Workshop III: Strengthening transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutions
for Peace and Sustainable Development
(Conference Room 8)

Background:

Transparent, inclusive and accountable institutions are crucial elements in order to achieve both 2030 Agenda and sustainable peace agenda. Reinforcement of institutions aiming transparency, inclusiveness and accountability at a national and at an international level will lead to peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. The effective implementation of the SDGs will not only prevent the outbreak of conflict but also will lay the foundations for self-sustaining peace—a critical condition for sustainable development. Inclusive, transparent, and participatory decision-making are essential to achieving the SDGs and sustaining peace. On one hand, studies have found that political exclusion is among the critical factors that lead to the recurrence of civil war.[9] On the other, countries with inclusive political institutions are often more successful in achieving long-term economic growth.[10]

To address the root causes of conflict and build positive peace, investment in key areas must be secured in an inclusive way that ensures the participation of all. Moreover, the international community and member states must redouble efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of such an ambitious agenda. As the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations in Global Economic Governance states: *"Weak economic growth is likely to undermine public and private investment in education, health and infrastructure, environmental protection and progress in poverty reduction."*[11]

Moreover, **building a peaceful and inclusive world requires an international, enabling environment conducive to achieving the 2030 Agenda.** Reducing inequality within and among nations, facilitating greater human mobility, and reducing trade barriers are essential components that transcend implementation at the national level. Addressing illicit financial and arms flows that enable corruption and trigger violence must also be prioritized, while promoting technology transfer and capacity building in developing countries, as envisioned in Goal 17, will generate greater prosperity which is linked to lasting peace.

In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and sustainable peace agenda, global and national institutions need to be more inclusive, transparent and accountable to all people. At the global level, institutions should aim its work to pursue representativeness, equality and fairness. As a result,

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[9] Charles Call, *Why Peace Fails: The Causes and Prevention of Civil War Recurrence* (Georgetown University Press: Georgetown, 2012). Quantitative studies have found polarized politics and factionalism to be a key predictor of conflict. See Goldstone, J. et al. (2010) 'A Global Model for Forecasting Political Instability' in *American Journal of Political Science* 54, no. 1, pp 190-208. The evidence base on peace settlements also suggests that greater inclusiveness is important for sustaining peace in the long-term.

[10] Douglas North, John Wallis & Barry Weingest, *Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History*, (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2009).

[11] Report of the UN SG on "The UN in Global Economic Governance," http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/378.

policies will be more holistic, have greater ownership, and deliver better outcomes.[12] At the national level—when implemented together with civil society and other national stakeholders, instead of using a top-down approach—the 2030 Agenda and the sustaining peace agenda can be used as a new social contract between citizens and institutions. Through this approach, the SDGs in conjunction with the sustaining peace agenda have the greatest potential to catalyze change.

Objectives:

The workshop will provide an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to discuss the challenges they are confronting on these issues and to share experiences, including successful approaches to build more inclusive, transparent and accountable institutions.

Discussions will be guided by the following questions:

- **How are these global frameworks influencing national policies? What is being done differently?**
- **How are national institutions increasing accountability and transparency to meet the needs of the citizens and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? Are these decision-making processes becoming more inclusive and participatory?**
- **How are international institutions facilitating a more inclusive response to transnational challenges, creating an enabling environment for peace, and directing support to those most in need?**
- **How can the UN system support this integrated approach towards sustainable peace and development, including through partnerships?**

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[12] "Voting rights assigned to groups of countries in international institutions is one indication of inclusivity at the international level. For example, while developing countries account for 63 per cent of voting rights in the African Development Bank, this figure is only 35 per cent in the International Monetary Fund and 38 per cent in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank Group." See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16.