integrated throughout the UN PBA, and not seen as a separate issue.
 - **Climate fragility** has to be more consistently included as a human security context-specific risk in conflict analysis and strategic planning.
- The **field perspective has to be strengthened**, translating policy to actions on the ground and **fostering a whole-of-society approach** that reaches a wider range of peacebuilding actors with particular 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. The COVID-19 pandemic underlines the importance of ensuring community resilience.
 - The **UN DPPA regional offices** should be drawn upon more to ensure strong partnerships on the ground as well as faster and more sensitised engagements, appointing civil society liaison persons and using the PBF Gender and Youth Promotion initiative to reach local and non-formal stakeholders.
 - **More robust standards and procedures** should be developed to ensure a systematic and effective engagement of local actors from the outset, including more regular and extensive exchanges between the UN PBC and civil society, including **actors beyond well-known NGOs**, and with focus on grass-root and civic actors – women and youth.
 - The UN PBA should **draw more on regional frameworks** as the entry point to local actors and invest more in cross-border and regional peacebuilding work.
 - The UN PBA should try to **bring funding streams closer together** for more coherent and **joint-up approaches fostering good peacebuilding donorship**, for more predictable, long-term, inclusive, flexible, rapid and less risk adverse funding. The PBC's unique role should be further leveraged to bring attention to peacebuilding needs while prioritising inclusivity, thereby triggering financial (and political) support to all stakeholders. The UN PBF has to become better at addressing root causes and respond to needs as identified by those on the ground.
 - PBF actions need to be **guided by active listening** to those on the ground.
 - The PBF should encourage **joint engagements** (rather than separate projects) and require reporting on stakeholder coherence to ensure coordination.
 - The PBF should help create **incentives for donors** by enhancing transparency and accountability for all sized contributions as a way to strengthen donor trust, and apply context-specific risk management and mitigation strategies to reinforce the do-no-harm principle and ensure more targeted, inclusive and participatory support.
 - The PBF should consider **human rights programming** accessible only to civil society organisations, civic groups and social movements, and apply one common integrated mark and tracker for human rights and gender across all grants.
 - The PBF must ensure **sustainable funding** to avoid sending a message that the consequences of making progress, is a significant decrease in international support.
 - The PBF needs to further **prioritise conflict prevention**, paying attention to youth and the empowerment of women.