



**Ambassadorial-level 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

National Statement on behalf of Sweden

Sweden welcomes that this discussion is part of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture. We align ourselves with the statement prepared by the European Union. We welcome the broad participation in this meeting from the UN system including UNDP, WHO and FAO, as well as academia, think tanks and Member States. The presentations demonstrate much of the work that has been done in order to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, and to build peaceful, just, inclusive and resilient societies. They have also identified areas where more work is needed and provided recommendations and suggestions, which we hope will be considered in the Secretary-General’s upcoming report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This discussion is a crucial part of the review, as an integrated and coherent approach was recognized as critical to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the 2016 twin resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council. This discussion also serves as an opportunity to take stock on how UN reforms can contribute to a more coherent and integrated response by UN entities in the field. Progress has been made since the last review was undertaken, including increased coherence among UN entities as well as increased partnerships with various stakeholders, such as the World Bank, African Union and the European Union. However, it is time to look at the impact of the implementation of these efforts in the field. To this end, Sweden would like to highlight the following points and recommendations.

Institution building

National ownership, including through inclusive local and national institutions, is essential to peacebuilding efforts. Inclusive, effective and democratic institutions are also central in promoting sustainable development and Agenda 2030, not least SDG16 on peaceful and inclusive societies. The PBC should continue to serve as a platform for national actors to present their peacebuilding and development priorities, where lessons can be learned, and best practices shared, from past experiences in supporting institution building in countries affected by conflict.

A foundation for peaceful and inclusive societies rests on democratic processes guided by good governance, accountability and transparency, and the rule of law. We underline the importance of inclusion and gender-sensitivity in institution building efforts. Broad representation across genders, ages, and other identities

must be in place to bring forth the different perspectives and solutions needed for more inclusive institutions. We all know that women have a voice, but they need to be listened to. Inclusive processes must be fostered to enable all voices to be heard.

System-Wide Engagement

An integrated and coherent approach within the UN system is critical to build sustainable peace. We welcome the close and wide involvement of various actors in the UN system in the peacebuilding architecture review. There are many examples of complementary peacebuilding work carried out and the new structures brought by the UN reform are already showing important results of more coordination and cooperation as well as shared/joint analysis. These include, but are not limited to, the new structures at HQ level including the merger of the Department of Political Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) into the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the shared regional divisions between DPPA and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), as well as the establishment of the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO).

As part of the UN development system reform, the new Resident Coordinator (RC) system was put in place in order to give the RC a coordinating role of the UN engagement and activities in the field. We have seen some important improvements, but one year after the implementation of the reform, many issues remain to be clarified in order to make the UN more fit for purpose to help achieve the SDG's. Implementation on country level is key both when it comes to the development and the peace and security pillar. We would like to underline the importance of leadership skills for the RCs, as well as for leaders and managers throughout the UN-system. The reforms must also allow for more systematic and coherent implementation of policy agendas in the field, such as the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We are seeing progress on how UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have adapted their approaches to better deliver on the UN reforms and to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the field. We also welcome the efforts of the PBSO, utilizing its “hinge” role and contributing to a more coherent approach across the three pillars of the UN system.

Some additional examples of increased coordination and cooperation between UN entities, and of which Sweden is a proud supporter, include the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, and the demonstrated important role of Peace and Development Advisors (PDA), as well as the UN Joint Project on Transitions, which brings together DPO, UNDP, DPPA and DCO and provides analysis and advice ahead of transitions from a mission to a non-mission setting. These programmes have proven their utility and should continue to be supported.

Further, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has proven to be a vital vehicle for increased coordination among UN agencies on the ground, oftentimes involving several implementing agencies in their approved projects. Its catalytical and flexible character makes it even more important to ensure that capacity building and financial means are there to carry on when projects ends.

The importance of joint conflict analysis in peacebuilding efforts cannot be understated. We welcome that the UN reforms enable joint analyses including through the new country programmes, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) and the Common Country Analysis attached to them. Going forward, it will be important to follow up how these joint analyses have improved the system's ability to deliver on the ground. The PBC could continuously be utilized as a convener and platform for such discussions, which should also include analysis on how other actors, including donors and international financial institutions, are integrated in the response.

The reforms also have the potential to move us away from the sequential approach and connect efforts for conflict prevention, humanitarian action, human rights, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, rule of law, and development. In this regard it will be critical to utilize the available instruments in the UN toolbox and connect them. We call on the UN to use the full potential of its human rights instruments throughout its activities, from joined-up analysis and shared objectives, to common operational programming, decision-making and implementation. In order to strengthen operational and policy coherence, we encourage the UN and all Member States to support closer collaboration with the human rights system and to promote strong links between Geneva and New York. We further encourage the peacebuilding architecture to make further progress on the inclusion of human rights mechanisms to ensure better early warning capacities, facilitate information and knowledge sharing as well as joint analysis of causes of conflicts and possible ways to address them.

Lastly, for the system to work together to deliver on peacebuilding, predictable, adequate and sustainable financing is essential. In this regard, it will be key that donors work towards more coherent approaches and display good peacebuilding donorship. Sweden looks forward to the upcoming consultation in the PBC with a focus on financing for peacebuilding.

The response to the COVID19 outbreak has shown improvements in the ability of the UN system to come together and jointly mobilise efforts. We particularly welcome the work carried out in the PBC, as well as the quick response by the PBF, DPPA and others. As described above, much progress has been made since the last review of the peacebuilding architecture. The structures are there, and it is now time to turn to implementation, enabling a more coherent, integrated response in the field, where at the end of the day it matters the most.