

## Workshop I: Empowering Women and Youth for Peace and Sustainable Development (Conference Room 1)

### Background

On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted substantively identical resolutions<sup>1</sup> on the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, outlining an ambitious and comprehensive agenda on peacebuilding and “Sustaining Peace”. The resolutions addressed the challenges of achieving sustainable peace and the increasingly complex contexts in which peacebuilding takes place, noting that those efforts would only succeed in the long term if they are coherent and involve engagement across the UN pillars on peace and security, development and human rights, and during all stages of the conflict cycle – before, during and after.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, interconnected and integrated. There are mutually reinforcing interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace, and there is a need to bring a comprehensive approach to the implementation of both.

National ownership and inclusivity are among the key elements of Sustaining Peace, which means that the responsibility for Sustaining Peace is shared by the government, civil society and other national stakeholders, and that the approaches utilized must ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. The participation of women and youth is crucial for the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace in all parts of the world.

Women’s engagement and the involvement of young people from the earlier stages of prevention, resolving crises, peacebuilding and consolidating peace, reduces the probability of relapses to violent conflict. Often, the contributions and roles of young people and women are undervalued, under-resourced and relegated. Consequently, their longer-term and meaningful engagement in political, social and economic recovery, and in inclusive governance and security, often lacks adequate support.

The linkages and synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and Sustaining Peace provides a strong basis for the engagement of women and young people in peace and development efforts. The workshop on ***Empowering women and youth for peace and sustainable development***, to be held under the auspices of the high-level dialogue of the President of the General Assembly on 24 January 2017 will bring key stakeholders together to discuss the role of women and young people in sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development.

### Objectives

The objective of the workshop is to discuss the important roles of women and young people in sustaining peace and in leading and contributing to sustainable development. Under the overall objective of the Dialogue to highlight the linkages between the SDGs and Sustaining Peace, this

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), respectively

workshop will especially focus on the linkages between the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. It will also address the issue of inclusivity as central to the achievement of both Sustaining Peace and sustainable development.

**Discussions will be guided by the following questions:**

- **What is the current level and mechanisms of participation of women and youth in sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts at the national, regional and international levels?**
- **What challenges do they face in this regard and how can they be addressed effectively?**
- **How can their participation in these critical activities be better appreciated and enhanced?**
- **How can their participation help improve coherence in achieving sustainable peace and development at the national level?**
- **What further action is required from the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to grow the capacity of women and youth to serve as active agents of sustaining peace and sustainable development?**