



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 November 2017

Excellency,

In reference to General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, I will convene a High Level Meeting to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on 24 and 25 April 2018.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace are key priorities of my presidency. In light of that, my Office has compiled a roadmap outlining a set of priorities that will guide my efforts as I engage in and plan activities in the lead up to the High Level Meeting. Please find attached the roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

It is my hope that the High-Level Meeting will enjoy the highest possible level of participation on the part of your Government.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Roadmap of the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Introduction

In his acceptance speech, the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a key priority. The concept of sustaining peace, as defined by the Resolutions 70/262 of the General Assembly and 2282 (2016) of the Security Council, on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, is groundbreaking in that it redefines the UN approach to peace by adopting a long-term perspective and focusing on prevention. The notion of sustaining peace stems from a growing understanding that the UN's efforts should go beyond addressing the immediate needs of conflict-affected countries. It needs to do better in supporting countries to make peace last. With a view to assisting in the collective effort of rethinking the UN engagement with peace, President Lajčák is launching a roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Overarching Objective of the Roadmap

The main purpose of the PGA's roadmap is to raise awareness about peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It entails a set of priorities that will guide the President as he engages in and plans activities in the lead up to the High-Level Meeting on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which will take place on 24 and 25 April 2018.

Priorities

1) Outreach: While reaffirming the primary responsibility of governments in designing peacebuilding and sustaining peace policies, the 2016 Resolutions also underscore the role played by relevant stakeholders, including civil society, regional and sub-regional organisations, UN entities, international financial institutions and the private sector. The President, therefore, intends to maintain a dialogue with Member States and all relevant stakeholders, and to engage in activities that promote the concepts of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, encourage good peacebuilding practices, and provide a platform for the exchange of information on how to effectively approach peacebuilding from a comprehensive perspective.

2) Supporting the UN's work: The UN already engages in a broad range of activities aimed at promoting peace. President Lajčák therefore intends to maintain regular exchanges with senior leadership of the UN in the field around the globe and at UN headquarters to learn about the measures taken to overcome silos and make the promise of the UN delivering as one a reality. He also intends to work closely with the Secretary-General on the shared priority of promoting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The report of the Secretary-General to the 72nd session of the General Assembly on efforts to implement the 2016 Resolutions will provide important insights on how to better equip the UN to build and sustain peace.

3) Focusing on experiences and good practices: Although the bulk of discussions may happen in New York, they should be informed by experiences on the ground. There is a need to shine a spotlight on what the peacebuilders in the field are doing. The PGA, therefore, intends to learn from experience on ground through visits to UN missions and country teams, and through learning from national governments on their priorities and experiences regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He will also seek to support regional and sub-regional initiatives related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, while recognising the relevant role these organisations can have in conflict resolution, mediation and preventive diplomacy. Finally, he will promote the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

4) Making a strong financial case for peacebuilding and sustaining peace: More resources are spent on responding to the outbreak of conflict than on preventing them from flaring up and escalating. This is why the UN is known for conflict response, rather than conflict prevention. The 2016 Resolutions recognise the need for predictable and adequate financing to assist countries in their efforts to sustain peace. As the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding to United Nations peacebuilding activities, Member States will have an opportunity to consider ways to improve the UN's capacity to sustain peace. In this context, the PGA will also work to raise awareness about the need to mobilise resources to sustain peace.

5) Strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development: The General Assembly acknowledges that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. While recognising that development is a central goal in itself, the 2016 Resolutions further acknowledge that the United Nations development system can contribute to sustaining peace. Therefore, President Lajčák will seek to promote better understanding of how sustaining peace can be useful for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and vice versa. This comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, as outlined in the 2016 Resolutions, encompasses, *inter alia*, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, President Lajčák intends to promote a better understanding of how human rights can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The PGA also aims to enhance coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in the area of peacebuilding, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach to sustaining peace across all three pillars of the UN.