

**Ambassadorial-level Virtual Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture**

**“Institution Building and System-Wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and
Sustaining Peace”**

22 May - 2 June 2020

Opening Remarks by the PBC Chair

Excellencies and dear colleagues,

I am pleased to open this virtual consultation organized by the Peacebuilding Commission, open to all Member States, on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, focusing on institution building and system-wide engagement for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This consultation is the second to take place in a virtual format due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank our briefers and Member States for your flexibility in adapting to this new format.

This consultation focuses on two important but distinct topics that lie at the heart of the twin 2016 resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and the logic underpinning the creation of the PBC fifteen years ago:

- **First**, marshalling international support to help countries build effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions; and
- **Second**, ensuring that all three pillars of the UN system work together in an integrated and coherent way to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

Both involve a diverse range of UN entities and other multilateral and bilateral partners working to support nationally-owned peacebuilding efforts. And both recognize an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, security, developmental and human rights actors - within and outside of the UN system - is essential to the success of these efforts.

Since the adoption of the 2016 resolutions, the UN has launched a number of reforms designed to strengthen the work of the entire system in preventing conflict, sustaining peace, and helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. These include the reforms of the peace and security pillar, and efforts to reform the UN development

system, including through strengthening the role of UN Resident Coordinators at country level.

This is an important moment to reflect on the status of implementation of these reform efforts, and examine whether and to what extent they have resulted in better cross-pillar coherence and coordination in analysis, planning, and programme delivery. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to reflect on whether these efforts are having tangible impact on the ground.

- Is the UN able to respond more nimbly and effectively to complex and evolving challenges in the countries and regions where it operates?
- Are we ensuring that the contribution of each UN entity is helping to mitigate risks of conflict and build and sustain peace?
- What has changed in terms of institutional cultures and ways of working at country level?

As the world now faces its greatest challenge since the founding of the United Nations 75 years ago, it is more important than ever to ensure that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Marshalling an effective global response and building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic will require every part of UN system to come together.

This consultation offers us an opportunity:

- to share good practices and lessons learned in institution building;
- to assess progress across the entire UN system in building and sustaining peace;
- to identify priorities where there has been little or uneven progress;
- and to be pragmatic in finding concrete ways to further implement what was agreed five years ago.

I am pleased that we have been able to line up an excellent set of briefers to speak to both topics of this consultation, and invite all Member States to listen to and reflect on the briefings as they prepare their own inputs.

I thank the following briefers for having provided recorded statements for this consultation:

- **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator, UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Mr. Qu Dongyu**, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Ms. Izumi Ohno**, Director, Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- **Mr. Jake Sherman**, Director, Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations, International Peace Institute (IPI)
- **Dr. Jennifer Widner**, Director, Innovations for Successful Societies, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Excellencies,

Your participation in this consultation is a testament to the strong commitment of the UN and its Member States to further strengthen the work of the United Nations on peacebuilding.

While we regret that we are unable to meet in person, I am confident that this virtual consultation will provide useful inputs to the Secretary-General for his consideration and inclusion in the 2020 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Thank you for your participation.