



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 November 2015

Excellency,

With reference to my letter dated 4 November 2015, I confirmed my intention to convene three High Level Thematic Debates on each of the three inter-related pillars of the United Nations: development, peace and security and respect for human rights. I expressed the hope that these important debates would draw the highest possible level of participation from your government.

The High Level Thematic Debate scheduled for 10-11 May 2016 in particular will examine how to strengthen the role and coherence of the United Nation's architecture in the field of peace and security.

As the active participation of all members of the General Assembly is crucial to ensure the success of this endeavour, I have the honour to bring to your attention a preliminary outline with suggestions for the High Level Thematic Debate and for an inclusive preparatory process that could lead to it.

I have asked my office to organize a first informal discussion to seek your views on those ideas. This informal discussion chaired by my Chef de Cabinet, Ambassador Tomas Anker Christensen will take place on Tuesday 24 November from 1:15 to 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action  
Office of the President of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
High-Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security – 10 & 11 May 2016  
Preliminary outline  
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**Background:**

The major priority of PGA Lykketoft is to advance the prompt implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA represents a unique opportunity to reflect on ways to further strengthen the UN's architecture in support of comprehensive, efficient and effective engagement in the field of peace and security. Such reflections are informed by relevant ongoing reviews and processes, particularly:

- (1) The report of the High Level Independent on Peace Operations<sup>1</sup> and the Secretary-General's report on the future of UN peace operations<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) The Peacebuilding Architecture Review and the challenges of sustaining peace<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security<sup>4</sup>.

These reviews and processes were initiated independently of each other but are all motivated by the need to refine the current UN peace and security response architecture in the light of new challenges and threats. Other related endeavours include notably the ongoing preparation of a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism strategy.

**Objectives:**

- To provide a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to reflect and deliberate on concrete ways to draw out synergies from those reviews and processes and enhance coherence in the UN system on the issues of peace and security.
- Help identify how concretely the interlinkages between these different aspects of the UN's work can inspire a new approach that will promote a concrete continuum of the UN response and improve significantly its effectiveness and impact in the field.
- Galvanize efforts to translate the reviews and subsequent deliberations within relevant bodies of the UN into concrete conclusions and results within a reasonable timeframe.

Cognizant of the ongoing work and efforts among Member States and within the UN system, the High Level Thematic Debate (HLTD) will avoid duplication but aim to complement such efforts in the context of the General Assembly responsibilities and mandate. In this context, the HLTD will be carried-out in close consultation with relevant stakeholders bearing in mind the discussions in the relevant bodies in the UN.

**Timing & Format:**

This inclusive and interactive HLTD is scheduled for 10-11 May 2016. It will present an account of progress made on the individual reviews and on subsequent deliberations and it will involve open and frank discussions between representatives from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, as well as global networks of non-state actors, think tanks and eminent experts in this field.

**Preparatory process:**

In preparation for the HLTD, the OPGA will encourage an interactive dialogue with the support of relevant UN Departments and in close consultation with all concerned. As part of this process, stakeholders and partners will organize a series of workshops to discuss specific issues arising from the outcomes of the reviews and processes mentioned above. The workshops, which will be conducted between January and April 2016, will aim to ensure inclusive and comprehensive outreach with all relevant actors on concrete ways to advance a new commitment for a solid architecture in support of collective action in the field of peace and security.

**Outcome:**

The PGA's objective is to pursue a pragmatic course of action that will generate concrete results. The specific outcome will be determined based on the preparation process.

12 November 2015

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<sup>1</sup> A/70/95 – S/2015/446  
<sup>2</sup> A/70/357 – S/2015/682  
<sup>3</sup> A/69/968 – S/2015/490  
<sup>4</sup> S/2015/716