STRIVING for PEACE during the SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION of the UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 2018
STRIVING for PEACE
during the SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
of the UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 2018
A new approach to peace

When the United Nations was created, its founders envisioned a world in which disputes would be resolved in meeting rooms not battlefields, a world in which wars would be stopped before they broke out, a world that wouldn’t wait for lives to be lost before springing into action.

Not enough has been done to make that vision a reality. That is why the United Nations needs a new approach to peace.

Fortunately, we have already started. In 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council came together to call for change. Part of that was a renewed focus on conflict prevention. From 24 to 26 April 2018, further to a decision of the General Assembly, I convened the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, in New York, which brought world leaders together to see how far we had come and to set concrete plans for the future. The outcome of the meeting was General Assembly resolution 72/276 on follow up to the Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43). In that resolution, the General Assembly established a strong mandate for relevant United Nations bodies and organs to further advance, explore and consider the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the Secretary-General’s report.

Too often we have acted when peace was already lost. When I say “peace”, I mean the kind of peace that can be taken for granted, the kind of peace that won’t disappear at the next election cycle, the kind of peace that is measured not in months or years, but in generations.

That is what we are referring to, when we say “sustaining peace”.

Some might say that this kind of peace is impossible in certain parts of the world. I say that it is not. I have seen that kind of peace first hand. When Montenegro split from Serbia, peace was not a given. In fact, some predicted that there would be serious violence. But through intense diplomatic efforts and real political will, peace persevered. And that peace has lasted — with no signs that it will waver in the future.

The ground-breaking concept of sustaining peace was thoroughly explored at the High-level Meeting, but it is not owned by the United Nations. It belongs to the people: to the women in Papua New Guinea; to the young people in Nigeria; to the business executives in Jordan.

In March 2018, I travelled to western Colombia and was inspired to see indigenous communities working with the United Nations to build peace by strengthening social bonds. I was inspired to see villages, which had suffered through more than fifty years of war, taking steps to make sure they didn’t slide back into conflict.

We may hold the bulk of our discussions in New York, but those discussions must be informed by experience on the ground. We need to highlight what the real peace-builders are doing — from those running women’s peace huts in Liberia, to those organizing mediation workshops in Kyrgyzstan. That is why the High-level Meeting pooled actors from different countries, sectors and societies so that they could share their insights.

Of course, it doesn’t matter if everyone buys into the concept of sustaining peace if there are no funds to carry it out. Currently, the amount we spend on preventing conflict is a mere fraction of what we spend on responding to conflict or on rebuilding societies after they have been torn apart by conflict. Aside from the suffering that we’re failing to prevent, that distribution just does not make financial sense. Increasing investment to sustain peace in even a handful of countries can result in billions of dollars of savings for the international community.

If I asked you to name the United Nations’ biggest achievements, you would no doubt say its humanitarian relief efforts or its peacekeeping missions. Those are the ones that get attention in the news.

But the United Nations was founded for peace. That’s what its flag stands for, not just soldiers and boxes of food aid. Its success in preventing conflict should be the norm, not the exception.

The United Nations must be the world’s broker for peace.

Miroslav Lajčák
President of the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the United Nations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2016</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Peacebuilding and sustaining peace</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Promoting peacebuilding and sustaining peace worldwide</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Roadmap of the President seventy-second session of the General Assembly for peacebuilding and sustaining peace</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statements delivered at various events to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Side events in lead up to and around the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Concept note for the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 24–25 April 2018</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final Programme of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held from 24 to 26 April 2018</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summary of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 26 April 2018</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statements made by panelists at the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held in New York from 24 to 26 April 2018</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Striving for Peace
Introduction

In his acceptance speech, Miroslav Lajčák, President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a key priority. The President was mandated in General Assembly resolution 70/262 on review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to convene, under the agenda item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, a high-level meeting on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on sustaining peace. That mandate was noted by the Security Council in its resolution 2282 (2016).

To build momentum in the lead up to the high-level meeting, the President released, on 16 November 2017, his “Roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, in which he outlined a set of priorities to guide him as he engaged in and planned activities aimed at assessing the efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The roadmap set five priorities:

1. Outreach through maintaining dialogue with Member States and all relevant stakeholders, and engaging in activities that promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

2. Supporting the work of the United Nations by engaging in regular exchanges with senior leadership at Headquarters and in the field to learn about the measures taken to overcome silos and establish a coherent and integrated approach to peacebuilding;

3. Focusing on experiences and best practices by learning from experience on the ground through visits to United Nations missions and country teams, learning from national governments about their priorities and experiences regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace, supporting regional and sub-regional initiatives relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and promoting the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

4. Making a strong financial case for peacebuilding and sustaining peace by raising awareness about the need to mobilize resources to sustain peace, and about the chronic under-allocation of funds for peacebuilding activities;

5. Strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development by promoting a better understanding of how sustaining peace can facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and vice versa, and how human rights can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The roadmap took the President to Geneva, Doha, Addis Ababa, Bogotá and Stockholm, while his team went to Seoul and N’Djamena. The President held meetings with the Group of Seven Plus (g7+), the Group of Friends of Mediation, the Human Rights/Conflict Prevention Caucus, the Group of Friends of Sustaining Peace and the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform. The President also participated in several events organized by permanent missions, universities, think tanks, institutes and other international organizations such as the World Bank and the African Union. Finally, the President frequently met with the Secretary-General, the former and current Chairs of the Peacbuilding Commission and the Presidents of the Security Council.

During his tenure, the President launched two initiatives to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace: a dialogue entitled “Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”, on 8 December 2017; and a retreat on “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”, on 6 and 7 March 2018.

The dialogue, convened in cooperation with six civil society organizations and academic partners to discuss the critical role of partnerships in sustaining peace and prevention, served as an important step in the process leading up to the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. It was intended as a valuable platform for relevant stakeholders to present their perspectives, facilitate learning and exchange, and foster conversation among all participants on challenges and opportunities for sustaining peace in practice.

The retreat, convened in collaboration with the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, provided another opportunity to engage with governments and international, regional and subregional organizations to further discuss sustaining peace in practice. It brought together representatives from Member States, the United Nations, civil society and academia. It sought to unpack the recommendations of the Secretary-General’s report, analysing the implications, opportunities and potential challenges to proposed changes.

Discussions also focused on how sustaining peace linked with the three reform streams proposed by the Secretary-General related to peace and security, the United Nations development system and management. Throughout the multiple panels and an interactive brainstorming lunch, participants sought to gain a deeper understanding of the Secretary-General’s report and the experiences of implementing sustaining peace at the local level, as well as to identify concrete actions for member States and the United Nations system to move forward on operationalizing the sustaining peace resolutions.
Finally, the President convened the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace from 24 to 26 April 2018 to assess the efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The report of the Secretary General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) of 18 January 2018 informed the meeting.

In a resounding manifestation of political support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including mediation and conflict prevention, 125 Member States and five Observer States to the General Assembly took the floor during the plenary debate of the High-level Meeting, including five Heads of State, one Head of Government, two Deputy Prime Ministers, 21 Ministers and 16 Deputy Ministers. Member States also voiced their support for the of the Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its central theme: the importance of United Nations systemwide coherence in support of nationally led efforts to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and an increased focus on prevention, guided by national ownership and people-centred approaches.

The topics covered in the interactive dialogues during the High-level Meeting were:

- Sustainable financing for peace
- Strengthening the United Nations work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the field
- Strategic partnerships with the United Nations for peacebuilding and sustaining peace
- United Nations comprehensive and integrated approach to peace

A total of 150 civil society representatives participated in the activities related to the High-level Meeting, including in the four interactive dialogues that were held in parallel to the plenary debate.

The High-level Meeting reached gender parity among the speakers in the opening segment, high-level lunch and interactive dialogues, with a total of 19 male and 19 female panelists.

As an outcome of the High-level Meeting, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the procedural resolution 72/276 on follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In parallel and following its high-level briefing on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Security Council unanimously
adopted resolution 2413 (2018), which mirrors the General Assembly’s procedural resolution.

As another outcome of the High-level Meeting, the President released a summary highlighting the key recurring messages and capturing the experiences shared by Member States and other relevant stakeholders who participated in the meeting.

The purpose of the present publication is to take stock of the efforts undertaken during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in the lead up to the High-level Meeting, and to provide an easy reference to the reports, resolutions and other documents that comprise the normative framework for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Chapter I presents the main documents that informed the discussions during the High-level Meeting, namely General Assembly resolution 70/262 on review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture of 27 April 2016, and the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43). Chapter II presents the President’s roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, summaries of the initiatives launched as part of the roadmap, statements made by the President at various events, as well as some press releases. Chapter III presents the documents relating directly to the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, namely, the concept note, the final programme, the summary of the meeting, and the General Assembly procedural resolution on follow up to the Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Statements made by the panelists at the High-level Meeting are also presented as received.
I. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the United Nations

As a result of the 2005 World Summit, Member States first acknowledged the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict and, in that context, decided to establish the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and to create the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/180, the Peacebuilding Commission was established as an intergovernmental advisory body whose main purposes are:

(a) To bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
(b) To focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
(c) To provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery.

The Peacebuilding Fund was established to allocate funds to support countries affected by conflict or in need of resources to sustain peace, while the Peacebuilding Support Office was established to assist and support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, to manage the Peacebuilding Fund on behalf of the Secretary-General, and to provide assistance to country-led and country-owned peacebuilding efforts.

The United Nations peacebuilding architecture is reviewed every five years. The first review (see A/64/868-S/2010/393, annex), carried out in 2010, aimed to reinvigorate the 2005 ideas that created the Peacebuilding Commission. The review recognized that, after five years, the Commission had come to play an important role as a liaison between the needs on the ground and the discussions at Headquarters in New York. The Commission was also recognized as a valuable bridge between countries’ struggles and experiences on peacebuilding and gathering the support of the international community. The 2010 review recommendations pointed to the need for a more relevant, flexible, high-performing and empowered Peacebuilding Commission. It also stated that the Commission should be better supported, better understood and more ambitious, with a more diverse agenda.

In 2015, another extensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture was carried out by an Advisory Group of Experts (see A/69/968-S/2015/490). The report of the Advisory Group of Experts recommended the promotion of more coherence at the intergovernmental level, the improvement of capabilities of the United Nations system for peacebuilding, more partnerships for sustaining peace and more predictable and sustained financing for peace. The Advisory Group proposed that the peacebuilding architecture be broadened beyond the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Support Office to include the wider United Nations system, and called for the United Nations to overcome fragmentation and to break down silos.

Another landmark in the institutional and normative development of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture was the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/262 on review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) that mirrored it, both adopted on 27 April 2016. The two 2016 resolutions constituted a commitment to take a more comprehensive approach to building and sustaining peace, with conflict prevention at its core. The resolutions recognized the definition of “sustaining peace” as drawn from the report of the Advisory Group of Experts.

In its resolution 70/262 (see below), the General Assembly decided to convene at its seventy-second session a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on sustaining peace, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly.
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2016

70/262. Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,


Taking note of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations5 and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations of 17 June 20156 and the report of the Secretary-General of 16 September 2015 submitting the results of the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000),7 and encouraging coherence, synergies, and complementarities in taking them forward,

Recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter,

Deeply concerned by the high human cost and suffering caused by armed conflicts, and recognizing the significant number of simultaneous security and humanitarian crises that the world currently faces, and the strain that this places on the resources of the United Nations system,

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, further recalling our determination to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recognizing that "sustaining peace", as drawn from the Advisory Group of Experts report,8 should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to

---

3 S/PRST/2012/29; see Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2012–31 July 2013 (S/INF/68).
4 S/PRST/2015/2; see Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2014–31 July 2015 (S/INF/70).
5 See A/70/95-S/2015/446.
6 A/70/357 S/2015/682.
7 S/2015/716.
8 See A/69/968-S/2015/490.
be fulfilled by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace, and in this regard, emphasizing that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account,

Stressing that civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes, strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels, and promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity, including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice and transitional justice, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that peacebuilding is an inherently political process aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, recurrence or continuation of conflict, and further recognizing that peacebuilding encompasses a wide range of political, development, and human rights programmes and mechanisms,

Recognizing also that an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, security and development actors, within and outside of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, and the Charter, is critical to sustaining peace, and essential for improving respect for human rights, advancing gender equality, empowering women and youth, strengthening the rule of law, eradicating poverty, building institutions, and advancing economic development in conflict-affected countries,

Welcoming the work of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts, and recognizing the valuable work done in all its configurations and meetings,

Recognizing the need for United Nations peacebuilding efforts to have adequate, predictable and sustained financing in order to effectively assist countries to sustain peace and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict,

Welcoming the valuable work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Fund as a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pre-positioned pooled fund providing financing to activities to sustain peace in conflict-affected countries, and in advancing strategic alignment within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and the international financial institutions,

Recognizing the importance of strategic partnerships, pooled funding and blended finance between the United Nations, bilateral and international donors, multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector in order to share risks and maximize the impact of peacebuilding efforts, taking into account the need to ensure transparency, accountability and appropriate monitoring of funds,
Recognizing also that the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace calls for close strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations, national Governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, and the private sector, taking into account national priorities and policies,

Welcoming the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace, and noting with appreciation the contributions that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to peacebuilding,

Reiterating that United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations is critical to contributing to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter,

Reaffirming the important role of women in peacebuilding and noting the substantial link between women's full and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict and those efforts' effectiveness and long term sustainability, and stressing, in this regard, the importance of women's equal participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase women's role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding,

Reaffirming also the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

1. Welcomes the valuable input of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in its report entitled “Challenge of sustaining peace”;

2. Emphasizes that sustaining peace requires coherence, sustained engagement, and coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, consistent with their mandates as set out in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and underlines the importance, in this regard, of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

4. Also reaffirms General Assembly resolution 60/180, including the main purposes of the Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body, and stresses the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil the following functions in this regard:

   (a) To bring sustained international attention to sustaining peace, and to provide political accompaniment and advocacy to countries affected by conflict, with their consent;

   (b) To promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

   (c) To serve a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities, in line with the respective competencies and responsibilities of these bodies;

   (d) To serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, including from Member States, national authorities, United Nations missions and country teams, international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, women's groups, youth organizations and, where relevant, the private sector and national human rights institutions, in order to provide recommendations and information to improve their coordination, to develop and share good practices in peacebuilding, including on institution-building, and to ensure predictable financing to peacebuilding;
5. Encourages the Peacebuilding Commission, through its Organizational Committee, to review its provisional rules of procedure in order to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, enhance its focus on developments at the country and regional levels, and foster greater engagement by its membership, and further encourages the Peacebuilding Commission, through its Organizational Committee, to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of sustaining peace, including by:

(a) Providing options for its country-specific meetings and formats, to be applied upon the request of the country concerned, as referred to the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/180;

(b) Enabling it to consider regional and cross-cutting issues relevant to sustaining peace;

(c) Enhancing synergies between the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission; and

(d) Continuing to use its annual session to facilitate closer engagement with relevant stakeholders;

6. Reaffirms its call upon the Peacebuilding Commission to integrate a gender perspective into all of its work;

7. Requests the Peacebuilding Commission to include in its annual report information on progress in implementing the provisions of the present resolution relating to its working methods and provisional rules of procedure;

8. Acknowledges the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) of 20 December 2005, and in this regard, notes the intention of the Security Council to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates;

9. Emphasizes the importance of drawing upon the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission when major agreements that relate to United Nations mission mandates and transitions are agreed between the United Nations, national Governments and authorities, and other relevant stakeholders;

10. Stresses the importance of closer cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates, including through enhanced dialogue in support of promoting coherence and complementarity between the United Nations peace and security efforts and its development, human rights and humanitarian work, and encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of relevant Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies, as appropriate;

11. Encourages United Nations Member States participating in the universal periodic review process of the Human Rights Council to consider the human rights dimensions of peacebuilding, as appropriate;

12. Stresses that a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, including promotion of healing and reconciliation, a professional, accountable and effective security sector, including through its reform, and inclusive and effective demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes, including the transition from demobilization and disarmament to reintegration, are critical to consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law, access to justice and good governance, further extending legitimate State authority, and preventing countries from lapsing or relapsing into conflict;

13. Recognizes that effective peacebuilding must involve the entire United Nations system, and in this regard, emphasizes the importance of joint analysis and effective strategic
planning across the United Nations system in its long-term engagement in conflict-affected countries and, where appropriate, in cooperation and coordination with regional and subregional organizations;

14. **Emphasizes** the important role that effective and responsive leadership in United Nations country operations can play in bringing together the United Nations system around a common strategy for sustaining peace, and in this regard, stresses the need for more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts, including among United Nations missions, United Nations country teams, and national, regional and international development actors, in ensuring greater effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of critical peacebuilding tasks;

15. **Stresses** that the Peacebuilding Support Office should be revitalized, and emphasizes that the full support of the Secretary-General is needed, in order for the Peacebuilding Support Office to support the Peacebuilding Commission, to increase synergies with other parts of the United Nations system, and to provide strategic advice to the Secretary-General, drawing together the expertise of the United Nations system to facilitate coherent system-wide action and support partnerships for sustaining peace;

16. **Reaffirms** that development is a central goal in itself and recognizes the important contributions of the United Nations development system to peacebuilding, particularly through economic development and poverty eradication, and stresses the need to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination for that purpose in the field through United Nations country teams and at United Nations Headquarters, in accordance with their respective mandates, and with respect for national ownership and priorities of countries affected by conflict, including through the overarching framework of the United Nations operational activities for development;

17. **Takes note** of the Secretary-General’s decision to request the United Nations Development Group to take forward a review of the current capacities of agencies, funds and programmes, and particularly looks forward to its findings contributing to enhancing the United Nations capacities relating to sustaining peace;

18. **Underlines** that the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace can be met through close strategic and operational partnerships between national Governments, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, regional and other development banks, civil society organizations, women’s groups, youth organizations and, where relevant, the private sector, and encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to consider options for regular exchanges and joint initiatives with key stakeholders to promote sustainable peace, including in the framework of the annual sessions of the Peacebuilding Commission;

19. **Stresses** the importance of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to improve cooperation and coordination in peacebuilding, to increase synergies and ensure the coherence and complementarity of such efforts, and in this regard, urges the Peacebuilding Commission to hold regular exchanges of views with relevant regional and subregional organizations and encourages regular exchanges, joint initiatives, and information-sharing between the Peacebuilding Support Office and relevant bodies of regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union Commission;

20. **Requests** the Secretary-General to explore options for strengthening the United Nations–World Bank collaboration in conflict-affected countries in order:

   (a) To assist such countries, upon their request, in creating an enabling environment for economic growth, foreign investment and job creation, and in the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, in line with national priorities and underscored by the principle of national ownership;
(b) To marshal resources, and align their regional and country strategies, to promote sustainable peace;

(c) To support the creation of enlarged funding platforms bringing together the World Bank Group, multilateral and bilateral donors and regional actors to pool resources, share and mitigate risk, and maximize impact for sustaining peace;

(d) To enable and encourage regular exchanges on priority peacebuilding areas;

21. **Underscores** the importance of women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and recognizes the continuing need to increase representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace;

22. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to promote the gender dimensions of peacebuilding, including through the delivery of gender-sensitive and targeted programming, through the strengthening of women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding, supporting women’s organizations and through monitoring, tracking and reporting achievement;

23. ** Calls upon** Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts through creating policies, including in partnership with the private sector where relevant, that would enhance youth capacities and skills, and create youth employment to actively contribute to sustaining peace, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General and the Peacebuilding Commission to include in their recommendations ways to engage youth in peacebuilding;

24. **Emphasizes** the need for predictable and sustained financing to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through increased contributions, and strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, while also noting the significance that non-monetary contributions can play in peacebuilding efforts;

25. ** Welcomes** the contributions made to the Peacebuilding Fund, takes note of the proposals in the Advisory Group of Experts report in this regard, and urges all Member States, including non-traditional donors and other partners, to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund, including by building on the practice of making multi-year commitments to the Fund;

26. **Recognizes** the importance of adequately resourcing the peacebuilding components of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown, to support stability and continuity of peacebuilding activities;

27. **Stresses** the importance of enhancing the mobilization of resources for initiatives that address the particular needs of women in peacebuilding contexts, advance gender equality, and empower women;

28. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session an item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”;

29. **Also decides** to convene at its seventy-second session, under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on sustaining peace, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly;

30. **Invites** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, at least 60 days prior to the high-level meeting on “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, on efforts to implement the present resolution, including in the following areas:
(a) To strengthen operational and policy coherence within the United Nations system towards sustaining peace, including strengthened strategic planning across the United Nations system;

(b) To improve internal United Nations leadership, capability, and accountability — at Headquarters, and in the field — on efforts to sustain peace;

(c) To ensure continuity of relevant peacebuilding programmes, senior leadership, and personnel, as appropriate, through the different phases of United Nations engagement, in order to improve mission transitions;

(d) To strengthen partnerships between the United Nations and key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations;

(e) To provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions, with a view to ensuring sustainable financing, for the consideration of Member States;

(f) To provide options for adequate resourcing of the peacebuilding activities of United Nations country teams, and the peacebuilding components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown, for the consideration of Member States;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of the senior leadership of the United Nations country team to absorb relevant peacebuilding functions following the drawdown of Security Council-mandated missions;

(h) To support the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding processes, including through advocacy with national stakeholders, and support to women’s and youth organizations;

(i) To revitalize the Peacebuilding Support Office;

31. *Calls for* a further comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding at its seventy-fourth session.

*93rd plenary meeting*

*27 April 2016*
The Secretary-General's report (A/72/707-S/2018/43)

In its resolution 70/262, and as noted in Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on efforts to implement resolution 70/262, including in the following areas:

(a) To strengthen operational and policy coherence within the United Nations system towards sustaining peace, including strengthened strategic planning across the United Nations system;

(b) To improve internal United Nations leadership, capability, and accountability — at Headquarters, and in the field — on efforts to sustain peace;

(c) To ensure continuity of relevant peacebuilding programmes, senior leadership and personnel, as appropriate, through the different phases of United Nations engagement, in order to improve mission transitions;

(d) To strengthen partnerships between the United Nations and key stakeholders, including international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society organizations;

(e) To provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions, with a view to ensuring sustainable financing for the consideration of Member States;

(f) To provide options for adequate resourcing of the peacebuilding activities of United Nations country teams and the peacebuilding components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown for the consideration of Member States;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of the senior leadership of United Nations country teams to absorb relevant peacebuilding functions following the drawdown of Security Council mandated missions;

(h) To support the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding processes, including through advocacy with national stakeholders, and support to women’s and youth organizations;

(i) To revitalize the Peacebuilding Support Office.

On 18 January 2018, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, issued his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43).

In his briefing to Member States on 5 March 2018, the Secretary-General highlighted four key messages from his report:

(a) Coherence has improved within the United Nations system, but more needs to be done;

(b) Sustainable and inclusive development has a major role to play in the prevention of conflicts and is more effective if it addresses and includes all the parties;

(c) Women and youth are essential to prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(d) Failure to advance on financing peacebuilding undermines the international community’s efforts on prevention.

The President of the General Assembly echoed the call by Member States for a new approach, better financing and new partnerships to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and for the United Nations to act in a more comprehensive and integrated manner. The President stressed
that sustaining peace was not a task for one department or office of the United Nations, but rather a core objective of the entire Organization.

The Secretary-General's briefing was followed by an informal meeting of the General Assembly, in which Member States expressed their interest in having a concise and procedural resolution as an outcome of the High-level Meeting. The President appointed Ms. Audra Plepyte, Permanent Representative of Lithuania, and Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on a draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly during the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held from 24 to 26 April 2018.

The report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) is presented below.
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. Two years ago, the General Assembly and the Security Council came together to express their commitment to building and sustaining peace. They emphasized, in the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), that Member States needed to work better together to sustain peace at all stages of conflict and in all its dimensions and stressed that sustaining peace was imperative to preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. It was recognized in the resolutions that sustaining peace should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population were taken into account.

2. In the resolutions, the General Assembly and the Security Council recognized that sustaining peace was a shared task and responsibility of Government and all other national stakeholders and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations’ engagement at all stages of conflict. They further reaffirmed the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace and emphasized that inclusivity was key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives.

3. An important breakthrough in the twin resolutions was the recognition that efforts to sustain peace were necessary not only once conflict had broken out but also long beforehand, through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes. More countries have recently experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly three decades. Forced displacement has reached unparalleled levels. In too many places, the cohesion of societies and the well-being of people are at risk. Building a common vision of society must involve paying attention to the causes of those problems. In the resolutions, it was recognized that the international community must redouble its efforts to support Member States in preventing crises that exact such unacceptable and growing human and financial tolls. Another important element of the resolutions was the recognition of the importance of women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding and the need to increase the representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict. The consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace should remain at the front of the efforts of the United Nations and the international community.

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 30 of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. It provides an update on the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions and contains specific recommendations to address existing gaps. My aim is to forge a common vision and common systems and capacities across the United Nations to consistently and adequately support Member States in their endeavour to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous nations in line with their commitments to leave no one behind.

5. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains the blueprint of the common vision of society towards which the world is trying to move. Inclusive and sustainable development not only is an end in itself but also happens to be the best defence against the risks of violent conflict. The 2030 Agenda also contains the promise to leave no one behind in the quest to build such societies. In the twin resolutions, it was recognized that development was a central goal in itself, and the important contributions of the United Nations development system to peacebuilding, in particular through economic development and poverty eradication, were acknowledged. The United Nations system needs to continue to strengthen
cooperation and coordination for that purpose in the field through United Nations country
teams and at United Nations Headquarters, in accordance with their respective mandates,
with respect for national ownership and the priorities of countries affected by conflict,
including through the overarching framework of the United Nations operational activities for
development.

6. The scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace calls for closer strategic and
operational partnerships among the United Nations, national Governments and other key
stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international
financial institutions, civil society organizations, women’s groups, youth organizations and
the private sector, taking into account national priorities and policies. In today’s complex
world, those partnerships need to harness the energies of all sectors of society. The United
Nations is one partner among others, and all partners need to come together in support of
the efforts of Governments.

7. I am convinced that the fragmentation of efforts across the United Nations system
undermines its ability to support Member States in their efforts to build and sustain peaceful
societies and to respond early and effectively to conflicts and crises. I have therefore intro-
duced a set of mutually reinforcing reforms to ensure that the United Nations is more fit for
purpose, including in the realms of development, management and peace and security. The
reforms aim to ensure greater coherence and accountability within those pillars and generate
greater coherence and synergies across the United Nations system.

II. Operational and policy coherence to strengthen support to peacebuilding
and sustaining peace

8. In the resolutions, there was a call in strong terms for more coherence in international
support to Member States in their efforts to build and sustain peace. Decades of experience
and a number of independent studies, including the report of the Advisory Group of Experts
on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (see A/69/968-S/2015/490), have pointed to
scattershot, incoherent and occasionally contradictory or competitive international efforts as
a significant source of failed peacebuilding efforts. Given the resurgence of conflict and the
vast scale of crisis and suffering around the globe, greater operational and policy coherence
among international actors and across the United Nations system is critical to strengthening
support to Member States.

9. The most crucial sources of support are usually other Member States, often those in the
same region or with strong historical ties, that can provide the political and financial support
necessary to the process of building a peaceful society. The essential idea behind the creation
of the peacebuilding architecture in 2005 was to institutionalize the process and establish a
standing mechanism to rally Member States around specific peacebuilding challenges. The
Peacebuilding Commission, which has a unique role to play in advancing intergovernmental
coherence through its cross-pillar mandate, has already diversified its working methods to
enhance its flexibility as a dedicated intergovernmental platform. Recent good practices
of the Commission include attention to cross-border and regional issues in the Great Lakes
region and the Sahel, support to the transition from a peace operation in Liberia and the
adoption of a gender strategy that is the first of its kind for an intergovernmental body of the
United Nations. Member States have also used the platform of the Commission for construc-
tive discussions on Burkina Faso, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands,
Somalia and Sri Lanka, at the initiative of the countries concerned. I welcome such flexibility
and innovation and encourage further efforts to enhance the role of the Commission.

10. Regional and other more flexible frameworks for coherent intergovernmental support
to sustaining peace have also shown great promise, in particular when they involve the
necessary resolve and a common vision among the countries concerned. The engagement
of the countries of the Sahel region, including through the framework of the Group of Five
for the Sahel, to address the complex and multidimensional challenges facing them is a
good example of Member States’ leadership in that regard. It also highlights the need for a system-wide approach from the United Nations and for close collaboration with partners such as the African Union, the European Union, the World Bank, the Alliance for the Sahel, Member States and the countries concerned to ensure a coordinated, coherent, integrated and results-oriented response.

11. I welcome other efforts by Member States to enhance policy coherence in support of sustaining peace. In January 2017, the President of the General Assembly convened a high-level dialogue on sustainable development and sustaining peace, in which I participated and which brought together the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for the first time to promote coordination and coherence across peace and development efforts. The Human Rights Council also considered the links between peacebuilding and human rights at its thirty-fourth session. Such initiatives have built upon the regular exchanges held by the Peacebuilding Commission with the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

12. Coherence and complementarity among the principal organs of the United Nations, including the governing bodies of United Nations entities, are critical. The role of the Economic and Social Council in the oversight of operational activities for development, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance and its overall coordination of the United Nations development system complement the valuable work of the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. I welcome the strong resolve shown by Member States in that regard and encourage them to explore further opportunities to enhance links at the intergovernmental level in support of sustaining peace in the field.

13. When the United Nations works together across the three pillars and with all relevant partners, a meaningful difference can be made in peoples’ lives. Coherence in operational engagement is key in that respect. In the Gambia, the value could be seen of swift and sustained regional engagement in support of national conflict prevention efforts through the Economic Community of West African States, supported by the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission and backed up by a coordinated and coherent United Nations system. Immediately after the peaceful resolution of the post-electoral crisis in the Gambia, a United Nations assessment mission, a visit by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the quick disbursement of grants and provision of capacities from the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights were critical in ensuring support to the new Government’s work to sustain peace. The identification of peacebuilding priorities and the design of United Nations country-level support have been nationally driven and focused on ensuring ownership and sustainability.

14. Similarly, in Liberia, work is under way to ensure that United Nations support is sustained and coherent in a transition context. The Peacebuilding Commission has provided advice to the Security Council on the transition of the peace operation mandate and the development of a national peacebuilding plan, led by national stakeholders and supported by the recovery and peacebuilding assessment, a tripartite framework of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union. In follow up, the Peacebuilding Commission provided a platform for United Nations leadership in Liberia to discuss with Member States a capacity mapping exercise to identify expected financing and expertise gaps following the departure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). A multi-partner trust fund has been established and is supported by the Peacebuilding Fund in its catalytic role.

15. The opportunities for meaningful impact on the ground when the United Nations system joins up its efforts are especially evident where peace operations are deployed. Peace operations, both special political and peacekeeping missions, can be powerful platforms for preventing conflict from escalating and for sustaining peace, as acknowledged and
welcomed in the resolutions. Together with development, humanitarian and human rights actors, United Nations peace operations carry out regular strategic assessments to develop a shared understanding and to propose options for the best way to support Member States in sustaining peace. In order to maximize the coherence and, therefore, the impact of that support, such assessments should have stronger links to integrated strategic frameworks and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which would enable mission components and members of United Nations country teams to work from the same analysis and towards the same goals, in support of national priorities. A good example is the United Nations Peacebuilding and Development Assistance Framework in the Central African Republic, which supports the national recovery and peacebuilding plan for the period 2017–2021, aligns national priorities across peace and security, reconciliation, human rights and development and is supported by the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission. I reaffirm my commitment to integration as a way of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in mission settings. I have also requested that the integrated assessment and planning policy be revised to improve coherent action across the United Nations system in support of sustaining peace.

16. There are also useful examples of in-country cross-pillar cooperation in specific substantive areas. In 10 conflict-affected countries, the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations of UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations brings together different parts of the United Nations engaged in support to the rule of law for joint analysis, planning and programming. In Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the United Nations country team implement a joint programme to support rule of law institutions of Somalia, bringing together nine United Nations partners around common strategic objectives. The model has also been useful in ensuring that cross-cutting issues are the priority of all United Nations entities. For example, through programmes supported by the Global Focal Point, there has been an increased focus on women’s access to justice in core rule of law programmes, as well as greater implementation of the 15 per cent target for spending on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women as a principal objective.

17. Working jointly requires a coherent division of expertise and the pooling of resources. The Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention of UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs supports the deployment of peace and development advisers in more than 40 resident coordinator offices. Peace and development advisers provide in-country analytical and programmatic guidance, support the conflict sensitivity of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and United Nations country team programmes and strengthen national capacities for prevention. In Lesotho, for example, the peace and development adviser facilitated United Nations support to the country’s national reform processes, including dialogue and consensus-building. The joint project of UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs on United Nations transitions in mission settings is another example of cross-pillar cooperation. The challenge now is to turn such examples into standard practice, so that Member States can benefit from joined-up United Nations support that has maximum impact. To that end, I will build upon such initiatives by encouraging the creation of additional cross-system models for United Nations joint technical support that pool capacities and funding, resulting in programming that helps to sustain peace.

18. My proposed restructuring of the peace and security pillar, as supported by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/199, will also contribute to greater coherence of United Nations efforts (see A/72/525). It is aimed at prioritizing conflict prevention and sustaining peace, enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, overcoming fragmentation by moving towards a single integrated peace and security pillar and aligning the peace and security pillar more closely with the development and human rights pillars so as to foster greater coherence and cross-pillar coordination. To that end, existing substantive capacities and resources in the area of peace and security will
be reorganized and integrated more rationally, including through the creation of a single political-operational structure with regional responsibilities that will support a more holistic approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace through the development of regional strategies and approaches, enhanced partnerships with regional organizations and more effective support to the Peacebuilding Commission.

19. As mandated by the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Support Office will be reinforced to assume a stronger cross-pillar bridging role to strengthen the pillar’s orientation towards sustaining peace. Building upon its existing work in support of the development-humanitarian-peacebuilding continuum, the Office will function as a “hinge” between the peace and security pillar and the other pillars and with the humanitarian community. It will be responsible for connecting relevant tools and approaches across the conflict spectrum, drawing together the expertise of the United Nations system to facilitate coherent system-wide action, and for strengthening partnerships within and beyond the United Nations. Together with the participation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support in key cross-pillar mechanisms, including the Executive Committee, the significant strengthening of the Peacebuilding Fund and enhanced support to the Peacebuilding Commission, those measures will contribute to the revitalization of the Office and help to fulfil the original vision behind its establishment, to foster strategic coherence in United Nations efforts in support of sustaining peace.

20. In order to realize that vision, I propose that the capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office be strengthened within the existing resources of the peace and security pillar. In that respect, I ask Member States to consider favourably my detailed proposals for the restructuring of the peace and security pillar and to enhance the capacities of the Peacebuilding Support Office and other parts of the proposed Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, including through the use of the peacekeeping support account for peacebuilding activities in relevant peacekeeping settings. I also encourage United Nations entities to continue to second personnel to the Office both to reinforce its capacity and to strengthen system-wide synergy and coherence.

21. The international human rights framework, in particular Member States’ obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provides a critical foundation for sustaining peace. The collective work of the United Nations system to advance human rights should help to identify the root causes of and responses to conflict. In that respect, it will remain imperative for the peace and security and development pillars to make better use of the existing human rights mechanisms, such as special procedures, the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review, and their recommendations in support of Member States.

22. Central to those efforts is a more coherent United Nations that will think, plan and programme in a joined-up way, drawing upon its full range of tools to support Member States. This begins with a common understanding of the major risks and opportunities relevant to each Member State. A common analysis of those risks and opportunities in turn allows for risk-informed development strategies and targeted efforts to build resilience and sustain peace. No region or State will face the same mix of risks or the same level of exposure to those risks. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint for engaging with Member States on those issues. At the country level, there should be a common prioritization of risks and opportunities, grounded in universally agreed human rights and humanitarian norms and standards, as well as robust gender analysis. Peacebuilding strategies linked to programmes with corresponding joint steering committees, including Governments, the United Nations and civil society, have been helpful. I will ask senior United Nations leadership in the field to ensure joined-up analysis of risks and to translate such analysis into coherent strategies and actions in support of sustaining peace.

23. In the resolutions, the important contributions of the United Nations development system to peacebuilding were recognized and the need to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination for that purpose, respecting both national ownership and the priorities of
countries affected by conflict, was stressed. Sustainable development is the primary goal and an end in itself. It also has the advantage of being the best guarantee of peace that endures. The primary objective of the United Nations development system is to support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, based on national ownership of the goals.

24. My proposed reforms of the development system foresee a new generation of United Nations country teams, centred around a strategic United Nations Development Assistance Framework and led by an impartial, independent and empowered resident coordinator, with a stronger focus on providing collective support and generating common results. As outlined in my report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684-E/2018/7), the development system needs to be much more cohesive and integrated at the country level to expand the offer of whole-of-system expertise to countries. Resident coordinator offices, drawing upon the full range of expertise of resident and non-resident United Nations entities, should be equipped to serve as hubs for collective analysis and planning. Resident coordinator offices would therefore be responsible for coordinating development strategies that are risk informed and help to build peaceful and inclusive societies. Critical to this will be a revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as the single most important United Nations country planning instrument, informed by a conflict and development analysis endorsed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. The analysis will be continuously updated to incorporate guidance on conflict sensitivity and sustaining peace and should be used routinely in planning processes of the Frameworks, with the support of peace and development advisers, where present. Already, 80 per cent of the Frameworks launched in 2017 include contributions to sustaining peace. I will strive to ensure that the Frameworks are risk informed and become more effective tools for supporting national efforts to build resilience and for accelerating transitions out of crisis to sustain peace.

25. United Nations entities are adapting to this cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace within their respective mandates. Already, 77 per cent of resident coordinators report close collaboration among entities engaged in development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace. Of the 19 entities, 16 include peacebuilding and sustaining peace in their strategic plans, guidance and training. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), for example, has included targets relating to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies in its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. Supporting peacebuilding initiatives is a core priority of the strategic plan for the period 2017–2022 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The World Food Programme has adopted a peacebuilding policy and guidance. Recognizing the primacy of existing mandates, the needs articulated by Member States and the overriding importance of development as the primary objective, I encourage all United Nations entities to view sustaining peace as an important goal to which their work can contribute and to integrate the approach to sustaining peace into their global and country-specific strategic plans, as appropriate.

26. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group is a key mechanism for United Nations coherence and, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, is on track to become even more effective. Working closely with the recently established joint steering committee to advance humanitarian and development collaboration, the Group will also place greater emphasis on fostering synergies in humanitarian and development action, as well as its links to peace, in support of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, United Nations support to countries for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals must be guided by the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy developed by the Group and must be risk informed and conflict sensitive. I will deploy multidisciplinary missions of the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy to help to ensure that support to national planning for the 2030 Agenda is conflict sensitive and integrated. I will also ensure that the new United Nations Sustainable Development Group, under the leadership of the
Deputy Secretary-General, will continue to promote cross-pillar coordination and coherence in support of the 2030 Agenda and its links to peace, including through its results groups.

27. Without the full participation of women in society, neither peace nor prosperity can be ensured over the long term. The meaningful participation of women measurably strengthens protection efforts and deepens the effectiveness of peacebuilding. Research also points to the direct relationship between gender equality, on the one hand, and resilience to and prevention of conflict, on the other. The women and peace and security agenda is therefore essential for all the work of the United Nations system in support of Member States. My Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding to accelerate progress on the participation of women in peacebuilding aims to increase financing for gender-responsive peacebuilding, expand the access of women to decision-making and improve gender-sensitive analysis and planning. I remain committed to ensuring the full implementation of the Seven-Point Action Plan and will request a review and update of all elements of the Plan in the light of the reforms that I have initiated, well in advance of the forthcoming twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), to ensure that the appropriate changes are made and that the United Nations system can demonstrate effectively the progress made in that area.

28. Young people represent the future of society and are also very much the present. While young people's experience of peace and conflict is varied, conflict can disrupt educational and employment opportunities, leading to trauma and mistrust towards the State and the international community. Most young people resist violence, and some actively engage in peacebuilding and sustaining peace despite the risks they face. Yet, young people remain underrepresented in decision-making at all levels. It is high time that the contribution of young people to sustaining peace was recognized and supported. The youth and peace and security agenda offers opportunities to galvanize coherent United Nations engagement in support of young people and their contribution to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I look forward to the recommendations of the independent progress study on youth and peace and security requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2250 (2015) and to further advancing the agenda together with Member States.

III. Leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace

29. I am determined to improve leadership, accountability and capacity across the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field, so that the Organization can offer Member States the most effective possible support in sustaining peace. This will need to include efforts to ensure the continuity of relevant peacebuilding programmes, senior leadership and personnel through different phases of United Nations engagement, in order to improve transitions, and a strengthening of the capacity of the senior leadership of the United Nations country team to absorb relevant peacebuilding functions following the drawdown of Security Council-mandated missions.

30. The adoption in 2017 of a system-wide leadership framework underscores my commitment to improving leadership across the United Nations system. My system-wide strategy on gender parity is aimed at addressing the lack of parity at all levels, in particular in senior positions, and at improving organizational culture with respect to gender.

31. A major objective of the management reform proposals Member States have now endorsed is to decentralize decision-making, bringing it closer to the point of delivery and making the planning and budget process more accountable and responsive. I intend to empower heads of departments, offices, regional commissions and field missions to align authority in the management of financial, human and material resources with the delegated responsibility for mandate implementation. A clearer link between resources and results will serve to achieve greater transparency and accountability. The ability to manage resources effectively in response to urgent requirements, emerging risks and current operational needs will enhance the Organization's effective and timely support in sustaining peace.
32. At the heart of my proposals for the repositioning of the United Nations development system is my conviction that a new generation of United Nations country teams is required for delivery on the 2030 Agenda, supported by empowered, impartial and competent resident coordinators. The proposals are also based upon the results of an independent review, conducted by the Overseas Development Institute, of the capacities of United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes to sustain peace. In its review, the Institute concluded that there was a need to strengthen capacities to conduct conflict or context analysis and to translate analysis into more conflict-sensitive programming. As integrators of policy concerning all of the Sustainable Development Goals, resident coordinators must be better prepared to work across the development-humanitarian-peacebuilding continuum. This includes a strong understanding of relevant United Nations normative frameworks and the ability to translate these into system-wide analysis, planning and programming. In conflict-affected settings, resident coordinators will need to ensure that United Nations country teams work in an integrated manner with United Nations peace operations to contribute fully to building resilience and sustaining peace. In relevant contexts, resident coordinators, including triple-hatted deputy special representatives of the Secretary-General, must receive integrated support from development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding entities in order to foster an integrated response that includes human rights and gender equality, and must be accountable for improving inter-agency collaboration to support national actors in risk management, resilience-building and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

33. It is important that those in leadership positions in the field receive assistance from Headquarters, including guidance, training, surge capacities, peer-to-peer support and the delegated authority to take calculated risks in support of national priorities. Resident coordinators must have a diverse skillset, with strong leadership, team-building and communications skills, including in integrated planning, risk management, gender issues and human rights, in order to be able to promote coherence in a collaborative manner. It is also important for resident coordinators to have gained experience from working in United Nations system organizations and to be involved in continuing their professional education. I will encourage diversity of experience across peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian issues for all United Nations senior leadership, with improved and adequately incentivized inter-agency mobility, including across all three pillars of the United Nations.

34. The need for collaborative leadership is particularly in evidence when a United Nations peace operation is being drawn down. I recommend that, during the drawdown, a mapping of capacity of the United Nations country team against peacebuilding priorities be undertaken and discussed with Member States through the Peacebuilding Commission. This is what occurred in Liberia, where the assessment of capacities against the priorities outlined in the Liberia peacebuilding plan, conducted by the joint project of UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs on United Nations transitions in mission settings, showed the need for substantial investments through the United Nations country team in order to continue peacebuilding efforts. Comprehensive gender analysis and effective planning are also essential to ensure that gains on gender equality are not eroded when peace operations are withdrawn. Another example of good practices in this regard is the integrated transition planning that took place in Côte d’Ivoire. Integrated planning at an early stage and throughout the life cycle of a mission is critical. Additional planning capacity should also be deployed where and when required.

35. Not all types of technical expertise are available within United Nations country teams or missions. Resident coordinators must be able to benefit from the expertise and assets of the entire United Nations system to ensure better delivery of their mandates. I will take steps to ensure that resident coordinators can draw more easily on advice from centres of expertise at Headquarters and at the regional level. In my report on repositioning the United Nations development system, I indicated that as part of the optimization of regional structures, the Organization would ensure that the development and review of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks included a more thorough analysis of regional and transboundary
issues, with the regional commissions as an integral part of the process. The regional commissions could also play a supporting role in integrated analysis at the regional level and provide a convening platform for intergovernmental dialogue. Over the medium term, United Nations regional assets should be restructured so as to streamline and maximize the impact of the United Nations regional presence in support of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and, as part of that objective, sustaining peace.

36. In the report on the United Nations development system, I also included proposals to strengthen resident coordinator offices and ensure that capacities matched the needs of national priorities, building on the comparative advantages of the United Nations system. The United Nations system’s efforts must continue to be oriented around three key principles: reinforcing national ownership; developing country-contextual responses; and ensuring the effective delivery of development results on the ground. In considering the specificity of each context, I recommend that staff of the resident coordinator offices or of the integrated presence in a country have advisory responsibilities, in addition to planning and coordination, monitoring and evaluation and financing support functions, in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. I recommend that the Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, which currently deploys more than 40 peace and development advisers to resident coordinator offices, in full agreement with the respective Governments, serve as a model for making such enhanced capacities available.

37. Under my proposal for restructuring the peace and security pillar, the single regional structure will offer guidance and support to resident coordinators in non-mission settings, in close cooperation with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. The proposed Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and of Peace Operations will continue to house staff specialized in electoral affairs, mediation support, military affairs, police, rule of law, civil affairs, security sector reform, mine action and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The proposed Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and of Peace Operations will also continue to support gender mainstreaming through their gender capacities, working closely with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Examples of flexible mechanisms that allow for the relevant expertise to be available at the appropriate time are the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers, the newly established High-level Advisory Board on Mediation, the United Nations single electoral roster, multidisciplinary teams deployed through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations, the UNDP ExpRes Roster for Crisis Response, UN-Women regional advisers on women and peace and security and capacities deployed under the joint project of UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs on United Nations transitions in mission settings. The three regional special political missions in Central Africa, West Africa and Central Asia and the regional presence of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system are also important sources of advice and support in this regard. I will build upon these existing good practices in the provision of appropriate expertise and surge capacities to resident coordinators, United Nations country teams and peace operations to support national needs, including by encouraging all entities to work in effective cross-pillar partnerships.

IV. Financing for peacebuilding

38. In the twin resolutions, Member States recognized the need for United Nations peacebuilding efforts, including those of United Nations country teams and the peacebuilding components of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, to have adequate, predictable and sustained financing in the face of challenges that included fragmentation across the system, competition for resources, lack of risk tolerance and speed, weak links between analysis and implementation, and insufficient dedicated resources to address conflict risks, including in transition settings.
39. Financing United Nations peacebuilding activities should be seen against the backdrop of total financial resources available for countries affected by violent conflict. Nearly half of all people living in extreme poverty reside in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Unless concerted action is taken by 2030, that figure is expected to rise to 80 per cent by 2035. The trend is discouraging: official development assistance (ODA) to conflict-affected countries fell as a share of global ODA from 40 per cent (equivalent to $44.6 billion\(^{10}\)) in 2005 to 28 per cent (equivalent to $41.4 billion) in 2015. The focus on peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries has declined, from 18.0 per cent of ODA in 2009 to 13.0 per cent in 2015 (see figure I). By contrast, net financial outflows from conflict-affected countries were estimated at $53 billion in 2016. Annually, less than 2 per cent of ODA to conflict-affected settings was allocated to advancing gender equality or meeting women’s rights and needs. The international community needs to make financing for development work for fragile and conflict-affected countries. I therefore encourage Member States to support Governments in planning and financing their national implementation plans with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. On the United Nations side, as I have stressed in my report on repositioning the United Nations development system, the United Nations will take steps to scale up its capacities to support Member States in their efforts in financing the Goals.

40. As I have noted repeatedly since assuming office, the costs of responding to crises have become unsustainably high: the international community spent $233 billion over the past 10 years on humanitarian responses, peacekeeping and in donor refugee costs. According to the United Nations-World Bank joint study, entitled *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, it is estimated that effective prevention would save anywhere from $5 billion to $70 billion per year for the affected country and the international community combined. Investing in prevention pays off. It saves lives, money and development gains. But the United Nations does not have sufficient resources to support Member States in preventing violent conflict. For example, 2015 and 2016 annual allocations for a total of 15 Headquarters-based United Nations trust funds and global programmes related to peace amounted to approximately $200 million, according to available reports on them, far less than what is needed.

41. In contexts in which peacekeeping operations are present, notable progress has been made in the allocation of resources from peacekeeping mission assessed budgets for mandated programmatic activities in support of peacebuilding. This support now totals approximately $250 million annually, of which approximately $180 million is directed towards mine action and the rest towards activities such as community violence reduction and promotion of the rule of law. These activities are implemented directly by peacekeeping missions and other partners on the basis of their comparative advantages. I welcome existing budgetary allocation for programmatic activities in peacekeeping budgets as valuable support to peacebuilding.

42. Despite such progress, there remains a significant gap in resources and capacities to fulfil the peacebuilding components of mission mandates and meet broader national peacebuilding needs. In 2016, according to a recovery and peacebuilding assessment in the Central African Republic, the costs for peacebuilding and recovery between 2017 and 2021 were estimated at $3.2 billion, with $2.2 billion pledged by donors in November 2016. In Liberia, in the context of the drawdown of UNMIL, the financial estimate for the work of the United Nations country team in support of the national peacebuilding plan over two years is $130 million, with $10 million pledged by the Peacebuilding Fund by December 2017.

---

9 Countries with country-specific special political missions or a multidimensional peacekeeping operation, or that are eligible for or are recipients of Peacebuilding Fund funding as of September 2017.

10 Constant prices of 2015.
43. An emerging good practice is the establishment of pooled funds at the country level in support of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, linked to a national peacebuilding plan, accompanied by the Peacebuilding Commission and supported by the Peacebuilding Fund in its catalytic role. Pooled funds have a strong track record in strengthening coherence and coordination; broadening the contributor base; improving risk management and leverage; empowering the resident coordinator and providing incentives for collaboration, including across United Nations pillars, thus encouraging integrated programming. They are particularly useful ahead of a mission drawdown. Pooled funds should be supported by a country-level, nationally owned mapping of peacebuilding resource needs and total financial resources available, including national resources. I encourage United Nations senior leadership to map peacebuilding resource needs, on the basis of a joined-up risk analysis, and to establish a country-specific pooled fund in support of the Framework. Fragmented financial streams can also be linked to planning and programming through country platforms. For example, the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility, supported by the World Bank and the United Nations, binds the international community together in mutual accountability with Somali counterparts through a joint governance and secretariat structure overseeing separate funds.

44. While financial support for peacebuilding activities is indispensable, the contribution of in-kind resources can also be significant. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has implemented integrated peace and development approaches in Burundi, Chad, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor-Leste with support from UNDP and United Nations Volunteers and partners such as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange. I encourage United Nations senior leadership to support South-South and triangular cooperation in peacebuilding.

45. At the Headquarters level, it is essential to ensure that adequate, predictable and sustained financing is available to support peacebuilding at the country level. Non core resources are important but also increase transaction costs, fragmentation, competition and overlap. Yet, these earmarked contributions have grown six times faster than core contributions to United Nations development system entities in the past 15 years, reducing core resources to
only 15 per cent of the total. In response to this challenge, I have proposed a funding compact to Member States to explore options that could help to improve the quality and predictability of resources allocated to the United Nations, in return for greater effectiveness, transparency and accountability for system-wide results.

46. In order to help to address issues of fragmentation and competition among funding instruments and to enhance transparency, accountability and effectiveness, I will also establish a funding dashboard for peacebuilding. The dashboard will serve to catalogue existing instruments, including their capitalization, rules and procedures, governance structures and areas of intervention. The dashboard will allow the Executive Committee, relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms and senior leadership, including in the field, to track global peacebuilding resources, and will promote greater strategic alignment of funding. It will also allow for more accurate tracking of the Organization’s own commitments, including to ensure that 15 per cent of funding in this area is earmarked for gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal objective. I will continue to encourage greater coordination among these funding instruments, including through joint assessments and common initiatives.

47. The Peacebuilding Fund, as a timely, catalytic and risk tolerant instrument, is a critical vehicle as the United Nations steps up its efforts to build resilience and drive, at a greater scale, integrated United Nations action for prevention. The Fund has supported national partners and United Nations country teams in responding strategically to peacebuilding needs, aiding transitions from mission to non-mission settings and facilitating alignment with international financial institutions and other partners. The role of the Fund as a financial catalyst for peacebuilding must therefore be enhanced further. At the country level, the Fund’s investments should be leveraged to maximize investments from other stakeholders. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an initial $12 million Fund contribution for stabilization was more than doubled by additional contributions from donors. In Sri Lanka, an initial $12 million Fund investment mobilized five other donors to support the $82 million peacebuilding priority plan. Financial forecasting for the Fund, based on country-driven needs across several windows—including support for transitions, private sector engagement, cross-border and regional initiatives, and a gender and youth initiative—places the estimated total requirements for the Fund at $500 million annually. I therefore reiterate my call for a “quantum leap” in contributions to the Fund, which should be unearmarked and provided for a longer term to ensure that support is both responsive and predictable.

48. Ensuring a dedicated minimum of 15 per cent of all United Nations-managed funding in support of peacebuilding projects to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal objective is part of my Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding. This has been furthered through dedicated instruments, such as the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, as well as through earmarking within country-level trust funds such as the Myanmar Joint Peace Fund and the Stabilization Coherence Fund for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have adopted the 15 per cent target. The Peacebuilding Fund reached 19.2 per cent in 2016 and raised the target to 30 per cent in its business plan for the period 2017–2019. I request that all United Nations funding mechanisms in support of peacebuilding projects meet and exceed this 15 per cent target and that Member States contribute specifically in this area, where resources are scarce but the impact great.

49. In the resolutions, I was requested to provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions, for the consideration of Member States. The options are set out below:

(a) **Voluntary resources.** A number of Headquarters-level trust funds in the Secretariat are inactive and unutilized. To support the financing of the Peacebuilding Fund, I call upon
donors to agree to allocate the remaining balance of any Headquarters-level trust fund inactive for two years or more to the Fund;

(b) **Assessed contributions.** These would provide higher predictability and sustainability of funding for peacebuilding, and reduce the costs of voluntary resource mobilization. It is important to note that the use of assessed contributions would send a powerful signal regarding the commitment of all Member States to peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(c) **Assessed contributions** during mission drawdowns. Mission transitions and drawdowns represent some of the most critical periods and the time during which investments in sustaining peace made by national authorities and their international partners over the years can be either sustained or lost in a matter of months. After a drawdown, United Nations country teams commonly face a “financial cliff” in support for peacebuilding activities. In the case of Liberia, the financial estimate in support of the peacebuilding plan is $65 million per year for two years, or approximately 55 per cent per year of the final full-year budget of UNMIL in the amount of $116.95 million. In recognition of the imperative of well-managed and appropriately resourced transitions, I call upon the principal contributors to peacekeeping budgets to voluntarily commit the equivalent of 15 per cent of the final full-year budget of a closing peacekeeping mission, to be contributed to peacebuilding activities through existing projects or the country-level pooled fund managed by the resident coordinator office, each year for a period of two years following the end of the mission’s mandate;

(d) **Unspent assessed contributions.** Peacekeeping missions are sometimes left with unencumbered balances at the end of the financial period. At the end of the 2015/16 period, the balance amounted to $279 million, which was credited to Member States as unspent funds. I call upon Member States to voluntarily commit unspent peacekeeping budget funds to the Peacebuilding Fund;

(e) **Assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund.** In its report, the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture recommended that the General Assembly consider steps to ensure that core funding representing $100 million or an approximate and symbolic 1 per cent of the value (whichever is higher) of the total United Nations budgets for peace operations (peacekeeping and special political missions together) be provided to the Fund annually from assessed contributions under the United Nations budget. The assessed contributions should be provided in a way that ensures necessary oversight without undermining the Fund’s comparative advantage as a fast, unearmarked, flexible and pre-positioned pooled fund working under terms of reference approved by the General Assembly. I call upon Member States to consider the allocation of assessed contributions to the value of $100 million or a symbolic 1 per cent of the total annual cost of peace operations to the Fund;

(f) **Re-investing savings from assessed budgets.** When the overall financial requirements for peacekeeping operations decrease, some of the variance should be reinvested in peacebuilding. In years when the total approved resources for peacekeeping operations are less than those of the previous year, I call upon Member States to agree to be assessed the equivalent of 15 per cent of the total variance in the approved resources to finance the Peacebuilding Fund;

(g) **Diversifying available resources.** I am exploring the possibility of innovative financing solutions for peacebuilding, including contributions by individuals, foundations and faith-based organizations, bonds, levy and tax-based revenue generation, corporate partnership and blended finance. There are already several promising examples, which include social impact bonds to pay for rehabilitation centres in Mali, corporate partnerships for sustaining peace in Nigeria and South Sudan, and crowdfunding peacebuilding initiatives.

The United Nations mobilizes more than $250 million annually from corporate partners and is engaging with the private sector on setting investment guidelines and on a wide range
of other issues through the United Nations Global Compact. I welcome recent initiatives to strengthen partnerships for peacebuilding. In 2017, the fourth Business for Peace annual conference was held in Colombia. Colombia will become a test case for blended finance, using grant money to unleash commercial financing for peacebuilding. In Liberia, companies supported the project design and financially contributed to an initiative to mitigate concession-related conflicts. I encourage the United Nations system to further develop partnerships with the private sector and the investment community to strengthen the peacebuilding impact of companies, set conflict-sensitive investment guidelines and explore potential contributions to United Nations peacebuilding activities. This should be undertaken in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework.

51. To support this ongoing work, the Peacebuilding Fund, working closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, will assume a strategic resource mobilization role for predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. This would include exploring opportunities for contributions from the private sector through traditional means, as well as considering partnerships and innovative financing methods. This capacity will work in coordination with the proposed United Nations development system innovative funding lab. The Fund will explore the possibility of establishing a web-based donation mechanism, the use of crowdfunding websites and establishing partnerships with companies to mobilize voluntary levies on products or services.

52. I also encourage Member States to explore innovative means of financing peacebuilding activities, including through the issuance of social impact bonds in peacebuilding, the voluntary implementation of a tax on the trade in (specific) arms, or the donation of fines imposed on defence industry corporations to United Nations peacebuilding activities.

V. Partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace

53. An ecosystem of partners working in support of Governments is critical for sustaining peace, as recognized by Member States in the resolutions. Regional and subregional organizations play a key role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through preventive diplomacy, confidence-building and mediation efforts, preventing violent extremism, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. They also share knowledge, analytical capacity and strong local networks. African initiatives in peacebuilding, for example, include the African Union policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development and the African Solidarity Initiative. A Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security was signed in 2017, and a subsequent memorandum of understanding adopted between the African Union Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

54. Through the Peacebuilding Commission, Member States have enhanced collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, including on the Sahel, Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as in the Gambia. I encourage the Commission to continue to regularly convene meetings on country-specific and regional issues with regional and subregional organizations.

55. The United Nations engages regularly in joint analysis, planning and information-sharing with regional organizations, as well as direct collaboration. It has also increased the number of liaison offices to regional and subregional partners, including the African Union, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Southern African Development Community. The proposed new peace and security pillar will continue to prioritize such strategic partnerships and ensure that regional special political missions in Central Africa, West Africa, and Central Asia continue to hold regular thematic intergovernmental dialogues with regional and subregional organizations and strengthen joint analysis, planning and activities in support of sustaining peace. I encourage system-wide engagement with regional and subregional organizations on peacebuilding and
sustaining peace, with a focus on regular dialogue, enhanced information-sharing, improved coordination, and joint approaches and activities, on the basis of comparative advantages.

56. Sustaining peace requires much closer collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions. I am committed to continuing to develop the Organization’s partnership with the World Bank and other international financial institutions. The United Nations has already made great strides in partnership with the World Bank, building on the complementarity between the Organization’s implementation capacity, security operations, deep-field presence and normative frameworks, and the World Bank’s significant financial resources and technical expertise. This comes at a time when the World Bank is investing heavily in conflict-affected countries, as the International Development Association window doubled its allocation to countries affected by violent conflict to $14.4 billion for the period 2017–2020.

57. In April 2017, the President of the World Bank and I signed the United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations, according to which the two institutions are jointly committed to identifying and reducing critical multidimensional risks of crisis and to preventing violent conflict. Building upon this framework, I will work with the President of the World Bank to ensure the operationalization and implementation of the partnership framework for crisis-affected countries, including through consideration of appropriate follow-up to the United Nations-World Bank study, Pathways for Peace. The partnership framework remains open for the participation of other international financial institutions.

58. Pilot projects at the country level suggest that an institutionalized partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank can unlock significant financial flows towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In Yemen, with support from the United Nations-World Bank partnership trust fund, a World Bank staff member was deployed to the Office of my Special Envoy for Yemen to support continued World Bank engagement. An International Development Association allocation of $819 million was made for Yemeni institutions, community support and national capacities, implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. In the Central African Republic, Somalia and Yemen, methodologies are being piloted for joint analysis and planning across humanitarian, peace, and development actors including the World Bank. Such collaboration will also be needed in contexts such as the Sahel, to promote resilience and sustainable development, and strengthen local capacity to implement financing from the World Bank, African Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank.

59. Community-level engagement by the United Nations is another critical component of sustaining peace. Developing participatory approaches that involve civil society and local communities is instrumental in peacebuilding as well as in preventing violent extremism and addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism. This is already taking place in different forms in many contexts but should be continuous and systematic. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is developing a community-engagement framework, currently piloted in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. In Malawi, the United Nations has supported conflict prevention at the local level through a pool of trained youth and a women’s peacebuilding network, which has been mediating conflicts over land, family conflicts and gender-based violence issues in their communities. I recommend that all United Nations peace operations and United Nations country teams develop community-engagement strategies in consultation with national and local stakeholders, particularly youth and women’s groups, and that these be shared, monitored and reviewed with local actors.

60. I welcome the Peacebuilding Commission’s inclusion of civil society, with an emphasis on field-based civil society organizations, in its consultations as part of its enhanced working methods. The inclusion of such organizations is now a shared practice in country-configuration meetings and during country visits of Peacebuilding Commission members. In this way,
the Commission is also fulfilling its role as a bridge to help the analysis and experiences of civil society reach the Security Council.

61. United Nations engagement with civil society organizations at the country level takes many forms: building capacity, sharing good practices, producing practical tools, fostering a conducive environment for robust civil society, and active engagement in analysis, planning, programming and monitoring and evaluation. The United Nations has developed guidelines on civil society engagement in mission settings. In consultation with civil society, guidelines on system-wide engagement with civil society for sustaining peace will be developed.

62. Since 2016, under its gender and youth promotion initiatives, the Peacebuilding Fund has supported United Nations entities and civil society organizations as direct recipients of funding, with projects totalling $40 million. In addition, all projects allocate approximately 40 per cent of funding to local civil society organizations as implementing partners. The Peacebuilding Fund is also partnering with such organizations on programme design, including in Madagascar and the Niger, and community-based monitoring and evaluation in the Niger, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka. I encourage initiatives that allow civil society organizations to be direct recipients of funding for peacebuilding activities and that specify percentages of funding to be allocated to work undertaken by local civil society organizations.

63. United Nations funding windows for civil society organizations should include a focus on youth-led organizations. I encourage the international community to tap into the peacebuilding potential of youth organizations, including by improving their access to funding, technical support and capacity-building and by providing space for youth participation in programming. It is also imperative to ensure an enabling environment for youth organizations and internal expertise to engage with youth. I ask that the proposed Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and of Peace Operations and relevant agencies, funds and programmes ensure capacity to support youth engagement on peacebuilding activities. The study on youth, peace and security progress mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2250 (2015) will provide more specific recommendations for youth inclusion.

64. Women's organizations and networks also have important contributions to make in enabling women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention and ensuring the sustainability of women's grass-roots peacebuilding. Women's participation improves prevention efforts and overall security, especially on issues such as the prevention of violent extremism. Women's peace huts in Liberia, for example, supported by local women's organizations and UN-Women, and funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, are playing an effective role in mediating small-scale conflicts before they result in violence and in holding State security services accountable. In Burundi, Jordan, Colombia and Solomon Islands, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is providing crucial resources to women's organizations to support effective community-level mediation efforts, prevention and resilience, and peace agreement implementation. As the only fund that specifically supports the work of women's organizations in prevention and response, it has already demonstrated the exponential impact per dollar in prevention through supporting women's capacities.

VI. Conclusion

65. The proposals I have made to Member States on the reform of the peace and security pillar, the repositioning of the development system and the shifting of the management paradigm have their own logic, rationale and legislative trajectories. If endorsed, they will contribute in no small measure to an Organization that is more effective in supporting Member States in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. In the present report, I have outlined the considerable progress already achieved and built on the proposed reforms to set out additional, targeted changes to ensure that the United Nations does not lose sight of the linkages between its work in peace, development, human rights and humanitarian action. Some of these changes are proposed and pending Member State approval; others, I am undertaking under my own authority.
66. Sustaining peace is first and foremost a responsibility of Member States. The mirror image of a United Nations system that is better oriented towards prevention, human rights and sustainable development is a Membership that sees these as mutually reinforcing, sovereignty-affirming and within national interests. This is a lesson the United Nations has learned time and again. Political will to sustain peace remains invaluable.
II. Promoting peacebuilding and sustaining peace worldwide

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace were at the forefront of the agenda set out by the President of the General Assembly for its seventy-second session. With the aim of building momentum for the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, on 16 November 2017, the President issued a roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see below).

The President held several meetings with stakeholders on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, it is important to highlight his visit to Addis Ababa to meet with officials of the African Union to discuss the role of regional organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. To deepen his understanding of how sustaining peace is being implemented in practice, the President also visited indigenous communities in Totoró, Colombia, where he learned about a unique United Nations interagency project that works to build and sustain peace by supporting sustainable development, empowering rural women, building agricultural capacities and strengthening local leadership. The President participated in a number of seminars, conferences and events that promoted sustaining peace, encouraged best practices and provided a platform for the exchange of information and insight on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The President met with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams to learn about their work and experiences, and to support the work of the United Nations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He also exchanged views on peacebuilding and sustaining peace with world leaders, including Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia; Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland; Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Belgium; and Mr. Adama Barrow, President of Gambia.

The President’s goal was to better align discussions in Geneva and New York on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its interlinkages with human rights. He participated in a meeting on sustaining peace with Geneva-based actors, facilitated by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, on 28 November 2017. He also participated in an informal breakfast meeting on the “United Nations Approach to Sustaining Peace: Insights for the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”, hosted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, on 27 February 2018. The President’s team also took part in Geneva Peace Week on the theme, “Prevention Across Sectors and Institutions”, from 6 to 10 November 2017. In New York, the President participated in the ambassadorial-level conversation with the Human Rights and Conflict Prevention Caucus, on 29 November 2017.

The President sought to raise awareness of the problem of lack of resources for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in all his engagements throughout his mandate. On 11 June 2018, he convened, a high-level lunch on “Invest for Sustaining Peace: Financing the Fragile and Conflict-affected Countries”, in the margins of the High-level Meeting on Financing for the Sustainable Development Goals: Breaking the Bottlenecks of Investment, from Policy to Impact, which served as a platform for stronger public-private partnerships for sustainable development and sustaining peace.

In the context of his roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the President launched two initiatives:

- a dialogue on “Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”, held at Columbia University, New York, on 8 December 2017;
- a retreat on “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”, held at the German House, New York, on 6 and 7 March 2018.

The summaries of the dialogue and the retreat are presented below.

The President engaged in a large number of meetings, events and official visits, aimed at raising awareness about, and promoting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Statements delivered by the President at those events, as well as some press releases are presented below.
Roadmap of the President seventy-second session of the General Assembly for peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Introduction

In his acceptance speech, the President of the seventy-second 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 resolution 70/262 of the General Assembly and resolution 2282 (2016) of the Security Council on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, is groundbreaking in that it redefines the United Nations 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 United Nations’ 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 United Nations engagement with peace, President Lajčák is launching a roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Overarching objective of the roadmap

The main purpose of the President of the General Assembly’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 underscored the role played by relevant stakeholders, including civil society, regional and sub-regional organisations, United Nations 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 work of the United Nations: The United Nations 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 United Nations in the field around the globe and at United Nations Headquarters to learn about the measures taken to overcome silos and make the promise of the United Nations 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 seventy-second session of the General Assembly on efforts to implement the 2016 resolutions will provide important insights on how to better equip the United Nations 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 peace-builders in the field are doing. The President of the General Assembly, therefore, intends to learn from experience on the ground through visits to United Nations missions and country teams, from national governments about 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 recognizing the relevant role these organizations 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 United Nations is known for conflict response, rather than conflict prevention. The 2016 resolutions recognized 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 United Nations’ capacity to sustain peace. In this context, the President of the General Assembly will also work to raise awareness about the need to mobilize 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 recognizing that development is a central goal in itself, the 2016 resolutions further acknowledge that the United Nations development system can contribute to sustaining peace. President Lajčák will seek to promote a 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, encompass, inter alia, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. President Lajčák intends to promote a better understanding of how human rights can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The President of the General Assembly 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 United Nations.
Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Summary

The President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Miroslav Lajčák, in cooperation with six civil society and academic partners, convened a dialogue at Columbia University, New York, on 8 December 2017, to discuss the critical role of partnerships in sustaining peace and conflict prevention.

The dialogue served as an important step in the process leading up to the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held from 24 to 26 April 2018, which was convened by the President of the General Assembly further to General Assembly resolution 70/262 on review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).

The dialogue was intended as a valuable platform for relevant stakeholders to present their perspectives, facilitate learning and exchange, and foster conversation among all participants on the challenges and opportunities for sustaining peace in practice. It formed part of the President’s roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which encompassed five priorities that guided the President’s work leading up to the high-level meeting, namely:

1. outreach to relevant stakeholders;
2. supporting the work of the United Nations;
3. focusing on experiences and good practices;
4. making a strong financial case for peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and
5. strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development.

The following is a thematic summary of the half-day event, which included opening remarks and two panels on “Conflict Prevention in Sustaining Peace” and “How Partnerships Can Support Sustaining Peace”.

In their opening remarks, the speakers emphasized the immense cost of war and conflict, the crucial role of conflict prevention in sustaining peace, and some of the ongoing challenges for effective prevention of and response to conflicts.

Specifically, speakers noted that the annual cost of violence was estimated at $10 trillion globally, yet the amount of money and resources currently dedicated to conflict prevention paled in comparison. There were repeated calls for more predictable, sustainable and sizeable financing for conflict prevention, in particular — and sustaining peace, in general — along with increased recognition among
donors that greater investment in those areas made sense, given the massive cost of allowing potential and existing conflicts to go unaddressed.

As part of an overall strategy on conflict prevention and sustaining peace, speakers highlighted that the United Nations and other actors must work together to address inequality and exclusion, radicalization, the proliferation of non-State and transnational actors in conflict, refugee and migrant crises, cyber security, climate change, food security, lack of mediation and diplomacy in certain parts of the world and the shortage of reliable data on aspects of conflict, including arms flows, financial flows, combatants, casualties, damage and costs.

Given those complex and multifaceted challenges, emphasis was placed on the importance of partnerships between public and private entities. The importance of United Nations partnerships with local organizations and experts was also underlined, as was the potential of partnerships with private companies. Credit card companies, for example, could work with governmental and international actors towards shared goals, such as expanding access to financial services and combating illicit financial flows. Within the United Nations, a significant need for greater coordination and pooling of resources was noted.

With General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), the United Nations made a commitment to take a more comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Following the high-level reviews of peacekeeping and peacebuilding during 2015, there was growing understanding that the international community often responded only after a crisis started — when lives had already been lost and fragile social fabrics had become undone. As a counterpoint, the 2016 resolutions placed prevention of conflict at the core of United Nations engagement, and called for the robust engagement on the part of all partners in service to a common vision of peace. The emphasis on prevention represented a significant shift in the United Nations approach to peace, and therefore an opportunity for non-governmental sectors to reaffirm their commitment to more peaceful and just societies, and to take concrete steps to make the visions laid out in the resolutions a reality.

The Panel on Prevention in Sustaining Peace focused on how prevention plays a key role in sustaining peace by unpacking sustaining peace in practice and in the context of mutually supportive areas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights. Prevention, in that context, is the broad set of activities that address the root causes of conflict, in addition to the existing conflict prevention tools such as mediation, preventive diplomacy, cooperation and dialogue. This approach dispenses with time-bound ideas of pre- and post-conflict environments, which can lead to path-dependent responses, and proposes instead a continuum in which all tools are available at all times. The panel also looked at how different actors can best contribute to the preventive aspects of sustaining peace.

In particular, participants noted the importance of improving upon early warning systems for identifying potential or nascent conflicts, using a variety of qualitative and quantitative techniques. It was reiterated, however, that such systems were of limited use if the appropriate resources and cooperation for proactive approaches to conflict were not available. That includes not only sufficient and sustainable financing, but also the consent, cooperation and — crucially — ownership by and leadership of host governments throughout the peace processes in States in which the United Nations or other actors have been involved.

Specific areas of focus for conflict prevention and early detection were also discussed. For example, a study was cited whereby States with robust civil societies are less prone to conflict, even in the presence of other red flags. That suggested that the international community should consider ongoing engagement with local civil society actors and peacebuilders as an important aspect of prevention. In another example, a private company doing considerable pro bono work related findings from a summit it had convened on the rule of law in Central America. In at least one country, the lack of financial and human capital for timely court proceedings precipitated spikes in domestic violence (as cases of domestic abuse were going unheard), which was in turn correlated with increased youth membership in gangs, more violence and so on, forming a vicious cycle.

The importance of national ownership and local involvement in peace processes was reiterated through examples from Liberia, where recent elections, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have proceeded peacefully. Those accomplishments were attributed in part to the thoughtful involvement and inclusion of various civil society actors, especially women and youth. It was mentioned, for instance, that former victims of conflict and former child soldiers in Liberia have done significant work to help reintegrate and care for others who faced similar circumstances.

Panelists touched on the potential of partnerships for conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Some significant partnership-driven achievements were cited, including an ongoing initiative to catalogue and map local peacebuilders around the world, and a largely successful effort to preserve evidence of war crimes, which was spearheaded by an international legal association and involved mobile communications service providers and international courts.
Several concrete actions were recommended, including:

- Operating on the principle that sustaining peace should be locally led, regionally anchored and internationally supported;
- Ensuring joint analysis and programming include local civil society in order to address complex root causes;
- Recognizing and scaling up local, civil society-led approaches to sustaining peace;
- Advocating for inclusivity — especially of women and youth — in prevention actions, as well as greater inclusion of women in the United Nations peace operations;
- Identifying more sustainable approaches to financing;
- Solidifying gains after the departure of a peacekeeping operation;
- Leveraging creative partnerships;
- Using human rights instruments to address upstream prevention.

The panel closed by re-emphasizing that the role of prevention in sustaining peace was to highlight the need of all actors to address the root causes — not just the immediate causes — of conflict.

The panel on How Partnerships Can Support Sustaining Peace highlighted that, while the primary responsibility for identifying and implementing priorities for sustaining peace pertained to Governments, the General Assembly has acknowledged the role of a variety of stakeholders in assisting those national authorities to fulfil their goals. General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) underlined that the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace calls for close strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations, national Governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations and the private sector.

In both panels, partnerships with diverse stakeholders were recognized as essential to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. All acknowledged that local expertise and capacities — paired with national, regional and international resources and capabilities — went a long way towards sustaining peace. Collaboration on contextualized analysis, strategizing, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions for peace was indispensable, as was breaking down barriers and silos that impeded cooperation within and between organizations. Further, all agreed that the United Nations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector could play a crucial role in strengthening the capacities of national Governments in their initiatives to build peaceful and inclusive societies.

The panel on partnerships explored some specific partnerships along those lines that had emerged between the United Nations and regional organizations, Governments, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector. Discussion focused on cases that had worked well and their implications, as well as on ongoing challenges and ideas for the future of partnerships towards sustaining peace.

Participants considered, inter alia, the ongoing peacebuilding process led by the Government of Colombia with support from the United Nations and other actors, which had made historic progress over the last few years. That success was attributed, in part, to emphasis on — and financial support for — reintegration, inclusive processes, civil society, gender equality, access to justice and national ownership, on the part of the Government and its partners. The panel also reflected positively on Government-led, internationally supported efforts to strengthen the private sector in Colombia (and other countries), to foster the capacity of firms for meaningful engagement with Government and civil society, and to encourage illegally operating enterprises, such as certain mines in Colombia, to transition to legal operations.

Another example with potentially wide-ranging implications was a relatively simple but effective initiative in Brazil, involving public- and private-sector actors, which provided much needed low-income housing and vocational training to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in certain parts of the country. As a result, according to early indications, this community has seen its life expectancy and well-being increase by orders of magnitude.

Using innovative financing approaches in peacebuilding contexts, including fundraising initiatives that utilize “micro levies”, campaigns tied to particular products or other kinds of purchases — such as the successful Product (RED) campaign — and social impact bonds were also mentioned in the panel.

Participants also drew attention to advocating for wider adoption of the Equator Principles, the globally recognized risk-management guidelines to help identify and establish criteria for what are likely to be high-impact, minimally wasteful projects.

Several concrete actions were recommended, including:

- Recognizing the regional dimension of sustaining peace and engage regional actors;
- Engaging the private sector in conflict-affected and recovering parts of countries, as in Colombia and Liberia;
- Encouraging private sector-civil society dialogue on grievance mechanisms, for example around extractive industries;
• Using innovative financing approaches in peacebuilding contexts;
• Tapping into pro bono assistance from law firms and other private-sector actors.

In sum, there were a number of recurring themes from this event that were relevant to the United Nations approach to sustaining peace, as well as to the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

First, panelists stressed that proactively addressing the root causes of conflict — from socio-economic inequalities to mediation and diplomatic shortfalls, transnational flows of non-State actors and illicit finance, weak civil society or lack of access to justice — was absolutely essential, yet dramatically underfunded at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Second, the importance of nationally led, inclusive processes came up continually and in many different contexts. When States take ownership of their peace processes, and those processes include women, youth, other marginalized groups and local organizations, significant progress tends to be made towards peace and stability.

Third, breaking down barriers to coordination within and between organizations — especially the United Nations — was viewed as a high priority, as was greater engagement with the private sector. Even in the absence of substantial additional funding, panelists pointed to a growing set of successful joint programmes between development, security and humanitarian actors that could serve as models going forward, as well as peacebuilding initiatives that have successfully bridged public and private capacities.

Finally, it was emphasized that although the United Nations has done good work on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change, it was currently failing in prevention, which was the primary motive for its creation. Speakers advised that multilateralism and the principle of non-intervention were crucial instruments for peace and that, in countries and regions where these were weak, preventing conflict was all the more difficult.
Retreat on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Summary

The retreat on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, organized by the President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in collaboration with the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, was held at the German House, New York, on 6 and 7 March 2018.

Through the twin resolutions on review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (hereafter referred to as “the sustaining peace resolutions”), adopted by the General Assembly (70/262) and the Security Council (2282 (2016)) on 27 April 2016, United Nations Member States made a commitment to take a more comprehensive approach to building and sustaining peace, with conflict prevention at its core.

In resolution 70/262, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace at its seventy-second session. The meeting, to be held on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly, would focus on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on sustaining peace. Pursuant to that decision, the President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly decided to hold the high-level meeting on 24 and 25 April 2018. Taking place two years after the adoption of the sustaining peace resolutions, the meeting offers an important opportunity to look at the implementation of sustaining peace to date and how it can be strengthened in the future.
In the same resolution 70/262, the Secretary-General was invited to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of resolution 70/262 at least sixty days prior to the high-level meeting. The Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) was released in January 2018 and will be the primary basis for discussions at the high-level meeting in April 2018.

In the lead-up to the meeting, the President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, Miroslav Lajčák, in collaboration with the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, convened a retreat in March 2018. The event emerged from the President’s roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which includes outreach to Member States, different stakeholders, and the United Nations system.

The retreat provided another opportunity to engage with Governments and international, regional and subregional organizations to further discuss sustaining peace in practice. The retreat brought together representatives from Member States, the United Nations, civil society and academia. It sought to unpack the recommendations of the Secretary-General’s report, analysing the implications, opportunities and potential challenges to proposed changes. Discussions also focused on how sustaining peace linked with the three reform streams proposed by the Secretary-General relating to peace and security, the United Nations development system and management.

Throughout the multiple panels and an interactive brainstorming lunch, participants sought to gain a deeper understanding of the Secretary-General’s report and experiences of implementing sustaining peace at the local level, as well as to identify concrete actions for Member States and the United Nations system to move forward on operationalizing the sustaining peace resolutions. Below is a summary highlighting the key messages from the discussions, which were conducted under the Chatham House rule of non-attribution.

**The sustaining peace resolutions are an integral part of the broader reform agenda to make the United Nations more effective.** Implementation of the resolutions is inherently linked to the broader reform efforts within the organization — and specifically the three reform streams focusing on the United Nations peace and security pillar, on the development system and on management. These reforms need to be considered simultaneously, be mutually reinforcing and meaningfully speak to placing prevention and sustaining peace at the heart of the United Nations’ agenda. Concerns have been raised that the reforms, as well as the Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, have been presented as a “package deal”, indicating that the effectiveness of the proposed changes could be undermined if some or all of the reforms are not implemented.

While the concept of sustaining peace has been established, outside of United Nations circle, and even among United Nations actors outside of New York, the implications of the sustaining peace resolutions are not widely understood. Effective communication is necessary to secure buy-in and engagement in sustaining peace by a broader audience; this is essential to its successful implementation.

Achieving better policy coherence is central to achieving the vision of the sustaining peace resolutions, and the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office is critical in this regard. The Peacebuilding Support Office has a central role in promoting policy coherence and ensuring that prevention is at the core of the United Nations work through the guidance it provides to a wide array of actors. This is what is envisioned by the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office as a “hinge” between the peace and security pillar and the rest of the United Nations system. More clarity is still needed on how this function will be operationalized and how it fits with the broader revitalization of the Office that calls for it to be adequately equipped to play its role in supporting the United Nations system in sustaining peace. While the Office can provide guidance in policy development, which can promote policy coherence, it needs resource support to make guidance implementable and therefore effective.

Policy coherence needs to be achieved not only at Headquarters and with permanent missions, but also at the regional and country levels. This requires better communication and policy coherence among a wide range of United Nations agencies, funds, programs and departments. In this regard, United Nations country teams and Resident Coordinators play a vital role in enhancing and implementing sustaining peace by working towards comprehensive approaches and collective outcomes across siloes with which resources and efforts can be aligned.

Greater commitment is required to address the recognized gap between the need and the availability of financing for peacebuilding and to make the quantum leap called for in the Secretary-General’s report. There is ample evidence to support the business case for more financing and investment in conflict prevention, including the quantitative analysis presented in the recently published World Bank report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*. Though the report makes a strong case for investment in prevention, it remains difficult to incentivize investment, as the effects of prevention are not immediately apparent. The ability to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention tools may help in this regard. The Secretary-General’s report provides a set of recommendations on how this can be achieved, which
needs to be viewed holistically rather than as a menu of individual options if the financing gap is to be narrowed.

The Peacebuilding Fund has proved itself to be a catalytic instrument that promotes policy coherence, as it requires cross-agency partnerships on initiatives that support national peacebuilding priorities. A stronger and better funded Peacebuilding Fund could apply its potential as a quick-response mechanism willing to invest in high-risk contexts in more regions. However, concerns about the absorption capacity of the Fund and the need for better communication about its impact should be addressed.

A strengthened, more robust Peacebuilding Fund is one important piece of a much bigger effort necessary to meet the needs of financing for peacebuilding. That effort should be complemented by thorough consideration of the potential increased use of other pooled funding mechanisms at the national and regional levels. It also calls for investing in strategic partnerships beyond those with state and regional actors, deepening engagement with civil society and the private sector, and exploring the potential use of blended financing, including assessed contributions. Member States will be crucial in this regard; their ability to scale up financing will be a measure of success, though it should not be the only one.

The nexus between peace and development is complex and varies significantly among different contexts but is an important aspect of sustaining peace. While there is recognition that without peace there is no development, and without development there is no peace, it is also important to acknowledge that not all peace leads to development, and not all development leads to peace. This underscores that, while the Sustainable Development Goals are a critical mechanism, the 2030 Agenda is not the only approach to sustaining peace. Peace and security, development and human rights are generally understood to be mutually strengthening, but there is a need for greater clarity on how the mechanisms and policies in these three pillars work together operationally both at United Nations Headquarters and at the country level.

The United Nations Resident Coordinators and the country teams, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report on sustaining peace and in the proposed reforms of the United Nations development system, play critical roles in providing leadership for sustaining peace. At the same time, there must also be a focus on promoting the concept in countries that do not have a United Nations Resident Coordinator or country team, reinforcing the universality of the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for sustaining peace approaches.

Since the impact of the sustaining peace resolutions will primarily be gauged at the country level, implementation should be focused there. There has been a renewed recognition that the impact of the changes sought by the sustaining peace resolutions should ultimately be at the country level, where communities and individuals are most affected by violent conflict. Some work on sustaining peace is already taking place; these positive examples should be identified, supported and communicated to provide evidence and lessons for policymakers and other stakeholders. Benchmarking can be useful to assess effectiveness and to identify and communicate intended and unintended outcomes. Unintended outcomes especially need to be identified and avoided to make sure that peacebuilding efforts do no harm.

Fragmentation at the country level undermines efforts to sustain peace. Greater coordination and coherence with national and local stakeholders on the ground is therefore required. This goes hand-in-hand with the imperative to strengthen meaningful partnerships with civil society actors, especially women's and youth groups. In addition, the importance of regional and sub-regional organizations in building and sustaining peace calls for better cooperation and stronger partnerships between the United Nations and regional actors.

**Implementing the sustaining peace resolutions should remain a priority for Member States and the United Nations system as a whole.** There has been overwhelming support from Member States for a procedural resolution to ensure that momentum on implementing the sustaining peace resolutions is not lost after the high-level meeting in April. While the review of the peacebuilding architecture mandated to be conducted in 2020 provides a mechanism for assessing progress and illuminating where further efforts are needed, waiting for that process runs the risk of losing engagement and missing the opportunities presented now with the reform efforts and the focus on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The data presented in the *Pathways for Peace* report underscore that effective prevention requires investments across the development, security, political and humanitarian sectors. As such, options, proposals and innovative ideas for securing adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding should continue to be explored and developed with a sense of urgency.
Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thanks to Sierra Leone and Timor Leste, as well as the g7 Plus Secretariat and Foundation, for organizing this event. And thank you all — our participants — for giving up your lunchtime to be here. At least I hope that you’ll be satisfied with the food for thought you’ll receive instead.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Xanana Gusmão, who serves as g7 Plus Eminent Person and Chief Negotiator for the Limitation of Maritime Boundaries and for Timor Leste. It is an honour to be here with you today, and to benefit from your vast experience and knowledge in this area.

We are here to talk about how peace can be achieved through nationally-owned mechanisms. We can’t do that without first addressing the need for such mechanisms, and our role in supporting them. I also want to emphasize the important link between national ownership and conflict prevention.

I’ll start by stressing that we cannot underestimate the challenges facing countries that are dealing with conflict.

They are enormous. People are killed, displaced and stripped of basic human rights. Vital social and economic infrastructures are destroyed. Institutions collapse. Food and water supplies are disrupted.

When guns fall silent, these problems change, but do not end. The process of rebuilding infrastructures and
We need to do better at preventing conflicts from erupting in the first place.

institutions begins. Basic services are slowly restored. But a society in conflict is a divided society.

And these divisions do not disappear the moment a peace deal is signed. The need for national reconciliation and peacebuilding is not as easy to see as destroyed buildings. But re-building peace should be as important as re-building towns.

We need to do better at preventing conflicts from erupting in the first place.

However, I should not be the one talking about these challenges. They have, unfortunately, been experienced first-hand by many of the members of the g7 Plus, as well as other countries around the world. We need to listen to their experiences and their needs.

This brings me to my second point. We must, of course, do more than listen. The international community has a major role to play. But this should come in the form of support — not direction.

The landmark sustaining peace resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council last year, deliver a clear message. They confirm that efforts to build and sustain peace must be nationally driven if they are to succeed.

Unfortunately, we haven’t always done a very good job. The review of the UN’s peace operations in 2015 confirmed this. It noted that many of the areas which g7 Plus countries have identified as priorities for support — for example justice and economic foundations — did not receive the most international funding. Sometimes, in fact, they received the
least. This means that international finances are not being matched up with national priorities.

If we continue down this path, we run the risk of template-based peacebuilding. We do need to listen to lessons learned and share best practices. And we will get a valuable opportunity to do so today. But just because something worked in Timor Leste, or Sierra Leone, or Rwanda, doesn’t mean we can simply copy and paste it into a new context. We need regional, national and local actors to tell us which aspects will work, and which won’t. If support comes at the wrong time, or in the wrong format, it can do more harm than good.

The sustaining peace resolutions give us a clear formula to strengthen our support to nationally-led peace efforts. The main challenge now lies in ensuring their implementation.

All of this, then, brings me full circle to what I see as the most important issue: conflict prevention.

We need to do better at preventing conflicts from erupting in the first place. And we need to do more to stop them from emerging, once again, when a fragile peace crumbles. As we have tragically seen, far more countries relapse into conflict than remain peaceful.

We need to give support to mediation programs designed by national actors now, otherwise we will have to send in missions designed by the Security Council later. And if we do end up sending in such missions, we cannot simply withdraw at the first sign of peace. We need to ensure that the international presence remains to work with national and local actors in mending divisions and building peace. We’ve seen that the UN system is currently working on ensuring this happens in Liberia.

And here, I must also make the link between nationally driven sustainable development and conflict prevention and peace. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a direct and tangible way to support national mechanisms to preserve or build peace. Goal 16 will be instrumental. If people can access justice, if they feel represented by strong and accountable institutions, they will turn less easily to violence.

But, as I said in the beginning, I am not the one who should be telling you this. We need to listen to our colleagues and counterparts who have first-hand experience. They have seen the role played by nationally-owned mechanisms in pursuing peace. And they are best placed to guide us as we look ahead.

I am confident that today’s discussion will be very interesting, and I regret that my schedule does not allow me to stay and listen to all of it. Thank you again.
Statement at the ministerial breakfast of the Group of Friends of Mediation

Thank you all for welcoming me here this morning. I want to thank Minister Soini and Minister Çavuşoğlu, in particular, for their commitment to this important issue. I know people say this a lot at the UN, but it really is a pleasure to be here!

Mediation is an issue I feel very strongly about. In my career, I’ve had direct experience with mediation in the Balkans. This doesn’t make me any kind of expert. It does however give me a firm belief in the strength of mediation — and the value of investing in it.

There will always be disagreements. There will always be grievances. One party will always feel that it has been wronged by another. These phenomena are part of human nature, and we can’t change that. What we can change, however, is our response.

We can address tensions before they turn violent. We can prevent any party from feeling like their only choice is to take up arms. We can stop a conflict that has already broken out from doing more damage. And the United Nations must be a leader in all of this.

This annual meeting of the Group of Friends allows us to reaffirm our commitment to mediation. I want to make three main points to frame our discussion this morning.

First, I want to reinforce the case for mediation. It can be made in three different ways.
One, the human case. Mediation can prevent and stop conflicts. It can avoid, or bring about an end to human suffering. And the need for this is growing. 2014 was the deadliest year we’ve experienced since the Cold War. Last year we also saw the highest levels of displacement on record, with 65 million people being forced from their homes — most of them running from conflict or its effects.

Two, the case made by UN doctrine. The UN Charter is based around peace — not war. It focuses on actions to sustain peace rather than on responses to conflict. Moreover, the UN Charter also mentions mediation as one of the first means for the peaceful settlement of disputes. This primacy of peace and mediation has been reflected in various UN texts since 1945. A recent, and important, example was seen in the adoption of the sustaining peace resolutions last year. Through these texts, the Security Council and General Assembly both called for the UN to do more to stop peace from slipping out of reach.

And three, the financial case. Conflict response and management is expensive. It involves tanks, and troops, and secured compounds. We spent almost 8 billion dollars last year on peacekeeping operations. A fraction of this went to conflict prevention activities. That is not to say that mediation is free. Peace talks or national reconciliations come with their own budgets. But these pale in comparison to the cost of responding to conflicts once they have broken out, or recommenced.

Mediation can prevent and stop conflicts. It can avoid or bring about an end to human suffering.

So, I believe, the case for mediation is beyond debate. It is important to stress, however, that this case does not end with a request for more capacity.

This brings me to my second point, which is that we don’t need to buy or invent more tools to do this. Instead we need to concentrate on using the ones we have for better results.

That’s not to say that we are overflowing with mediation resources. We need to make sure the UN’s Mediation Support Unit remains in good financial health. However, we must also take a harder look at the other tools and mechanisms we use on a daily basis. This will include work across the UN’s three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights.

We also need to look closer to the ground. The peaceful settlement of disputes is a primary responsibility of Member States. One of the UN’s roles is to offer support to these processes. We must support local or national initiatives from an early stage. We have seen that local mediators have been very effective in stopping disputes from turning into inter-communal violence. Nationally-driven mediation and reconciliation processes have also been crucial to preserving peace. International support can therefore allow national and local actors to use their own mediation and prevention tools for the common goal of peace.

My third point is that all of our efforts must be inclusive. Women must participate. They must have decision-making power. This applies all along the peace spectrum, from conflict prevention to peace talks. I welcome the goal of the Secretary-General to increase the numbers of UN women mediators.

Alongside this, we must remember that many actors are mobilizing youth for conflict. The UN needs to do more
to mobilize them for peace. This includes ensuring youth participation in mediation and conflict prevention. Their energy, experiences and ideas will benefit us all.

My last point on inclusion is that we cannot afford to overlook regional and sub-regional organizations. They bring unique expertise and experience. Recently the United Nations and African Union signed a joint framework in the area of peace and security. We need to explore how this can strengthen partnerships in the area of mediation.

Before I wrap up, I want to look ahead. This is another thing everyone says at the UN, but the future does look bright!

We have a Secretary-General who has stressed the importance of mediation. He has called for a “surge in diplomacy”, and he has turned these words into action. On this note, I want to welcome his initiative to establish a High-level Advisory Board on Mediation.

Also, as many of you know, I will convene a high-level event on sustaining peace next April. This will take stock of what the UN is doing, isn’t doing and should be doing when it comes to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Mediation will be a major focus. I will consult with many members of the Group of Friends in the planning process. Again — maybe another cliché — but my door will always be open to you. And I mean this.

Finally, I want to again thank Finland and Turkey for inviting me here today. I hope it is the first of many engagements with the Group of Friends of Mediation.

“Mediation can prevent and stop conflicts. It can avoid or bring about an end to human suffering.”
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Hello from New York! It is an honour to be the first President of the General Assembly to participate in this important event. I am disappointed that my schedule did not allow for me to be with you in person, to learn from your experience and hear your ideas for the future.

I will start by thanking the African Union and its partners for inviting me to address you. I want to also acknowledge His Excellency, Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, as well as His Excellency, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

A further thanks to Commissioner Chergui and Under-Secretary-General Menkerios for the work they do to enhance African peace and security cooperation.

This retreat offers us an opportunity to:
1. Remind ourselves that we simply cannot do without multilateralism, nor without Africa’s role in it;
2. Reaffirm the link between multilateralism and peace; and
3. Look to the future for multilateralism within and with Africa.

So, I’ll start by asking a question: what is multilateralism and why do we need it?

I think a good way to define multilateralism is by looking at what it is not. It is not a system of every man for himself. Or every woman for herself. Or every country for itself. Furthermore, it is not a system in which agreements or alliances are made only by the rich and the powerful for their own gain.
We already had this system. We saw the devastation that it brought to the world. Twice. And so, we decided, collectively, to never have it again. It was this decision that led us to establish the United Nations as a bastion of global multilateralism.

I want to emphasize the link between multilateralism and conflict prevention in particular. Until we truly grasp this link, and use it to make the world a more peaceful place, all of our other multilateral endeavours will be for nothing.

Multilateralism is strong within the African continent. Beyond the obvious example of the African Union, there are also many other mechanisms aimed at fostering intra-African coordination and dialogue. These include African regional economic commissions, sub-regional organizations, or institutions such as the Pan-African Parliament.

Much of our multilateral work at the international level has also had a strong link to Africa. Most of the UN’s peacekeeping missions operate inside the continent. Much of the United Nations work in humanitarian response, sustainable development and human rights has also taken place in — or in partnership with — African countries.

So, Africa is both a hub of multilateralism and a key partner in our global multilateral efforts.

Turning now to the link between multilateralism and peace, I should begin by stressing that we do need multilateralism across the board. We need it in our response to humanitarian crises. We need it to advance sustainable development. And we need it in upholding and promoting human rights. It is not just a necessity in the area of peace and security.
Today, however, I want to emphasize the link between multilateralism and conflict prevention in particular. Until we truly grasp this link, and use it to make the world a more peaceful place, all of our other multilateral endeavours will be for nothing.

The breed of multilateralism we need today is very different from that which we sought in 1945, when the UN was established. It must adapt to emerging challenges, such as international terrorism, violent extremism and organized crime. This is particularly true for Africa, which has been forced to address these challenges head-on.

It is not all bad news, however. Africa has produced many good examples of global and regional multilateral mechanisms being used to prevent conflict. Here I will mention the recent peaceful transition of power in the Gambia, which came after intense mediation efforts led by the Economic Community of West African States. Africa has also been using innovative ways to ensure its mediation efforts are more inclusive. Here I want to commend the establishment of the African Women Leaders Network and the Network of African Women Mediators.

Additionally, I want to focus on the important work of good offices and mediation. We have heard accounts of high-level representatives or special envoys from the United Nations, African Union or sub-regional organizations collaborating to prevent or stop conflicts. They have alerted us to the early warning signs of conflict, engaged with major political actors, and designed multilateral strategies to prevent conflict or stop bloodshed. Many of you in this room have either led or been involved in such initiatives. And I want to say that I am personally inspired by you all.

We have also heard many positive examples of national, or even local, instruments for mediation or conflict prevention benefiting from multilateral support. These examples are still few and far between, however. This means that our efforts must be significantly scaled up.

Excellencies,

The question therefore remains as to how we can strengthen this triangular relationship between global multilateralism, African multilateralism and peace, going forward.

We have much to do. Frankly, we need more — and stronger — partnerships between the United Nations, and the African Union, and other regional and sub-regional mechanisms. We need to ensure that our efforts to move the UN from a model of conflict response to conflict prevention are driven by best practices and lessons learned from mediation in Africa. We need more retreats like the one today, to hear real stories and experiences from the ground. And we need to follow these up with concrete agreements, programmes and initiatives.

In April 2018, I will convene a high-level event on sustaining peace and conflict prevention in New York. I hope that it can act as an incubator for many of the ideas and innovations you come up with on this retreat. I will be in touch with many of you to see how we can best facilitate this — some of you on your return to New York and others during my trip to the region in December and early next year.

In the meantime, I wish you a productive retreat, and I thank you again for allowing me to participate even from thousands of miles away!
On 6 and 7 November 2017, the President of the General Assembly delivered a video message to the Asian Conference on Peacebuilding Conflict Prevention in Seoul.

Transcript of video message to the Asian Conference on Peacebuilding Conflict Prevention

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Hello from New York! I am sorry that my schedule did not allow me to be with you in person, but I am very glad to be able to participate from afar.

You are all gathered in Seoul today because you believe that more must be done to prevent conflicts and sustain peace, and you believe that this cannot happen without multilateralism.

This conference is therefore a testament to a new approach to peace. An approach which promotes conflict prevention over conflict response. And an approach which has been endorsed by a wide range of actors, including all UN Member States.

As we move towards turning this approach into our everyday reality, I want to make two brief points.

First, I want to stress that we already have all the tools we need. They can be found throughout the UN’s work — not only in relation to its mediation and diplomatic functions, but also through its efforts in the areas of peacekeeping, human rights and sustainable development. What we need to do, however, is change how we use these tools. We need to use them to strengthen the UN’s capacity for sustaining peace.

My second point is that we are moving in the right direction. Since the landmark resolutions on sustaining peace were adopted in 2016, we have already recommissioned some of our tools to support sustaining peace. This has been
I want to stress that we already have all the tools we need. They can be found throughout the UN’s work — not only in relation to its mediation and diplomatic functions, but also through its efforts in the areas of peacekeeping, human rights and sustainable development. What we need to do, however, is change how we use these tools. We need to use them to strengthen the UN’s capacity for sustaining peace.

We will take another, big step in the right direction this coming April, when I will convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This event will shine the international spotlight on sustaining peace. It will take stock of what we have done in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Importantly, it will highlight what we need to do differently.

We have already begun to lay the groundwork for this event. As part of my roadmap for sustaining peace, I have planned a series of activities. These will include field missions, workshops and outreach to Member States, UN officials, regional actors, civil society and businesses.

This conference is an important part of that roadmap. We need to ensure that your ideas and suggestions are captured. And we need to ensure that best practices related sustaining peace, which we have seen in Asia, are highlighted at the high-level event in April.

Before I conclude, I want to thank the organizers of this important conference. I also want to acknowledge the participation of Minister Kyung-wha, Assistant-Secretary-General Taranco, and Mr. Hammargren. I am confident that you will all benefit from their expertise and experience in the area of sustaining peace.

Thank you, and I look forward to welcoming many of you to New York in April!
On 26 November 2017, the President of the General Assembly delivered a video message to the Geneva Peace Week on Prevention Across Sectors and Institutions, in Geneva

---

**Transcript** of video message to the Geneva Peace Week on Prevention Across Sectors and Institutions

---

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Welcome to Geneva Peace Week 2017. I am sorry that my schedule did not allow for me to be with you in person. I am very glad, however, that technology has let me address you from thousands of miles away!

I want to start by thanking the organizers of this Week, including:

The United Nations Office at Geneva, the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the Swiss Confederation.

The theme for the Week is very important. It will explore conflict prevention across sectors and institutions. And it seeks to identify pathways for effective implementation.

Today, I will make two brief points. I hope they will help to frame the discussions ahead.

First, I want to stress that prevention is not something the United Nations does. Rather, it is at the heart of what the United Nations is. In fact, for every one reference to war in the UN Charter, there are more than nine references to peace. The UN was therefore clearly intended to preserve peace, rather than respond to conflict. This gives us a compelling mandate to strengthen the UN’s role in preventing conflict. This week, you will be helping to do just that.

A stronger link between Geneva and New York is also crucial. Not only is Geneva home to actors and entities with rich experience in peace and prevention, it is also a hub of human rights expertise. As we have seen, the abuse of human rights acts as the flashing red lights, which warn us
that conflict is on the horizon. The relationship between human rights and sustaining peace must be further developed.

Another opportunity to meet this compelling mandate will be offered in April 2018, when I will convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on sustaining peace. This event will take stock of what we have done in the area of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Importantly, it will also highlight what we need to do differently. My team and I have planned a series of events as part of what we are calling a roadmap to sustaining peace. I look forward to engaging with many of you as this roadmap is implemented.

My second point is that we cannot meet this mandate alone. This is true both within and outside the United Nations system. No one person, department or organ of the UN can single-handedly strengthen the Organization’s conflict-prevention capacity. Similarly, the United Nations cannot act in a vacuum. It will need partnerships across different sectors and institutions.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I will be following your discussions this week through the reporting of my team. The ideas and best practices you identify must feed into our preparations for the 2018 Sustaining Peace event. I look forward to engaging with many of you throughout this process.

Thank you again. I wish you a successful and inspiring Peace Week!

A stronger link between Geneva and New York is also crucial. Not only is Geneva home to actors and entities with rich experience in peace and prevention, it is also a hub of human rights expertise. The relationship between human rights and sustaining peace must be further developed.
Thank you, Ambassador Tae-yul.

I flew back to New York, between two back-to-back missions, to be here this evening. I’m not saying this to get sympathy. Though I will apologise in advance to my dining partners, as I won’t be at my most lively. Actually, I’m telling you this because I want you to know just how highly I prioritise this retreat.

Before I read out my statement proper, I want to be a bit more personal. We are here to talk about sustaining peace. For a moment, I want to look behind this term, to remind us all of what it really means.

What we are talking about is real peace. Positive peace. The kind of peace that can be taken for granted. The kind of peace that won’t disappear at the next election cycle. The kind of peace that is measured not in days, weeks, months or years, but in generations.

For certain places in the world, some might say this is impossible. But it is not. I have seen this first-hand. When Montenegro split from Serbia, peace was not a given. In fact, some people were predicting war. But through intense diplomatic efforts, and real political will, peace persevered. And it has lasted — with no signs that it will waver in the future.

So, this is why peace and prevention are at the top of my agenda as President of the General Assembly. And this is why I am here to address you all through my jetlag.
Here, I want to thank the organisers, in particular the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

I was invited to focus my address on the High-level Meeting on Sustaining Peace, which will take place in April. In doing so, I will try to answer three questions you may have.

One, why are we doing it? Two, how will we go about it? And three, what do we want to achieve? So, first, why are we doing this?

As you know, the mandate to convene this event comes from the sustaining peace resolutions adopted in April 2016. This is my technical mandate.

My personal mandate extends beyond this, however. It comes from a conviction that the United Nations can — and must — do more for peace.

The UN Charter was signed in June 1945. World War II was still raging in the Pacific. Already, however, the signatories were envisioning a world without conflict, a world in which disputes and differences are resolved in meeting rooms — not battlefields — a world in which our main priority is to stop conflict before it starts, and a world in which the United Nations is the global broker for peace.

Frankly, we have not done enough to make this vision come alive. Too often, the UN has seen meeting rooms bypassed in favour of battlefields. Too often it has acted when peace has already been lost. And too often it has put conflict response ahead of conflict prevention.

More than 10 years have passed since our first major attempt to rectify this situation. The establishment of the UN’s peacebuilding architecture in 2005 was a milestone. It created a new path, which would allow the UN to better support countries in making peace last. By adopting the

2016 resolutions, we took the biggest steps yet down this path. But there is a long journey ahead.

Today’s retreat is a landmark along the way. The High-Level Meeting in April will be another one.

This brings me to answer the second question, which is, how will we go about all of this?

My team and I have put together what we are calling a roadmap for sustaining peace. It is intended to feed into the High-Level Meeting in April. Moreover, it acts as an overarching strategy for my work on sustaining peace throughout the seventy-second session.

The roadmap outlines various initiatives that I will convene. These include meetings, workshops and missions to Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Europe. It is also being used to map out all other planned activities on sustaining peace, such as today’s retreat. In this way, we can ensure a holistic and complementary approach.

In speaking about my roadmap, I want to outline five main priorities, which are mainstreamed throughout.

First: Outreach. Sustaining peace does not belong to one Government or one UN body. Inclusive and extensive outreach will, therefore, be a main priority. This means a focus on discussions with Member States and UN officials, and also on outreach to women, youth, the private sector and international financial institutions.

Sustaining peace is not owned by the United Nations. Rather, it must be owned by people — women in Papua
New Guinea, young people in Nigeria or business executives in Jordan. The UN must support and promote this ownership. That is why it needs to engage and learn from countries, communities and people all over the world. It needs to find out what sustaining peace means for those who will own and implement it.

So, while my team and I will convene this event, it is you, and others like you, who will own it.

Second: Supporting the UN's work. The high-level event cannot stand alone. It must be linked to everything else that the UN is doing for sustaining peace — before, during and after April 2018. This includes a broad range of activities, from mediation, peacebuilding or peacekeeping activities in the field to initiatives taking place in New York. Supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund will be crucial.

Third: Focusing on experiences and best practices. We may have the bulk of our discussions in New York, but they should be led by experience from the ground. We need to shine a spotlight on what the real peacebuilders are doing, from those running women's peace huts in Liberia, to those organising mediation workshops in Kyrgyzstan. That is why I have put an emphasis on field trips throughout my roadmap. And that is why the high-level meeting will pool stakeholders from across different countries, sectors and societies, and allow them to share their experiences from the ground.

Fourth: Making a strong financial case for sustaining peace. Currently, it is vastly under-resourced. The UN-World Bank Pathways to Peace report confirmed this. In fact, it highlighted that the amount we spend on preventing conflict is a mere fraction of that which we spend on responding to conflict, or on rebuilding societies after they have been torn apart. This is why the UN is known for conflict response, rather than conflict prevention. Frankly, this does not make financial sense. In fact, the UN-World Bank report estimates that an increase in prevention investment in even a handful of countries can result in billions of dollars of savings for the international community as a whole.

So, the financial case for sustaining peace is clear. We need to keep making this case — loudly and clearly. We need to ensure that the options to be provided by the Secretary-General are seriously considered. And we need to move into a new era of financing for peace.

And, fifth: strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development. Simply put, we cannot have peace without development or human rights. This message was delivered clearly by the sustaining peace resolutions. It was seen again in the recent UN-World Bank report. This report highlighted that SDGs offer an entry point for investment in sustaining peace. It also pointed out that a loss of dignity and human rights can make people turn more easily to violence. My roadmap therefore places strong focus on the relationship between the UN's work in human rights, sustainable development, and sustaining peace.
Finally, I must also add a note on logistics. The event will be convened on 24 and 25 April 2018. As many of you know, the Chef de Cabinet will hold a briefing with Member States on 21 November, which will outline more details.

So, on to answering the third and final question: what do we want to achieve?

In one word: visibility. Sustaining peace is under-prioritized and under-resourced. If we want this to change, we must increase its global profile. This is why we are engaging as many actors as possible in the lead-up to the high-level meeting. I am confident that all of you here are sending weekly reminders to the highest levels of your governments or offices regarding participation.

Another word to sum up what we want to achieve is consistency. As you have heard clearly today, sustaining peace is not a concept — it is a real practice, happening right now, on the ground. But we need best practice to become regular practice. We need to move away from our ad hoc methods. We need to revamp our current model of conflict response, so that it can be used to prevent conflict from breaking out or recurring. And we need sustaining peace to be a permanent and consistent feature of the UN’s work.

As we have seen at the UN, no outcome document or summary report can act as an achievement in and of itself. It must be accompanied by change. In this case, we need change in the visibility and consistency of the UN’s work in sustaining peace.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Now I want to put a question to you. What do you think most people would say if they were asked to name the UN’s biggest achievements? My bet, unfortunately, is not peace. The Sustainable Development Goals. Human rights. Humanitarian aid. Or even peacekeeping missions. All of these things are associated with the UN’s blue logo. But not peace itself.

This is simply counter-intuitive. The UN was founded for the very reason of peace. Its flag should herald peace and stability, not soldiers and armoured vehicles. Its success in preventing conflict should be the norm, not the exception. It should be the world’s broker for peace.

As I have said, we have a long journey ahead in getting there. We’ve already started it. But now we need to pick up the pace.

Thank you.
This is already my second official trip to Geneva since I took office in September 2017. I always appreciate rich discussions. As you know, one of my key priorities is peacebuilding, prevention and sustaining peace.

I would like to congratulate you for a successful Geneva Peace Week 2017, with over 50 events. Your programme was impressive. It is timely that this year’s Peace Week focused on prevention. Unfortunately, I was not able to participate myself and sent a video message instead.

The Geneva Peace Week is in many ways unique. A week of the year dedicated to peace, and at it looking at so many different perspectives. I’m not aware of such an event elsewhere, including New York.

I am looking forward hearing what was discussed during the Geneva Peace Week and how this could feed into the discussions in New York. I am also interested to hear your views about how we can further tap into Geneva-based knowledge.

But first I would like to share my plans.

As per the twin resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council respectively on the UN peacebuilding architecture review, I am mandated to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly under the agenda item “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”. This is my technical mandate.
My personal mandate extends beyond this, however. It comes from a conviction that the United Nations can — and must — do more for peace.

In view of the High-level Meeting, my Office has put together a roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It is intended to feed into the high-level meeting in April. Moreover, it acts as an overarching strategy for my work on sustaining peace throughout the seventy-second session.

The roadmap outlines various initiatives that I will convene or participate in. These include meetings, workshop, and missions to Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Europe. In this way, we can ensure a holistic and complementary approach.

The roadmap contains five main priorities.

First: Outreach. Sustaining peace does not belong to one government or one UN body. It must be owned and implemented by all. Inclusive and extensive outreach will, therefore, be a main priority. This means a focus on discussions with Member States and UN officials, and also on outreach to women, youth, civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions. I want all stakeholders to own the event. I’m merely providing the platform.

Second: Supporting the UN’s work. The high-level event cannot stand alone. It must be linked to everything else that the UN is doing for sustaining peace — before, during and after April 2018. This includes a broad range of activities: from mediation, peacebuilding or peacekeeping activities in the field, to initiatives taking place at HQ.

Close cooperation with Secretary-General Guterres is also a priority for me. His report on sustaining peace, to be published early next year, will act as the springboard for our discussions in April.

Third: Focusing on experiences and best practices. We may have the bulk of our discussions in New York, but they should be led by experience from the ground. We need to shine a spotlight on what the real peacebuilders are doing — from those running women’s peace huts in Liberia, to those organising mediation workshops in Kyrgyzstan. That is why I have put an emphasis on field trips. And that is why the high-level meeting will bring stakeholders from across different countries, sectors and societies, and allow them to share their experiences from the ground.

Fourth: Making a strong financial case for sustaining peace. Currently, it is vastly under-resourced. The UN-World Bank Pathways to Peace report confirmed this. In fact, it highlighted that the amount we spend on preventing conflict is a mere fraction of that spent on responding to conflict, or on rebuilding societies after they have been torn apart. This is why the UN is known for conflict response, rather than conflict prevention. Frankly, this does not make financial sense. In fact, the UN-World Bank report estimates that an increase in prevention investment in even a handful of countries can result in billions of dollars of savings for the international community as a whole.

And, fifth: strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development. Simply put, we cannot have peace without development or human rights. It was highlighted in the UN-World Bank report. This report highlighted that Sustainable Development Goals offer an entry point for
investment in sustaining peace. It also pointed out that a loss of dignity and human rights can make people turn more easily to violence. My roadmap therefore places strong focus on the relationship between the UN’s work in human rights, sustainable development, and sustaining peace. Here I expect that Geneva has a special role given the depth of human rights expertise here.

The overarching objective of the high-level meeting is to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Through my activities, I intend to bring greater visibility to peace and prevention.

The high-level meeting is an opportunity to look at how the UN system has implemented the twin resolutions and how this can be further improved. It will also provide an opportunity to look how partnerships with key stakeholders of the UN can be strengthened.

As specific objectives, the meeting will also reflect on how to adjust to the new UN approach to peace with the emphasis on conflict prevention; strengthen operational and policy coherence within the United Nations system towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace; increase, restructure and better prioritize funding to United Nations peacebuilding activities; strengthen partnerships between the UN and key stakeholders in the field; address the root causes of conflict to sustain peace; and address the role of women and youth in peacebuilding.
Thank you for the invitation to join the conversation with the Human Rights/Conflict Prevention caucus. I am very pleased to be here and appreciate the opportunity to share with you my plans for the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018.

I would like to start with commending your group for promoting a cross-pillar approach. Often the peacebuilding community and other communities such as the human rights community are separate from one another. You as Caucus bring this expertise together.

I am looking forward to hearing your expectations for the high-level meeting, your views on how to strengthen a cross-pillar approach and shed light on the link between sustaining peace and human rights.

Let me start with some general remarks on the link between human rights and sustaining peace.

The new comprehensive approach to sustaining peace as per the resolutions on the UN peacebuilding architecture review encompasses a human rights dimension. The twin resolutions recognize that security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The report of the Advisory Group of Experts gives us important hints — it says that economic and social grievances as well as human rights violations and impunity are often at the root of conflicts. The question is how we act on this and how we integrate this recognition into our broader discussions.

As you know the link between sustaining peace and human rights is not uncontested. I am convinced that only
I am convinced that only a cross-pillar approach can lead us to effectively sustain peace.

a cross-pillar approach can lead us to effectively sustain peace. I believe the best way to do that is by showcasing successful examples from around the world where the recognition of the link between human rights and sustaining peace has been critical for the prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding efforts. This of course also includes the reflection what we need to do differently in the future to become better at sustaining peace.

This is where the multi-stakeholder approach also recognized by the twin resolutions comes in. Highlighting the links between sustaining peace and human rights is not something that I and my Office can do alone, but where we all need to work together.

This is also where the UN itself can and will provide inputs that we will see in the “Sustaining Peace” report of the Secretary-General. The “Sustaining Peace” report, to be published early next year, will act as the springboard for our discussions in April.

But in addition to the report — and this is the answer to your first question — I believe that Member States have a key role in providing inputs on how linking human rights and sustaining peace has helped to prevent conflicts and build peace and how this can be further improved. Because Member States have the experiences from the ground in either your own countries or your partner countries. We must not forget that Member States mandated me to convene the high-level meeting. You are the drivers of the process that leads to the high-level meeting and the ones who will shape the discussions at the meeting itself and have a role in the follow-up.
For this reflection process, we need also inputs from our partners — civil society, private sector, international financial institutions. I think the joint report of the UN and the World Bank is a very good start. The report states that the Sustainable Development Goals offer an entry point for investment in sustaining peace. It also pointed out that a loss of dignity and human rights can make people turn more easily to violence.

Turning to your second question. I have laid out my activities in my roadmap on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The roadmap includes five priorities:

(1) outreach; (2) supporting the UN's work; (3) focusing on experiences and good practices; (4) making a strong financial case for peacebuilding and sustaining peace; (5) strengthening the link to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. My last priority speaks for itself and means that in all my priorities and activities in the lead up to the high-level meeting, I will look at the link between sustaining peace, human rights and sustainable development. To give you a few examples:

Outreach: as part to my outreaching efforts I will convene on 8 December, a multi-stakeholder dialogue at Colombia University with representatives from academia, civil society and the UN to discuss "Prevention in Sustaining Peace" and "How can partnerships support sustaining peace". Some of the invited NGO panelists have a human rights background and implement human-rights-related programmes in the field. Furthermore, the relationship between sustaining peace and human rights will be one of the questions discussed there. A summary of the dialogue will be made available on my website and feed into the high-level meeting.

I just came back from Geneva, where I had discussions with the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. I will go back to Geneva for the opening of the Human Rights Council in February and am keen to engage more with the community there, including the human rights community.

Supporting the UN's work: I have already talked about the Sustaining Peace report of the Secretary-General where the UN system will outline what it has done to implement the sustaining peace resolutions. After the release of the report early next year, I will convene a retreat to discuss the proposals in the report in an informal setting. The agenda of that retreat will be established on the basis of the proposals in the report, but may include also a discussion about the link to human rights.

Focusing on experiences and good practices: I have talked about the necessity of learning from experiences on the ground before when I encourage you to reflect on successful examples. I will conduct field visits around the world and include a human rights dimension in the planning of these visits.

High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace: I have identified 6 preliminary objectives that include:

1. Adjust to the new UN approach to peace with the emphasis on conflict prevention;
2. Strengthen operational and policy coherence within the United Nations system towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

3. Increase, restructure and better prioritize funding to United Nations peacebuilding activities;

4. Strengthen partnerships between the UN and key stakeholders in the field;

5. Address the root causes of conflict to sustain peace;

6. Address the role of women and youth in peacebuilding.

It is obvious that these objectives include a human rights dimension. I will further invite panelists with a human rights background to the high-level meeting.

Additionally, and as mentioned, Member States inputs and statements will define the discussions during the high-level meeting on sustaining peace.

The success of the high-level meeting will depend on the engagement of all Member States. I would like to particularly encourage the Human Rights/Conflict Prevention Caucus to play a leading role and contribute constructively, of course in particular when it comes to the link between sustaining peace and human rights, but not only.
The high-level meeting is an opportunity to identify and highlight successful examples of sustaining peace and to identify measures to strengthen these efforts. My vision for this event goes beyond just a talk shop. I believe we need to hear from practitioners and from people at the front lines of conflict situations and peacemaking.

We should identify opportunities to strengthen the UN’s work on sustaining peace. It is crucial that we look into three areas: adjusting the UN system to the new approach for peace, the relevance of partnerships, and financing.

The UN was intended to preserve peace rather than respond to conflict. Consequently, the concept of sustaining peace in not new. It is an approach that requires us to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of peace efforts. It does not require new tools or capacities. Instead we need to concentrate on recalibrating existing ones to sustain peace.

This requires inclusion of all stakeholders within the UN system. Consequently, the convergence of the all the SG reform streams will be critical. In addition, strengthening cooperation with regional organisation will be important.

Last week on 8 December, I convened a meeting on “Sustaining Peace: Looking at partnerships for conflict prevention and peacebuilding” at Colombia University. The meeting brought together the UN system, academia, civil society, and the private sector. A very open and robust discussion ensued. It injected the dynamism and pragmatic approach that is required at the HLM.
The private sector was appreciative of the recognition to engage them. They have gone a long way in financing sustainable development, but more needs to be done in financing peace, as they also understand the role of creating an enabling environment of peace in order to grow business. The cost of rebuilding infrastructure post-war is unsustainable.

Previous engagements aimed at highlighting links between human rights and sustaining peace and the role of civil society and private sector in sustaining peace.

I participated in an event co-organised by Germany and Switzerland 29 November 2017. As you know, the link between sustaining peace and human rights is not uncontested. I am convinced that only a cross-pillar approach can lead us to effectively sustain peace. I believe the best way to do that is by showcasing successful examples from around the world where the recognition of the link between human rights and sustaining peace has been critical for the prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding efforts. This of course also includes reflection on what we need to do differently in the future to become better at sustaining peace.

I had an opportunity to discuss with members of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and to receive feedback on the discussions during the Geneva Peace Week. It was useful to hear views from actors outside New York on prevention and on how they see the implementation of sustaining peace.

We should identify opportunities to strengthen the UN’s work on sustaining peace. It is crucial that we look into three areas: adjusting the UN system to the new approach for peace, the relevance of partnerships, and financing.
I will be in Geneva once again for the opening of the Human Rights Council in February and see this as an opportunity to look at the link between sustaining peace and human rights and how they mutually reinforce each other.

Secondly, the need for financing sustaining peace. For the past seven decades, significant resources have been spent on responding to the outbreak of conflicts rather than on prevention. Consequently, the bulk of the UN’s resources has been allocated to responding to conflicts rather than prevention. Last year, the budget for UN peacekeeping missions was around 8 billion US dollars.

Our efforts should aim at redirecting funding to prevention, which will be less costly than what is currently being spent on peacekeeping budgets.

We can learn from mediation efforts in Lesotho by the Southern African Development Community, which prevented a potential outbreak in violence that would have cost more resources to curtail. This is one of many examples which highlight the effectiveness of focusing on prevention.
On 11 January 2018, the President of the General Assembly participated in a meeting with the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reforms to discuss security sector reforms in the context of sustaining peace, in New York.

Statement at a meeting with the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform

I appreciate the opportunity to engage with the Group to exchange ideas and thoughts. I am particularly pleased to be here, as I attach great importance to the topic under discussion. Slovakia has been engaged on the issue since its membership in the Security Council back in 1997. Since then, we have made substantive progress on the agenda, including during the Bratislava II conference in early June 2017.

I appreciate the co-chair, South Africa and members of the group — particularly Nigeria, for facilitating the first-ever resolution of the Security Council — for their active participation, as well as continuous interest and support of DPKO (Mr. Titov in the past and Mr. Zouev) and PBS.

Now, as you would know, I have been mandated to hold the High-Level Event on Sustaining Peace, on 24 and 25 April 2018. The main objective is to assess efforts undertaken towards the implementation of the twin resolutions and to explore ways to further strengthen the work of the UN in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The General Assembly in its resolution 70/262 and the Security Council in its resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture provided the necessary foundation to enable us to propel the concept of sustaining peace. The resolutions embrace a paradigm shift by defining the concept of sustaining peace to be broadly understood as encompassing the entire conflict cycle with an emphasis on preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.
The same resolutions, as well as the first Security Council SSR resolution, recognized that a professional, accountable and effective security sector without discrimination and full respect for human rights and the rule of law is critical to the consolidation of peace and security and important for conflict prevention. As such, SSR is an integral element when we talk about sustaining peace.

The role of Security Sector Reform in the aftermath of conflict, particularly when taking place in the context of post-conflict reconstruction and development, is well-recognized. In many conflict contexts, tensions within the security sector or over the control of security institutions may be important drivers of conflict. Strengthening the governance of the security sector is also vital to ensuring that the latter does not contribute to triggering or prolonging conflicts through committing or failing to protect the population from human rights abuses.

Security Sector Reform can also play a key role in the prevention of conflicts. SSR processes which promote political inclusion and address unequal access to security and justice services can help to address root drivers of conflict. Processes which enhance the governance of the security sector can also support the resilience of state security institutions to external stressors. The joint World Bank-UN study presented some further interesting findings in this regard: an intact and accountable security sector can play a stabilizing role in countries where violence was used, in particular where it ensured the space for political dialogue.

The High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace will provide an opportunity to share concrete examples on how SSR contributed to peace.

I welcome the initiative by the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform to organize a high-level roundtable just before the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace where specific questions relating to SSR can be addressed. I would encourage you to share your findings and recommendations through your national statements during the high-level meeting as well as the interactive dialogues. I also believe it’s worthwhile — as recommended by the Bratislava II conference — to look at SSR as part of broader institution building.

The opening will be followed by a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, where Member States will be able to deliver their statements. Member States are encouraged to participate at the highest possible level. As you know, in parallel there will be four interactive segments.

The dialogues are designed to be informal and aim at bringing perspectives from the ground. They will be open to Member States and civil society representatives, private sector, regional and sub-regional organizations and UN entities.

I am aware that we could spend days discussing specific topics linked to sustaining peace, however, I would like to focus on the following topics, as they are in my opinion particularly relevant:

1. Financing for Sustaining Peace: a paradigm shift such as the one introduced by the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture needs to be accompanied with the necessary resources. The Secretary-General was mandated to provide options, including through assessed and voluntary contributions.

2. Strengthening the UN’s work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace: here I want to discuss the tools for peacebuilding and sustaining peace that the UN and the General Assembly have, and how we can improve the performance of the UN in particular with regard to preventing conflicts. The reason why the concept of sustaining peace is groundbreaking, is because it acknowledges that peacebuilding goes beyond only assisting countries emerging from conflict.

3. Partnerships are essential for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The high-level meeting will provide an opportunity to talk about best practices and measures on how to strengthen such partnerships. In that regard coordination mechanism within the UN — such as through the Interagency Taskforce on SSR — play an important role when building partnerships with outside actors.

4. Comprehensive and integrated approach to sustaining peace by looking at links between sustaining peace and development and human rights as well as looking at root causes of conflict. I believe that experiences from SSR can enrich this discussion. The link between SSR and the SDGs, e.g. Goal 16 but not only, is quite obvious and beneficial for both communities — development and SSR — to actively engage in knowledge-sharing. Furthermore, further discussions between the SSR and the human rights community could be useful, bearing in mind that you share the same goals — a professional, effective and accountable security sector — but not necessarily the same approaches. This would also contribute to overcoming the silos.

Outcome — we should not be held hostage by the outcome, but as said, I think the high-level meeting on sustaining peace provides an opportunity for Member States to renew their political commitment to sustaining peace and is a unique opportunity for world leaders to look at how financing of peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities could be strengthened.
On 8 December 2017, the President of the General Assembly held a dialogue with civil society, academia and the private sector on Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, at Columbia University, New York

**Statement** at the dialogue on Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

**I. Sustaining peace: not a new concept**

The first thing I want to say is that sustaining peace is not new. The terminology might be, but the concept is not. This is clear if we reflect on what sustaining peace means. It is not, merely, the absence of conflict. It is not measured in days or months, but in generations. I sometimes call it “tough peace” because it can withstand shocks, whether they come from economic downturns, political tensions or natural disasters. I believe it is the kind of peace that people wanted more than 70 years ago, when the United Nations was established. And it is the kind of peace we want today. This has not changed.

The challenges to achieving this peace, however, have. We are seeing more fighting within — than between — states. We are seeing a diversification of parties to conflicts. We are seeing civilians being killed, not as collateral damage, but in direct attacks. And, far too often, we are seeing deals and agreements, which are supposed to bring about peace, break back down into violence.

So, the nature of conflict has changed a lot over the past seven decades. The problem, however, is that our systems and mechanisms haven’t kept up. Conflict has been one step ahead. This has left us scrambling for responses. Meanwhile, peace has been relegated to an afterthought.

**II. Sustaining peace resolutions: main elements**

But there is hope. And, for my second point today, I want to note that we are on the right path. We had something of a breakthrough in April 2016, when the United Nations’
Security Council and General Assembly adopted twin resolutions on sustaining peace.

The resolutions are extensive, but I will highlight what I believe are the three most important elements.

First, a focus on conflict prevention.

The United Nations was not created to stop wars; it was created to prevent them. This is clear from the first sentence of its Charter, which talks about saving generations from the scourge of war. Over the years, however, the UN has become better known for conflict response. I believe that this is a waste of the world’s biggest resource for conflict prevention. The sustaining peace resolutions seem to agree. They call for the United Nations to mobilise for prevention — both to stop conflicts before they start, and to prevent their recurrence.

The second element is the need for predictable and sustained financing for peace.

Last year, the budget for UN peacekeeping missions was roughly 8 billion US dollars. Yet, according to a recent UN-World Bank report, the amount spent on conflict prevention was a mere fraction of that. This just doesn’t make sense. We should be mobilising our resources, and investing in peace before it has been lost. Admittedly, prevention isn’t free. For example, it costs money to mediate disputes, or to support community peacebuilding. But these amounts pale in comparison to the millions — and sometimes billions — we spend deploying peacekeeping missions to places where there is no peace left to keep.

The third element is a call for more coherence, coordination and cooperation.

Sustaining Peace does not, necessarily, require anything new. The resolutions do not request new offices or more recruits. Rather, they call for the United Nations to examine the capacities and expertise it already has, and reconfigure them in support of peace. This means breaking down silos, pooling resources, and increasing cooperation and coordination between all actors — in the field and at headquarters.

III. Partnerships

However, it also means something else. And that is where all of you come in. Because, the sustaining peace resolutions call for “close strategic and operational partnerships” with a range of actors — from civil society and academia to the business community.

Many of you are already champions for sustaining peace, whether you call it that or not. You are working for the same kind of peace outlined in these resolutions — and the same kind of peace the United Nations was created for.

Sustaining peace cannot be driven only by diplomats and UN officials. It must also come from women mediators, peace researchers, community activists, philanthropists and investors. You have your fingers on the pulse. You can detect the early warning signs of conflict. You have the access to peace stakeholders. You have the localised knowledge. You are the key to achieving a United Nations that can both prevent and respond to conflict, and promote sustaining peace.

IV. High-level meeting and conclusion

From 24 to 25 April, I will convene a High-Level Meeting on Sustaining Peace at UN Headquarters. I am determined that
it will not be “just another UN event”. It must have more participation, more tangible examples, more interaction and more dialogue than the meetings we have seen before. I want every person to come away with at least one personal action point, which will help to make the sustaining peace resolutions a reality.

And, if we are to do this, we need your help. So, I urge you to speak out today. Share your experiences and your ideas. The bolder the better! They will feed into our event. And, ultimately, they will help us to stay one step ahead of conflict.

Thank you.

The United Nations was not created to stop wars; it was created to prevent them. This is clear from the first sentence of its Charter, which talks about saving generations from the scourge of war. Over the years, however, the UN has become better known for conflict response. I believe that this is a waste of the world’s biggest resource for conflict prevention.
Statement at the Doha Regional Dialogue on Sustaining Peace

Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I want to thank the State of Qatar for hosting this regional dialogue. In particular, I thank the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, for his commitment to this issue.

We have a full agenda over the next two days. We will hear from a host of high-level speakers. Many of them will be experts in this field. Others will be practitioners from the field. I am neither. So, instead, I will give you my own perspective on sustaining peace. Not in expert, academic terms, but in my own language. In doing so, I will outline some of the main elements that demand our attention. I will also talk about my own role in supporting Sustaining Peace.

And, it will try to do this all in four brief points.

The first is that we need a new approach to peace. Because, since we designed many of our systems and mechanisms, things have changed a lot. We are no longer dealing only with tanks, planes and uniformed troops. Other factors, such as terrorism, growing internal violence, new technology and climate change have been added to the mix. And they have transformed the faces of both conflict and peace.

Another thing that has changed is our own understanding. We have seen that conflict is not always linear. In many cases, there is no clear beginning, middle and end. And
that is why we need support and action at all stages of the cycle:

• When there are warning signs of conflict. When political tensions are on the rise. When human rights are being violated. That is when we need to act.

• When there is some hope of peace, amid conflict. When warring parties show any kind of willingness to talk. That is when we need to act.

• When a peace deal has been signed. When infrastructure needs to be rebuilt. When a society is trying to patch itself back together. That is when we need to act.

Sometimes we separate these into stages of prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Other times we refer to them all as the peace continuum. But the magic of sustaining peace is that all of them are brought together, under one umbrella and one new approach.

Please, make no mistake. It won’t be easy to turn this new approach into everyday practice. In fact, it will take hard work. The good news, however, is that we are on our way. The sustaining peace resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in April 2016, broke new ground. Now we are trying to establish strong foundations on that ground. One milestone along the way will be the publication of the Secretary-General’s report on sustaining peace. Due to be released next month, it will provide us with practical analysis and concrete recommendations.
Another important milestone will be a High-Level Meeting on Sustaining Peace, which I will convene on 24 and 25 April, in New York.

The second point I would like to make today is on financing. When we think of the consequences of conflict, naturally, we often first think of death and human suffering. And as I said, this is natural. Because they amount to the highest price humanity can pay. However, the financial and economic costs can also be crippling. They can set societies back by years — or even decades. And they can, in turn, contribute to human suffering.

A recent United Nations-World Bank report confirmed this. It noted that conflict can kill chances of progress from many areas — from development and poverty reduction to health and education. The report also pointed out that, even with cautious estimates, more investment in conflict prevention could save the international community $1.2 billion per year. And the benefits would be even more significant at the national level, because prevention could save countries over $34 billion in losses.

So, the case for investment in peace is strong. Actually, it is irrefutable.

But, despite this, it is still not happening. At least not enough.

At the moment, United Nations resources for peace are concentrated on military peacekeeping missions. Although they have peace in their name, many of them are operating in contexts where there is, in fact, no peace left to keep. At the same time, there is a chronic shortfall of funding to build or preserve peace. This affects activities for conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. What’s more, most of the funding that is there is unpredictable. It might come one year, and not another. Which makes long-term investments for peace extremely difficult.

The Secretary-General’s report is likely to contain concrete proposals for financing. We cannot just read them, discuss them and put them back on the shelf. They need serious consideration. And the high-level meeting in April can provide a platform for this. I hope leaders from all over the world will voice their commitment to making financing for sustaining peace stronger and more predictable.

My third point, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, is that partnerships are integral to sustaining peace. And, if we want new and stronger partnerships, we need to start at home — within the United Nations system. In the past, UN departments and the people in them worked on their agendas. Social development meant only social development. Humanitarian work meant only humanitarian work. So, over the years, strong silos have formed. Now we have to tear them down. Because development and human rights cannot take hold if war is raging around them. Similarly, peace is more likely to stick if human rights are respected and development is inclusive.

We also, however, need partnerships between the United Nations and other actors. These must include civil society, academia, regional and sub-regional organisations, regional development banks, and international financial institutions.

The private sector must also play a role. In fact, it was clear, from a recent dialogue I convened in New York, that major
businesses — such as MasterCard and LexisNexis — are aware of the links between inclusive growth, strong institutions, and sustaining peace. And they want a part in strengthening these links.

Finally, we can’t talk about partnerships without focusing on national stakeholders. Because no peace can last if it is not nationally owned and nationally driven. I’m not only referring to government officials. We must also engage other national actors like religious and community leaders. And we cannot afford to overlook the role of women and young people. They are often the peace innovators — finding new, and creative ways to overcome challenges. They must participate in any effort to support sustaining peace.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

My fourth and final point today is that a new approach does not mean that we need to start from scratch. Because, sustaining peace exists. It is already happening around the world.

- It is support to peacebuilding organisations, working between different religious communities, in Lebanon.
- It is mechanisms to peacefully resolve disputes over national resources, in Kyrgyzstan.
- It is dialogue around social conflict, in Guatemala.
- It is women’s situation rooms, to ease tensions created by elections, in Liberia.

These are only some of the many best practices we have seen.

One problem, however, remains: there are not enough of them. Sustaining peace is happening. But it is the exception, not the norm.

We need to do more to showcase these best practices. This regional dialogue provides a useful platform to do so. The high-level meeting in April, will bring together examples from all over the world. And it will allow us to commit, at the highest level, to making them the norm, and not the exception.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We have an opportunity before us. This dialogue will act as a hub of knowledge, expertise and experience on Sustaining Peace. If you have questions, please ask them. If you have ideas, please share them. If you have stories, please tell them.

My team and I will work to feed this dialogue into the high-level meeting in April. It is time for the regional perspective to be heard — and to be heard louder — on the international stage.

Thank you again, and good luck in the discussions ahead.
Dear colleagues, friends,

I am sorry that my travel schedule did not allow me to be with you in person today. But I am glad to be able to deliver some brief remarks from afar, because, I think these consultations are of vital importance — not just to all of you participating in them, but to the wider international community.

And, so, I want to make three brief points, which I hope will help to frame your discussions.

The first is very simple: we need a new approach to peace. That’s not to say that what we have done so far hasn’t worked. In fact, international support to national peace efforts has led to many positive results. I’m sure that our host, Colombia, can testify to this. However, despite a decrease in the number of conflicts worldwide, we still do not live in a peaceful world. There are people living today, who have known nothing but war for their entire lives. There are children who have experienced unspeakable atrocities. And there are whole families fleeing across battle lines, borders and oceans. This suffering is still happening. And it demands a new approach.

The United Nations must lead the way. And it must use the 2016 resolutions on sustaining peace as a guidebook. They outline clear — yet crucial — steps. They confirm that we must do more to stop wars before they start. That we must enhance cooperation and coordination between all UN offices, actors and operations in the field. And that we must

Transcript of video message to the Regional Consultation on Peacebuilding
We need a new approach to peace. That’s not to say that what we have done so far hasn’t worked. In fact, international support to national peace efforts has led to many positive results. However, despite a decrease in the number of conflicts worldwide, we still do not live in a peaceful world. There are people, living today, who have known nothing but war, for their entire lives.

However, as my second point, I want to stress that the United Nations cannot do this alone. We have a collective responsibility for peace. Your consultations make this clear. Over the next two days, discussions will be held between representatives of governments, the United Nations, academia and civil society. They will explore how to better engage with non-traditional actors, including international financial institutions, regional organisations and the private sector. And, I am glad to see that they will also focus on the participation of women and youth.

So, these consultations demonstrate that partnerships are crucial to sustaining peace. That is why we need to hear from all stakeholders. We need their ideas. And, importantly, we need their experience.

Because, although sustaining peace offers a new approach, it does not mean starting from scratch. And this is my third point. There are already examples of sustaining peace taking place on the ground. These regional consultations
Striving for Peace

will showcase many of them. Although Latin America has no open conflict, it has its own vulnerabilities and trigger points. And, it has produced some pioneering initiatives to prevent these from spilling out into conflict.

We need to learn from them. We need to replicate them. This is particularly true as we prepare to convene a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in New York this coming April. The best practices you identify — as well as the ideas and challenges you discuss — can feed into this meeting.

So, I want to thank Colombia for convening these consultations. And I want to appeal to all of you to engage, to debate, to question and to think outside the box. My team will be following up to ensure that what you say in Colombia is heard on the international stage.

Thank you again, and good luck in your discussions.
Thank you very much. Good morning excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

I want to thank His Excellency Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, for inviting me to address this crucial seminar.

Today, we will focus on two different kinds of people.

First, humanitarian negotiators. These are the people securing safe passage for aid convoys. They are facilitating medical evacuations from besieged towns. And they are working to bring life-saving assistance across conflict lines and across borders to the people that need it the most.

Secondly, we are here to talk about political mediators. These are the people bringing conflict parties to the table for peace talks. They are calling for ceasefires. And they are negotiating long-term political settlements.

So, we are here to talk about two different kinds of negotiators who do two different kinds of jobs. However, they have one thing in common: an aim to alleviate human suffering.

That is why this seminar is so important. It allows us to explore how humanitarian negotiators and political mediators can better strengthen and complement each other’s work. It also allows us to follow up on some of the ideas and challenges which came from the high-level panel last December in Geneva.

As you mentioned, Didier, I outlined my ten principles of mediation during last year’s seminar. And I will not repeat them today. Instead, I will try to apply them, more generally,
to the theme of today’s discussion. And, in doing so, I will make three main points.

First, I want to emphasise the benefit of dialogue. Because, nothing bad comes from talking.

Dialogue is at the centre of the UN’s humanitarian and political activities. It is the only way to guarantee the safety of aid workers moving into conflict zones. It is the only way to dismantle roadblocks, and get assistance to where it is needed. It is the only way to move differences from battle fields to negotiation tables. And it is the only way to reach a compromise and an agreement, which can bring about lasting peace.

So, humanitarian actors are doing a lot of talking. And, political mediators, too, are doing a lot of talking. But not always to each other. And that is what we need to address.

Because more dialogue can lead to benefits for all. Humanitarian actors often operate at the local level. They are on the front line. They are in direct contact with parties from all sides. They are seeing, and experiencing, the realities of conflict. And so, they can provide crucial, real-time information to political mediators. As noted by participants of the December panel in Geneva, they can act as a much-needed “reality check”.

Similarly, political mediators can support the objectives of their humanitarian colleagues. They can use their position to advocate for respect for international humanitarian law. They can reinforce the impartiality of humanitarian activities. And they can clarify information, and reduce mistrust among actors on the ground.

So, more talking can mean more benefits — for both kinds of negotiators.

But it is not enough to merely call for more dialogue. We cannot rely on one-off initiatives of individual negotiators. Rather, we must plan ahead. We must explore systems and mechanisms, which can be put into place. We must evaluate the role of technology. We must look to increase the quality — and not just the quantity — of this dialogue, for example through joint training. And we must share best practices — and ask how we can turn them into standard practices.

Today, we have a chance to do just this. I want to, again, thank Belgium for organising this seminar. We need to seize the opportunity it presents to strengthen dialogue between humanitarian and political negotiators. And we need to make sure that the momentum it creates does not end when we all leave this room. Rather, we must ensure that it leads to more opportunities for dialogue at the regional, national and local levels.

But, before I leave this point on dialogue, I want to make one last remark. Because, I want to acknowledge that this kind communication will not always run smoothly. Humanitarian and political negotiators may not always see eye-to-eye. They may have vastly different positions on certain issues. They may engage in heated discussions. And, at times, dialogue may turn to debate, or disagreement.

But that does not mean that it should not happen. Because, as I said, only good things can come from talking. Bad things, however, can come when it breaks down. I am sure many of you have different positions on the theme of this seminar. But your presence here shows that we all have one thing in common: a belief in the power of dialogue.

The second issue I want to address is the search for balance. This can be the biggest challenge for negotiators and mediators on the ground. They often have to weigh up different — even conflicting — positions. And, among them, they have to find balance and compromise.

We need to do the same today. And, in doing so, we need to face reality. Humanitarian action must be driven by humanity. It must be based solely on the needs of people. And it must be independent of political and military objectives. But, unfortunately, this is not always the reality on the ground.

Here, I am talking about aid convoys stopped by conflict parties, just meters away from desperate communities. I am talking about urgent medical evacuations being traded like commodities. I am talking about the denial of permits or permissions in order to gain political leverage. And I am talking about the bombing of medical facilities, not by accident, but by design.

These are clear violations of international humanitarian law. And, they show the devastation that can come when humanitarian ideals are corrupted by political, or military, strategies.

Therefore, we must proceed cautiously — with the aim of finding a balance.

We must respect the independent, impartial nature of humanitarian actions. But we must also adapt to the increasing interdependence between humanitarian and political negotiations.

We must consider options for closer cooperation and dialogue. But we must also bear in mind the risks of the politicisation of humanitarian work.

We must demand accountability for violations of international humanitarian law. But we must also practically respond to the results and impacts of these violations.

And so, we must consider the ideals, and balance them against the realities. This is what mediators and negotiators must do on a daily basis. And, to best support them, we must to do it ourselves, today.

Humanitarian negotiations and peace talks aim to alleviate human suffering. They are a response to the horrors of conflict. And they attempt to mitigate these horrors and bring
them to an end. But it is better to prevent — rather than respond — to conflict and suffering.

For my third point, I want to call for a stronger focus on conflict prevention.

Like I said at the beginning, humanitarian negotiations and peace talks aim to alleviate human suffering. They are a response to the horrors of conflict. And they attempt to mitigate these horrors — and bring them to an end.

But it is better to prevent — rather than respond to — conflict and suffering.

The United Nations set itself an ambitious objective in the first line of its Charter: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. And UN mediators and envoys around the world are key to meeting this objective.

In the words of the UN Secretary-General, we need a surge in diplomacy. Not only in response to conflict and suffering. But, importantly, before they happen at all.

We need to significantly strengthen UN prevention capacities. We need to hear ideas and suggestions from humanitarian and political negotiators. We need to identify gaps, and delays, which currently exist. And we need to build a prevention toolbox that is capable of living up to the very first commitment made by United Nations Charter.

In April, I will be convening a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. It will provide a space for creative thinking on the strengthening of the United Nations’ conflict-prevention capacity. It must include the perspectives of both humanitarian and political negotiators — which is why my team will be following your discussions today closely. And I hope that it will bring some of the ideas we hear today closer to reality.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I want, again, to thank Belgium for hosting us. And I want, again, to thank all of you for participating.

Minister Reynders, I want to reiterate something you said: effective multilateralism is the cornerstone of our diplomatic action around the world. And, dialogue is at the heart of our multilateral system. We need more of it on the ground, among our envoys and negotiators. And we need more of it here, in this building.

I am sure we will hear many different views and positions today. But the important thing is that we are talking.

Dialogue might not always go smoothly. But, as any mediator will tell you, as long as it is still going, there is still hope.

I thank you.
I am very pleased to be here and to talk with you about sustaining peace. Some of you I met the last time when I was in Geneva, and you briefed me about the discussions during the Geneva Peace Week.

Since the last time I was in Geneva, I have engaged in a series of activities and discussions:

- Dialogue with civil society, private sector and academia on partnerships for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, that took place on 8 December 2017. The mix of participants was very interesting and while civil society is well informed about discussions around sustaining peace, the outreach to the private sector was for these representatives rather surprising.

- Some of the recommendations from the dialogue include that sustaining peace should be locally led, regionally anchored and internationally supported; need for more inclusivity of preventive actions but also UN peace operations; more sustainable approaches to financing and using human rights instruments to address upstream prevention. I would of course be interested to hear your views about these recommendations.

In the meantime, I also met with different groups of friends composed of Member States. With the Human Rights / Conflict Prevention Caucus; the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform as well as the Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace to have a broader discussion about the expectations...
My goal for the High-Level Meeting is to have a focused discussion with concrete examples about the implementation of sustaining peace, that can serve as best practices and lessons learned.

of Member States of the High-Level Meeting and the topics to be discussed.

The exchanges with these groups showed me that sustaining peace is high on the agenda of Member States and that there is continued support for the concept. However, it also showed me how broad the discussions around sustaining peace are and that it is difficult to keep the focus and integrate it into the broader political picture.

My goal for the High-Level Meeting is to have a focused discussion with concrete examples about the implementation of sustaining peace, that can serve as best practices and lessons learned. I want to avoid a theoretical discussion about the concept of sustaining peace. For that I need the support of all involved actors.

Now that the report of the SG on sustaining peace has been published, we are finalizing the interactive segments of the High-Level Meeting. These will be focus on the following topics:

On conflict prevention, we need a stronger focus on peace when it still exists. We should be acting faster, and sooner, when there is a peace to keep — rather than scrambling for solutions once it has been lost. We already have many of the tools we need to do this. We must, however, start to use them differently. The April meeting will be part of this ongoing process.

On partnerships, the high-level meeting should be a greenhouse for partnerships and reflect on what works and what does not work. During the December dialogue with
civil society, academia and the private sector, participants acknowledged that local expertise and capacities, paired with national, regional, and international resources and capabilities go a long way to sustain peace. Discussants consider Colombia as a successful example that was attributed, in part, to the government and its partners’ emphasis on reintegration, inclusive processes, civil society, gender equality, access to justice and national ownership. This is a good example, but there is room to assess whether coordination works well, and if yes, why. Are all actors doing what they do best or is there competition on the ground? What about competition for funding?

On financing. Currently, the UN’s peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities are chronically underfunded. By adopting the 2016 Sustaining Peace resolutions, we committed to addressing this issue. We need to give the proposals in the SG’s report serious consideration. And we cannot waste this opportunity.

On Integration. Because, we need to join the dots. From promoting human rights, to advancing Sustainable Development — everything the United Nations does must be seen through the lens of peace. And we must assess how the existing frameworks and agendas can be mobilised in this way. I would like to hear your views on this topic, as Geneva brings together different actors — from development, to human rights and humanitarian. Where do you see synergies and links?

On participation of women and youth, cross-cutting issues that need to be included in all discussions. We have seen that it is mostly men who negotiate and sign peace deals. However, this is not sustainable. And it does not reflect reality on the ground. Because, women and young people play a major role in building and preserving peace. Their experiences and ideas must be seen and listened to.

As you see these priorities align well with the topics announced for today's meeting. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on these.

I know that these issues are quite broad and that there is a demand to discuss some issues further in depth. Side events provide space for that. I am encouraging the organization of side events, if possible jointly in order not to overload the High-Level Meeting with events.

I have invited a broad spectrum of actors from Member States, civil society, academia, private sector and of course the UN to participate in the interactive panel discussions. The role of civil society throughout the world — and especially here at the United Nations — is not just valuable. It is crucial. That’s why I’m here. And that's why I wanted to engage with all of you as often as I can during my presidency.

This is why we made sure that civil society will be present and their voice will be heard at the High-Level event on Sustaining Peace. All together, we have more than 500 seats available for NGO’s.

The selection process of NGO’s will (most likely) be open by the end of this week. Link for application will be available on our website. For those NGO’s fulfilling the conditions, selection process will be done on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.
According to the rules of procedures of official General Assembly meeting, civil society may apply to attend the high-level part of the meeting, without right to speak. However, in the four interactive dialogues we will guarantee two NGO statements per interactive panel (8 in total), with more to come if times permit.

In the little time until the High-Level meeting there are still some important activities. 1) I will travel to Addis Ababa (today) and Colombia (mid March). In Addis Ababa I will discuss sustaining peace with youth during an event organized by Addis Ababa University. I will also exchange with a key partner of the UN, the African Union, on sustaining peace. 2) The SG will brief member States on his report on 5 March. The briefing will provide Member States the opportunity to voice what they would like to see as a follow up to the report and the proposals therein. 3) As part of my outreach efforts, I will convene a retreat with a cross-regional group of Member States who are active on the sustaining peace agenda. I also invited a few selected civil society representatives (among them Achim Wennmann as GPP coordinator) and UN officials.

The High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace will be an important milestone for the discussions on sustaining peace, however, it should spark further action and discussion — not end it. There should be a conversation about sustaining peace beyond the High-Level Meeting.

And most importantly, the High-Level Meeting should strengthen the implementation of sustaining peace. What we do at UN Headquarters is important to generate the necessary political leadership, however, sustaining peace needs to be implemented around the world. And for that we all need to work together, people who work for the UN and its partners from regional, sub-regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector need to prioritize sustaining peace in their daily work.

Thank you again for a substantive and fruitful exchange. Receiving inputs from actors outside New York is important and refreshing.
On 28 February and 1 March 2018, the President of the General Assembly visited Addis Ababa to discuss peacebuilding and sustaining peace with high-level officials of the African Union, the Government of Ethiopia, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the United Nations country team, and youth and academia.

Press release: Assembly President wraps up visit to Addis Ababa, says U.N. can’t achieve goals without Africa

He met with officials from the African Union Commission, the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and the United Nations Country Team. The purpose of his visit was to hear African perspectives on themes such as peace, development and migration, and to highlight the importance of the strong links between the African Union and United Nations.

In an address to the Permanent Representatives Committee of the African Union, the President said, “Today, Africa is one of the most important actors on the international stage. When it speaks, we all listen. And when it acts, we all watch — and we all learn. And so, we have entered a new period. One in which partnerships between the African Union and the United Nations are seen, not as an aim, but as a necessity… The United Nations cannot achieve any of its goals without Africa.”

With H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President discussed a wide range of topics, including regional threats such as terrorism and climate change, peace and security issues, development, migration, multilateralism and Security Council reform. The two agreed that the African Union and United Nations shared the same priorities.

The President also met with Commissioners from the African Union, including H.E. Prof. Victor Harison, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, H.E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs and H.E. Albert M. Muchanga,
Today, Africa is one of the most important actors on the international stage. When it speaks, we all listen. And when it acts, we all watch — and we all learn. And so, we have entered a new period. One in which partnerships between the African Union and the United Nations are seen, not as an aim, but as a necessity... The United Nations cannot achieve any of its goals without Africa.”

Commissioner for Trade and Industry. During that meeting, views were exchanged on the Sustainable Development Goals, migration, trade, employment and labour, energy, youth and water.

While in Addis Ababa, the President met with H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome Wirtu, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. They spoke about the valuable partnership between Ethiopia and the United Nations, as well as regional developments, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, sustaining peace, financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations reforms and their joint support for multilateralism.

In a meeting with H.E. Mr. Workineh Gebeyehu Negewo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the topics were conflict prevention, developments in the Horn of Africa, poverty as a security threat, opportunities for youth, migration and Security Council reform.

The President also participated in an interactive discussion with students at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia’s oldest and largest institution of higher learning. The exchange focused on the relevance of the United Nations and how it can and should act. The President said that, at the United Nations, “Whenever Africa speaks with one voice, no one dares to ignore it.” Other topics raised included sustaining peace, sustainable development, migration and the work and role of the General Assembly.
In meetings with Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and her team, he was briefed on the challenges and opportunities related to aligning the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda with the African Union’s 2063 Agenda. In an additional encounter with United Nations Resident Coordinator Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the United Nations Country Team and the United Nations/Government of Ethiopia Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals, the topic was implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ethiopia. Relations between the African Union and United Nations were the focus of his meeting at UNOAU.
On 5 March 2018, the President of the General Assembly convened an informal meeting to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace contained in document A/72/707-S/2018/43.

I welcome the Secretary-General and all delegations to the room. Thank you all for being here for this briefing.

Before I give the floor to Secretary-General Guterres, I want to recall some of the calls we made when we adopted the 2016 resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

And, I will focus on four of them, in particular.

First, we called for a new approach. For more capacity for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, on the ground. For a United Nations that is better equipped to prevent conflicts from breaking out or recurring.

We said that we would review our toolbox. That we would look at which new tools we would need to develop — and at how we could use existing ones better. In particular, we placed focus on the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and ongoing mediation and capacity building work in the field.

Second, we called for sustaining peace to be better financed.

Not for a month, or a year — but over the long term. That is why we said financing should be sustained and predictable. And that is why we requested the Secretary-General to propose concrete options, not only on where these resources can come from, but also on how they can be allocated, for the greatest impact on the ground.

Third, we called for new partnerships.
Because we acknowledged that the United Nations cannot create sustaining peace alone. National stakeholders need to be in the driving seat. And we need the insight and expertise of other partners — from regional and civil society organisations to international financial institutions and businesses. In the same way, we signalled an end to a time in which women’s participation and leadership is overlooked, or resisted. And we acknowledged that young people are agents and assets for peace.

And, finally, we called for all of this to take place in a comprehensive and integrated way. We committed to breaking down silos and divisions. And we looked towards a future in which sustaining peace is not a core objective of this entire Organization.

We committed to breaking down silos and divisions. And we looked towards a future in which sustaining peace is not a task for one department or office of the UN, but rather a core objective of this entire Organization.

Excellencies, we made these calls, loud and clear. We have gone some way in response, already. The report we will be briefed on, today, is a strong guide on how we can go forward.

On 24 and 25 April, we will gather for the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. It will give us a chance to reaffirm these calls, and to chart the course ahead as we work to answer them in full.

And before I conclude, I wish to highlight that a logistics note, to help you in your preparations, will be circulated either today or early tomorrow morning.

So, I thank you all, again, for being here. And I thank the Secretary-General for giving his time to this platform for dialogue and exchange.
From 15 to 17 March 2018, the President of the General Assembly visited Colombia and met with the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, and other officials to discuss the Colombian peace process and collaboration between Colombia and the United Nations, among other issues.

Press release: Assembly President wraps up trip to Colombia, lauds country’s commitment to peace and sustainable development

In Bogotá, the President met with the President of the Republic of Colombia, H.E. Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón. They discussed the Colombian peace process, collaboration between Colombia and the United Nations, regional dynamics, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations reforms and migration. President Lajčák thanked President Santos for agreeing to attend the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace that he would convene on 24 and 25 April in New York.

President Lajčák also participated alongside President Santos and National Planning Director Luis Fernando Mejía in the launch of Colombia’s national strategy for implementing the SDGs. That strategy was prepared by the Council of National Economic and Social Policy (CONPES).

In a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia, H.E. Ms. María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, the topics raised were migration and United Nations reforms, as well as regional issues and cooperation.

The President also discussed peace issues with Mr. Rafael Pardo, High Counsellor for the Post-Conflict; Mr. Rodrigo Rivera, High Commissioner for Peace; H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations; and Mr. Joshua Mitrotti, Director-General of the Colombian Agency for the Reintegration of Armed People and Groups (ARN). Specifically, they spoke about the importance of reconciliation in Colombia, implementation
of the peace agreement and the United Nations’ support in that regard.

The President also met with officials from the United Nations Country Team and United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, and spoke with representatives of the private sector on financing for development.

While in Colombia, the President travelled to the western town of Totoró to visit indigenous communities and a unique United Nations interagency project, which works to build peace and support sustainable development through strengthening local leadership, bolstering social cohesion, empowering rural women, improving food security and building agricultural capacities. He cited the project as an inspiring example of the kind of grassroots peacebuilding and cooperation that is needed in post-conflict societies.

The President left Colombia for New York on 17 March.
Statement at the high-level roundtable on Security Sector Reform and Sustaining Peace

Good afternoon, Madame Deputy-Secretary-General, President Xanana Gusmão, Ambassadors Matjila and Mlynár, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends.

This week, leaders and decision-makers will come together, in this building. Their aim is to move closer, to a world of sustaining peace, and security sector reform can help to make this happen.

That is why today’s discussion is so crucial. And, I want to thank Slovakia and South Africa for bringing us together this afternoon.

To start us off, I will make two main points.

My first one is very simple: security sector reform is key to sustaining peace.

For years, the United Nations has been doing good work on the ground. But, we came to see that there were gaps. We placed too much focus on responding to conflict and its effects, but not enough on prevention.

And, that is why we are working towards a new approach. We are trying to do more — to grab onto peace before it slips away. And to make it stronger, after conflict, so it won’t break down again. This, in essence, is sustaining peace.

And, armies, police and other security actors can play a major role, in making it a reality. They can maintain stability during periods of high tensions. They can work to build trust with — and even among — communities. They can step in, to protect people from violence and intimidation.
But, their role can also be a very negative one. Security actors can become politicised. They can widen divisions. They can stoke fears and tensions. And they can abuse their positions, to target and persecute one group or one community.

So, security actors have many powerful tools at their disposal. This goes beyond guns and handcuffs. Instead, they hold the tools which can pull societies back from the brink of conflict — or push them over the edge.

And, this is not down to chance. From our experience over the last decades, we can point to firm indicators: effectiveness, accountability, professionalism and quality of governance.

If these elements are present, a security sector is more likely to promote sustaining peace.

So, what role can we play in making sure security sectors can drive peace and not conflict?

I will touch on a few areas as my second point.

First: national engagement. I mentioned this first for a reason: because no security sector reform effort will work without national ownership. And, this means true ownership — from security actors to the people they serve. I am particularly glad to see that our first panel today will focus on this issue. Please be as frank as possible. We all stand to learn from these national experiences.

Second: just as crucial, however, is regional engagement. Many regional organisations have their own capacities and policies for security sector reform, for example the African Union (AU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We need to complement and not duplicate.

Third: Major work is also needed in the area of gender. How can we build a security sector for an entire society, if the needs of half of this society are ignored? But, gender is — actually — overlooked, a lot. We need more participation of women in security sector reform. And we also need more gender sensitisation and training.

Fourth: Another main issue is financing. It must come from national sources. And it must come from the international community. But, let us be frank: security sector reform is not cheap. It costs a lot of money. But it is far cheaper than responding to an outbreak of conflict. And it is far cheaper than rushing back in after we have withdrawn, because peace had been too fragile to last. And, this is the risk if we don’t invest properly in security sector reform.

And, fifth and finally, coherence, and cooperation. They say too many cooks spoil the soup. And, there are, indeed, a lot of actors working on security sector reform. But that does not mean we cannot all meaningfully contribute. We just need to be careful; we need strong coordination mechanisms — and clear roles.

We also cannot see security sector reform as a standalone activity. It is a crucial ingredient of Sustainable Development. In fact, we cannot achieve Goal 16 without it. And, like I said initially, it is absolutely crucial to our wider efforts to prevent conflict, and sustain peace.

Here, I want to mention the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections. It is run by the main United Nations’ entities dealing with peacekeeping and development,
respectively. It brings different strands of the United Nations’ work together. It supports sustaining peace. And it shows that coherence can happen — in real time — on the ground.

For years, the United Nations has been doing good work on the ground. But, we came to see that there were gaps. We placed too much focus on responding to conflict and its effects, but not enough on prevention.

Excellencies,

Security sector reform is not merely “important”. We use that word too freely at the United Nations. In fact, security sector reform can be difference between peace and conflict; between life and death.

That is why, in 2014, the UN Security Council dedicated an entire resolution — resolution 2151 — to it. That is why it is a main component of many United Nations’ missions around the world, from Libya to Central African Republic. That is why we have a dedicated Group of Friends on Security Sector Reform. That is why we met last year in New York and Bratislava.

And that is why we are here today. So, let us use our time wisely. Let us share our experiences. Let us come up with ideas and proposals.

Let us focus on how we can make security sector reform stronger — and more capable of supporting sustaining peace.

Thank you.
Good evening, everyone. We are at the beginning of a week of Sustaining Peace. And we are here to talk about human rights. This is why I am grateful to Germany and Switzerland for bringing us all here.

And, to start us off, I will make two main points.

First, I want to say that we have never had a better understanding of peace.

We are learning more about what conditions it needs, to stick. And, about what can make it fall apart, into conflict. And, as we learn more, about peace, we can better understand its relationship with human rights.

The recent World Bank-United Nations report, called *Pathways to Peace*, poses the question: why do people fight? And, in response, it points to certain drivers of conflict: exclusion, inequalities and a sense of injustice. And, all of these can be caused by human rights violations.

- People who are punished because of what they believe or say.
- People who do not bothered going to the police station or a courtroom, because they know justice is out of their reach.
- People who do not have their basic needs met, like water, housing and education.
- People who are discriminated against…violated… and attacked.
Not all of these people will turn to violence. In fact, most people remain peaceful in the face of human rights violations. But, they will feel excluded. They will feel unequal. They will feel a sense of injustice. And, like the report says, this could lead them to turn, more easily, to conflict.

This can happen to individuals. It can happen to certain groups, or communities. And it can happen, on a massive scale to whole societies. Sadly, we are seeing all of these cases around the world today.

But, there is another side. Because, human rights can also contribute to peace. If they are respected, they can help to create other conditions — like accountability, inclusion and equal access to justice and services. And this, in turn, can make societies more resilient against conflict.

So, human rights abuses can be at the root of conflict. They can be a warning, that war is on the horizon. But they can also build stronger and more resilient societies.

So, as my second point, I will ask: how can we tap into the preventive potential of human rights?

We have a very strong mandate. The sustaining peace resolutions make it crystal clear: to achieve our goals we need all three pillars: peace and security, development and human rights.

But, where to start?

Well, one area in need of attention is monitoring. The human rights system has a strong monitoring framework. Some mechanisms are rooted within the Human Rights
Council. Others fall under various international human rights conventions. And now, we need to start using them for peace. Not only to flag early warning signs. But also to guide our work in tackling the root causes of conflict.

Secondly, we need better links between New York and Geneva. It cannot be the case that New York is the home for peace and Geneva for human rights. Expertise and capacities must be pooled; we need to join the dots.

Third, we need a cross-pillar approach. This does not mean, for example, that a project on preventing conflicts now includes an extra sentence on human right or a line about Sustainable Development. Instead, we need communication, interaction and cooperation between all areas of our work.

And, finally, we need to hear from more voices from the field. Sometimes our own statements cannot do justice, to the realities on the ground. We need to hear from those, living them. We need them to show us, what a “human rights-based approach” means, on the ground.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I will share a question, which I asked myself, before coming here.

What would happen if all human rights were realised? From those in the Universal Declaration, to the almost-80 conventions we have adopted over the decades?

Do you think we would have the kind of conflicts we see today?

My answer is no.

That is why our discussion, this evening, is so crucial. And I want to thank all of you, for your commitment.

Thank you.
Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, thank you for inviting me and for the opportunity to address this event.

When it comes to peace and conflict, we all know the history. And, we know that it was dominated by men. It was men who declared wars. It was mainly men who fought them. And it was men who ended them — to make peace. Women were the victims; the collateral damage.

This is changing. Now, women are key actors, in the area of peace and security. But, it is not changing as rapidly as we’d hoped. And so, we need to move faster.

I will make two main points on this, this morning. My first point is simple: we cannot have sustaining peace without women.

I’ll mention three areas in particular.

First, prevention. When there is more gender equality, there is more resilience to conflict. And, when there is more violence against women, there is a higher likelihood of violence between communities. So, there is a direct link between the role of women and conflict prevention.

Women are also local mediators — called upon when tensions look set to escalate. And they are also active on the national and regional stages — including through the Pan-African Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, established by the African Union.
Secondly, peace processes. Because, when women participate, a peace deal is more likely to stick. That is what the studies have told us. And, that is what we have seen on the ground.

The Colombian peace agreement includes over 100 provisions on gender. When I travelled to the country last March, I saw the direct impact. Women at all levels — from government to local communities — are committed to peace. And I am in no doubt that this has contributed to the success we have seen so far.

The third area I want to mention is post-conflict peacebuilding.

In conflict, women suffer and sacrifice just as much as, or even more than, men. Some are on the front lines. Others are behind them, keeping families and communities going. Why should they be side-lined once there is peace? They must participate in post-conflict analysis and planning. They must have decision-making power.

And so, my second point is more of a question: how do we make this happen? Well, I think we already know.

We have the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda. And, since 2016, we have a new framework called “sustaining peace”. The guidelines are very clear. They tell us that women must lead and participate at every step of the cycle — from prevention to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. To make this happen, we need more policies, more plans, and more financing.

But, we are lagging, particularly when it comes to finance. Only a small fraction of our budgets goes to preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. And an even smaller fraction of that goes to the gender dimensions, of these activities. We cannot brush this under the rug. We need to put our heads together. And we need to find tangible ways to accelerate action.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Edmund Burke said, “Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it”. In peace and security, men dominated our history. And women were pushed to the side. This was a big mistake.

If we want to make sustaining peace a reality, we need to learn from our mistakes. And we need to learn fast.

Thank you.
On 25 April 2018, the President of the General Assembly participated in the side event on Post-conflict Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, organized by the Permanent Missions of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, in the margins of the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, in New York

Statement at the side event on Post-conflict Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Thank you for inviting me to address you today. This is exactly what we need: a practical discussion, an opportunity to hear about sustaining peace from first-hand experience. A way to listen, and to learn from, those who know best. So, I want to sincerely thank Indonesia and Timor-Leste for bringing us all together today.

To kick off our discussions today, I would like to make three main points.

First, on the importance of reconciliation.

When a peace deal is signed, the entire world is watching. There are headlines in newspapers. There are conferences in hotels. There are celebrations in the street. And, support does come. The international community rallies. Schools and hospitals are re-opened. Destroyed infrastructure is, slowly, built back up again. And places previously deserted welcome back signs of life. All of this is positive. However, none of it helps the other kind of devastation faced by a post-conflict society.

It is not as obvious as a burnt-out house, or a collapsed bridge. But it has just as great — if not an even greater — impact. Here, I am talking about the emotional, the psychological damage or trauma caused by conflict. And that is why reconciliation is so important. It cannot be an afterthought — something that we move to once the physical recovery is complete. It must be a priority from the earliest stages of peace.

My second point is that we need a broader perspective when we discuss reconciliation. Because it cannot come,
from a truth commission alone. It has to go beyond that and address broader needs.

And, this links to what we are doing now at the United Nations. In the past, we spent our time putting out fires. We waited until we could see flames. And then we rushed in to respond. We did not do enough to prevent the fires from breaking out in the first place. And, then, we left too suddenly. We ignored the embers, which were still hot and could, at any moment, burst back into flames.

We cannot afford to do that anymore. That is what this High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace is about. That is why we are working for a new approach to peace.

And, I think we should apply this to reconciliation, too. We cannot say “We have had a truth commission, so now the wounds have been healed, everyone can live peacefully, together”. The wounds are too deep for such an approach.

Instead, we must ask: Have we addressed the root causes of the conflict? Are human rights still being violated? Is there still discrimination? Have those who were fighting been reintegrated, into society? And, have we done enough, to incentivise peace? To make sure conflict does not offer a better alternative?

We must also focus more inclusion. Because conflict affects everyone, not just those who are shooting the guns. So, the work to heal its wounds must also involve everyone. That is why we need to address the lack of women in post-conflict planning and decision-making processes.

My third and last point is about national ownership.

So far, I have been speaking as an outsider. My contributions are based on the research, and on the experiences of others. I want, however, to make this clear: I do not know best. The United Nations does not know best. The international community does not know best.

He said that “reconciliation within societies with a bitter past, to reach a brighter future” is the only viable option for peace.

We need to listen and learn, directly from these societies. That is what we are here to do. Not to lecture. Not to impose. Not to make our own assessments.

But to listen to, and to learn from those who know best.

Thank you.
On 25 April 2018, the President of the General Assembly participated in the “Pathways for Peace” roundtable, organized by the World Bank Group and the Permanent Missions of Romania and Sweden, in the margins of the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, in New York.

Good afternoon, everyone.

I want to start by stating the obvious: prevention is not free. It costs money. This is true for diplomacy and mediation.

Mediators need a salary. Conference rooms need to be hired. Cars and planes need to shuttle envoys, between towns, cities or countries.

And, this is true for our broader prevention work. Institution-building costs money. The delivery of justice costs money. Sustainable Development costs money. Ensuring that basic services can be accessed by everyone — and not just some — costs money.

But, it is worth it.

And this, in short, is the conclusion of the United Nations-World Bank report *Pathways for Peace*.

To start our discussion, I will talk about what I believe are the two main takeaways, from this report.

The first is the case for prevention. It says that if we invest in prevention now, we can save much more in response later. We have all heard the same figure repeated this past week. But I am still going to repeat it, one more time, today, because it is shocking. In the past ten years, we have spent 233 billion US dollars on reacting to conflict. This includes costs from humanitarian response, peacekeeping and hosting refugees. However, only a fraction of that has been spent on prevention.
So, this makes a clear case: too little of our money is going to prevention, and too much of it is going to response. Even using our basic logic, this does not seem smart. Now, however, we also have hard data to back this up.

This report tells us that a dollar spent on conflict prevention can save up to seven dollars later down the line. And these savings can increase in certain contexts. For example, every dollar used to build peace and prevent violence in Rwanda has saved a staggering sixteen dollars over the last two decades. This is also a fact in this report.

This is, also, a clear case: If we invest in prevention now, we can save in the future. But, why are we not doing it?

And that leads me to the second big takeaway from the report: a strong case for prevention is not enough. We also need to make this case heard. Because, it is not as obvious as we might like it to be.

When we invest in infrastructure, we see the roads and the bridges being built. When we invest in healthcare, we can count how much medicine or equipment is procured. But, if we invest in prevention, we don’t really see much. In fact, things might look exactly as they did before. It is hard to prove that we have just averted disaster.

The World Bank report actually talks about this. It makes a comparison to preventive healthcare. Someone who is perfectly healthy might feel no need to visit a doctor. Why waste money, when there is no visible problem to fix?

And, that is why a case needs to be made to them. They need to learn about the value of preventive healthcare. They need to understand that, say, one hundred dollars on a doctor now could save thousands — or even millions — of dollars in expensive treatment down the line. This may seem simplistic. But it is what we need to do, for prevention.

We need to increase understanding. We need to educate on the drivers of peace and the risks of conflict.

And this report gives us all the tools to do so. Not just through the figures, but also by increasing our understanding of prevention. It tells us that groups can turn more easily to conflict when they feel excluded, unequal, and a sense of injustice.

It tells us that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, although not a political framework, can actually help to prevent conflict. And it can do this by removing some of its drivers, including poverty, lack of opportunity and inequalities. It tells us that access to justice, rule of law and the protection of human rights can make societies more resilient to conflict. And it tells us that our current funding mechanisms are not enough to get the investment we need in prevention. We need to branch out. We need new public-private partnerships. We need to innovate.

And, this week we have heard from people who can inspire us in this effort.

For example, Ms. Durreen Shahnaz, who founded the world’s first social stock exchange, and who has unlocked millions of dollars of private funding for development. Or Ms. María Victoria Llorente, who runs a platform for business people to contribute to peace gains in Colombia.

So dear colleagues, I want to praise this report. It brings the comparative strengths, of the United Nations and the World Bank, together. It uses the most up-to-date research
and data. And, it makes the case for prevention impossible to deny.

And, as we meet this week, to explore how we can all better contribute to sustaining peace, this is a case we need to make heard, loud and clear. Thank you.

The report tells us that a dollar spent on conflict prevention can save up to seven dollars later down the line. And these savings can increase, in certain contexts. For example, every dollar used to build peace and prevent violence in Rwanda has saved a staggering 16 dollars over the last two decades.
Thank you, Ambassador, dear Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to be with you all as we mark 30 years of Bangladesh’s peacekeeping. Back in 1988, Bangladesh decided to send its troops to the Iraq-Iran military observer mission. In your invitation note, you have described your contribution as a “modest engagement”, I would slightly disagree.

Your government has taken bold, brave steps with admirable resolution. Thirty years ago, Bangladesh decided to assume its part of the responsibility for global peace and security. And in this effort, 142 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have since paid the highest price, while 223 have sustained major injuries. Let us never forget their legacy.

Thirty is not the only number worth of our recognition tonight.

Fifty-four completed peace-keeping operations in around 40 countries so far is, simply, impressive.

With a total of 7,091 peacekeepers presently deployed in 11 countries, the place of Bangladesh as second in terms of troops and police contribution as of today is remarkable.

But even among those numbers, 30 stands out. Because it does not only represent years of participation of Bangladesh peacekeepers in operations. It also represents consistency. Consecutive governments of Bangladesh over the past 30 years have decided to uphold previous commitments and responsibility.
And it also stands for reliability. Because your partners in the UN and among wider membership could, time and again, count on the support of Bangladesh.

With a total of 7,091 peacekeepers presently deployed in 11 countries, the place of Bangladesh as second in terms of troops and police contribution as of today is remarkable.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the past two days we have been discussing peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

But we must be realistic — since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in May 1948, peacekeeping is still now, 70 years after, an essential part of sustaining peace. In these efforts, I truly appreciate that Bangladesh participates and leads by example.

Because their contribution of numbers of serving men and women is also backed:

• by the pledge of ensuring a zero-case scenario with the sexual exploitation and abuse,
• by the pledge to increase the female participation by 15 per cent in their troops,
• by the pledge to foster a shared responsibility in peacekeeping’s contribution to sustaining peace.

Through these practical yet essential guarantees, Bangladesh is determined to assist those in need — people in areas affected by the conflict, for which the blue flag represents hope and relief.

With a total of 7,091 peacekeepers presently deployed in 11 countries, the place of Bangladesh as second in terms of troops and police contribution as of today is remarkable.
Sustaining peace has been thoroughly explored so far in past two days. We have an opportunity to succeed in keeping momentum for sustaining peace for the next two years until the next review of the UN peacebuilding architecture at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Together with Ambassador Audra Plepyte of Lithuania, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen was a co-facilitator in consultations on the draft resolution we are about to adopt tomorrow.

You know that I try to avoid complicated UN language at all costs, but tonight I can make an exception, because thanks to the engagement of Ambassador Bin Momen of Bangladesh in sustaining peace talks and thanks to the engagement of Bangladesh in UN peacekeeping operations, the nexus has a chance.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to thank the women and men of Bangladesh for their service in peacekeeping troops and diplomatic ranks and I would like to wish all of them the best of luck.

Thank you for your attention.
On 7 May 2018, the President of the General Assembly visited Sweden and addressed the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, co-hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

**Statement at the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development: the Politics of Peace**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I want to start by being frank: we are not where we wanted to be. We are not living up to the commitments we made after the Second World War to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

But, we can get there. I really believe this. And, because all of you are sitting here, today, I know I am not alone in this belief.

And so, I will open our discussions, with three main points.

First, I want to talk about sustaining peace, about what it really is.

And, I see it as real peace. Positive peace. A peace that goes beyond just the absence of bullets and bombs. A peace that can withstand tests and tremors. A peace that is passed down through generations.

This is the kind of peace that the drafters of the United Nations Charter dreamed of. This is the kind of peace that should be the norm — not the exception — for people today. And this is the kind of peace that the United Nations should be known for helping to achieve throughout the world.

And we have the tools to make it a reality.

In 2016, the UN General Assembly and Security Council, together, adopted twin resolutions. They called on us all to do more to achieve this kind of peace. And, since then, the
phrase “sustaining peace” has become well-known at the United Nations. It has spurred new initiatives. It has got us all talking — and acting.

And, two weeks ago, it brought a big crowd to New York. This was for what we called the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

Discussions were supposed to last for two days. But, given the level of interest, we spilled over into a third.

And, I feel that we achieved three main things in that time:

First, we made sustaining peace the star of the show. This meeting saw the highest levels of attendance at the United Nations this year. So, we really raised visibility around this crucial concept.

Second, we carved out a permanent space for sustaining peace on our agenda. We made sure that the 2016 resolutions were not a “one-off”. In fact, another resolution was adopted by both the General Assembly and the Security Council to show that this is a living concept.

And, third, we made some discoveries. We learned a lot of new things. We heard from those on the ground, who do the real work.

And, we are now facing the challenge of fitting all of them into one document: the Chair’s summary. This will be circulated in the coming days.

But, in the meantime, I am going to take on the even-bigger challenge of summarising some of the key takeaways in a few short minutes! And, this will act as my second main point today.

So, what came from this high-level meeting?

Well, first, we heard that we are doing good work. But, we are not always doing it together. We are not always checking in and coordinating. And we are not always seeing the bigger picture — or the common goals — we are all aiming for. That is why we heard very loud calls for more coherence and more coordination.

The high-level meeting showcased some best practices. We learned about how we are moving from standalone actors or activities for peace to pooling our assets.

I actually saw this in action when I travelled to the Colombian town of Totoró. There, I saw a real commitment to peace — from the various United Nations agencies, from government officials and from indigenous communities. And, I saw how all these stakeholders could come together under a United Nations inter-agency programme for a common goal: to make the peace agreement stick.

Secondly, we talked a lot about partnerships. Years ago, the United Nations was like an island. Too often, it acted alone. But, we have all now realized something important: sustaining peace is not owned by any one entity. It can only be achieved if we all work together.

We heard, during the meeting, that partnerships with regional organisations are particularly crucial. And, given where we are, today, this Forum is a good opportunity to look at how we can build up stronger links between the European Union and the United Nations for sustaining peace.

Thirdly, I want to say this very clearly: not one discussion failed to have a gender dimension. And, I mean that. Not one. If we had convened this high-level meeting, 10 years ago, do you think this would have been the case? Likely not. So, we have made some gains towards truly inclusive peacebuilding. And, Foreign Minister Wallström spoke strongly on this; she asked how we can expect to achieve sustaining peace if we leave out half of the population.

But we cannot get wrapped up in congratulating ourselves. It does not matter what we say at high-level meetings if women are still being excluded, on the ground. And, I have to say, the stories we heard show that we have a lot of work left to do. One good place to start would be more gender-sensitive conflict analysis.

Let me here turn to young people. They make up another section of society, which has previously been marginalised from our work for peace. Now, however, we know that we cannot move forward without them. At the meeting, we heard inspiring stories about what they are doing on the ground. More than that: we heard from young peacebuilders themselves. And they made a consistent request: to be given more space at the table.

A fourth main theme at the high-level meeting, was financing. And the discussions here were very pragmatic. They acknowledged something important: even if we do everything else — the partnerships, the coherence, the inclusion — we still cannot achieve our vision of sustaining peace without adequate financing.

And our meeting showed that there is, in fact, a lot of interest from investors. We heard from traditional donors as well as new and potential ones. But business representatives made a strong point: they cannot just be seen as cash cows. We must, therefore, think about how to fully engage them in reciprocal partnerships for sustaining peace.

So, as you can tell, this is not a full run-down of the meeting. That would be impossible to do within my time limit. I hope I have, however, raised some key issues, which are very relevant to the discussions that will take place, at this Forum.

But there is something crucial, which I have not yet mentioned, and which was a central theme to the high-level meeting. That is: conflict prevention. And so, I will focus my final point on it today.

It is, really, very simple: we need to prevent. There is no excuse. There is no other way.

We are losing too many lives. Conflict is the worst thing that can happen to a human being. Yet, for too many, it is part
of their everyday. And so, there is a moral case — which we cannot ignore.

And, there is a financial one. Because, we now know that we are also losing too much money. The recent World Bank-United Nations report, called Pathways for Peace, proves this beyond any doubt. I will repeat a figure I used at the opening of the high-level Meeting: for every 1 dollar spent on prevention, up to seven dollars could be saved over the long term.

As the discussions showed, prevention takes many forms. It must tackle conflict at its roots — before it can spread. This means stronger institutions. It means smart and sustainable development. It means inclusive peacebuilding. It means promoting human rights, and the rule of law. And this is something that came out strongly, from the Meeting.

But, prevention is also political. And, here, I want to focus on mediation and diplomacy. Because I think it speaks, directly, to theme of today’s meeting: the politics of peace. Peace can be political. It can be complicated. And it can be messy. Mediators do not have an easy job: they must understand the history of a conflict, and the mentality of the people fighting in it; they must learn how to expect the unexpected; they must be accepted by all parties — and put forward a team that gains acceptance too; and, often, they must shelve their own politics, and preferences, for the overarching goal of peace. These are the realities. And, they are the realities the international community needs to face, if we want to play a bigger role, in preventing conflicts.

In many cases, we will need to find the right balance: remaining neutral, but not pretending that politics do not exist; ensuring local ownership, but working for international support; holding onto our values, but not automatically excluding those who do not share them; and aiming

Years ago, the United Nations was like an island. Too often, it acted alone. But, we have all now realized something important: sustaining peace is not owned by any one entity. It can only be achieved if we all work together.

for an ideal, but being able to adapt when less-than-ideal things happen.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I want to thank the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs for bringing us here today.

Like I said, we are not where we wanted to be, but that does not mean we cannot get there. We are heading in the right direction. And we need to use forums, like this one, to put our heads together and think about how we can go even faster.

Thank you, and good luck in the discussions ahead.
Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General, honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen and peacebuilders from around the world,

In 1945, the world had seen too much horror. It could not go on as it had. And, so, it made a change. This is why the United Nations was established. And, from the start, peace was at its core. The first line of the United Nations Charter commits us to saving future generations from the scourge of war.

In a way, we have met this commitment. There has not since been another world war.

But, in many other ways, we have not. We have waited too long to act. We have not been there when people needed us. We have done more to respond to conflicts than to prevent them from happening at all.

And so, in 2016, we decided to take a new approach. This body — the United Nations General Assembly — along with the United Nations Security Council, adopted what we now call the “sustaining peace resolutions”. And we committed to acting earlier, faster and better to prevent the suffering that conflict brings.

But that was the easiest part. The challenge came in making this approach a reality. That is why we are here: to assess how we have done so far. And to plan how we can do better going forward. I need to say that we are meeting at a crucial time. We need this new approach more, now, than ever before.
We need it for people in Syria, who are in their eighth year of a brutal conflict. We need it for people in South Sudan who have known more war than peace in their lifetimes. We need it for people facing unending conflict from Yemen and Libya to Somalia and Afghanistan. And we need it for all of us here this morning.

We are all seeing the warning signs: rising intolerance, hate speech, escalating rhetoric and more and more disregard for the principles and systems that we have spent seven decades building up.

So, this morning I will start us off by focusing on five areas, which demand our urgent attention.

First, prevention. Because we need to put prevention first. To do this, we need more mediation and more diplomacy.

First, at the local level. This means quick, efficient responses to stop local disputes from turning violent. Second, at the national level. The United Nations must do more to support homegrown prevention. And it must also be ready to step in, through the UN’s own mediators and good offices, if required. Third, at the regional level. Because we have seen that regional and sub-regional actors are critical to prevent escalations. Finally, it needs to happen right here on the international stage.

The United Nations can offer a space for negotiations of every kind. And we must do more to use it. We need a drive for diplomacy — and the United Nations must be the engine room.

The effects of conflicts are too inhuman. The warning signs of further outbreaks are too visible, and the disregard of our most fundamental principles is too frequent. That is why we need to go beyond the resolutions, beyond the statements and the words. We need to bring all of our cards to the table, here, this week. We need to recommit to this new approach to peace.
Prevention also means tackling conflict at its roots — before it turns deadly. We must make our societies more resilient. We need to respond to early warning signs. We need strong institutions, sustainable development, access to justice and respect for human rights. Maybe, in the past we did not associate these efforts with prevention. But they are all drivers of peace. We must invest in them; we cannot let the incentives for violence outweigh the incentives for peace.

My second point this morning, is that we need to join the dots within the United Nations’ own system. We need to be much more coherent. It also means coherence across the United Nations’ three pillars and areas of work. We can no longer talk about just humanitarian work, just human rights work or just peacekeeping. Nor can we see the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a standalone framework. This demands more links, more cooperation, and more coherence.

I have seen this in person. Last March, I visited indigenous communities in the Colombian town of Totoró. There, I did not see just a “UN programme”. Instead, I saw a real partnership. I saw real commitment to peace — from the United Nations and the Colombian government to local leaders. I look forward to hearing the lessons learned from President Santos who I am honoured to welcome here today.

A third area for further action is partnerships. Sustaining peace cannot be a UN export. It is not something we can make here and deliver to countries and societies. We can only succeed in partnership. First and foremost, with national actors. If we do not listen to them, if we go in, with our own plans and ideas, we will fail.

Regional and sub-regional partners are also crucial. In 2017, the constitutional crisis in The Gambia showed us how regional action can prevent escalation. I am delighted that we can welcome President Barrow here, today to give us the national perspective. Civil society actors are another key ingredient to sustaining peace. We need their experiences and expertise, and they need far more support from us. And, finally, we must engage more with the private sector and financial institutions. Innovative partnerships are crucial. They can create opportunities. They can build capacity. They can attract investment.

This brings me to my fourth point, on financing. More investment in preventing conflicts — and sustaining peace — is vital. And, as if the moral case wasn’t strong enough, we also have a solid financial one.

The recent World Bank and United Nations report tells us that for every 1 US dollar spent on prevention, up to seven dollars could be saved over the long term. This means seven dollars, which, instead of being spent on conflict response, can go towards actually developing and advancing societies. Yet, we are still not investing enough in prevention. And, one of our main funding mechanisms for sustaining peace — the UN Peacebuilding Fund — is struggling to reach its 500 million US dollars target.

There are concrete proposals on the table, and I am glad that the resolution we plan to adopt gives us a mandate to consider them, in more depth.

My final point is on the need for inclusion. We had the wrong perspective for too many years. We believed the
power to make and build peace lay only in the hands of a few people, the elites, the politicians, the diplomats and, always, the men. Women were seen as victims, young people as soldiers or agitators.

But, we are starting to tear down this narrative. Some of the people in this room are doing it with their own two hands.

For example, Visaka Dharmadasa. She helped to save peace talks in Sri Lanka from breaking down through communication and confidence-building. She is not a victim of conflict, she is a champion of peace. Or, Ilwad Elman, who works with survivors of gender-based violence and former child soldiers in Somalia. She is younger than many people in this room. However, we will all be learning from her.

When it comes to peace, we need more inclusion. We need more actors at the table. And, I do not mean standing beside it just for the optics. They must be sitting right at the table, talking, participating and adding their value.

Excellencies,

We are making progress. A few years ago, no one had even heard of sustaining peace. Then, in 2016, we made a strong commitment. And, by the end of this week, we will have another resolution — to keep up our momentum. We also have a report and concrete proposals from the Secretary-General.

And here, this morning, our meeting on Sustaining Peace has seen the highest levels of attendance at the United Nations this year. But, let me be absolutely clear.

This is not enough.

The stakes are too high. The effects of conflicts are too inhuman. The warning signs of further outbreaks are too visible, and the disregard of our most fundamental principles is too frequent. That is why we need to go beyond the resolutions, beyond the statements and the words. We need to bring all of our cards to the table, here, this week.

We need to recommit to this new approach to peace.

Thank you all for being here to do just that.
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I would to start my concluding remarks with a simple message: thank you, sincerely.

Whether you travelled from abroad or you were already here in New York, whether you participated directly or worked behind the scenes, you have all shown your commitment to sustaining peace. And, because of you, this high-level meeting was a success.

First, we increased visibility and awareness. Like I said on Tuesday, this meeting has attracted the highest levels of attendance seen at the United Nations this year.

Second, we followed up on our promises. We made sure the 2016 resolutions on sustaining peace were not a one-off measure, but the start of a new approach to peace. The resolution we have just adopted and my chair’s summary will drive this process forward.

And thirdly, we have gained more understanding, more lessons learned and more ideas for the future. Let me go through some of these in more detail.

First, our understanding of peace. Over these past days, we talked a lot about how we see and understand peace. We said that peace is more than a ceasefire. It is more than a peace deal. And, it is more than the absence of war. Which means that once-off operations or activities are not enough to achieve it. Instead, we need to tackle conflict at its roots. We need to look to the horizon, to see the warning signs. We need to build a culture of peace; a culture of prevention.
And finally: inclusion, inclusion, inclusion! Sustaining peace cannot be limited to this hall. We need to open our doors wider.

Sustaining Peace is not an easy task. I think this was captured by the President of Colombia, who said that making peace is harder than silencing the guns. But it is not a task we are shying away from. We are, instead, stepping up to take it on.

Sustaining peace cannot be limited to this hall. We need to open our doors wider.

First: prevention. Our discussions showed that prevention is not an abstract concept. It has happened. It is happening. And it can happen again. Many of you shared your experiences with mediation and diplomacy. We heard, for example, how mediation helped Montenegro to remain stable and peaceful at a time of regional instability. We also talked about longer-term prevention. This put our focus on sustainable development, on economic growth, on institution-building and on respect for human rights. It is clear that we are beginning to view these areas through a lens of prevention. That is why successful poverty reduction in Peru was held up as a contribution towards sustaining peace.

Second: coherence. We learned that a more coherent approach is already evident at both national and international levels. For example, in the Gambia, where Sustaining Peace is central to the country’s national development plan. Or in Malawi, where United Nations development and political actors came together to support the national peace architecture. Or here in New York, where the Peacebuilding Commission is building bridges across the United Nations’ three pillars.
Third: national ownership. On this, we were all on the same page. We agreed that sustaining peace does not stand a chance unless it is driven by national actors. Lessons from the Philippines showed us the need to complement rather than replace national cultures, sensitivities and policies. And we were reminded that national ownership made sustaining peace a reality in Côte d’Ivoire.

And finally: inclusion, inclusion, inclusion! The message could not have been clearer: when we widen the space, when we pull more chairs up to the table, we see the results. One example looked at women in Liberia. When women have had a platform and a voice, they have used it to prevent the country sliding back into war. Young people in the Balkans are another example. Even years after conflict, they continue to work for reconciliation. We also heard about religious leaders in Afghanistan, who have used their influence to advocate for peace. And we learned that civil society in Sri Lanka helped to design the national reconciliation process.

Sustaining peace cannot be limited to this hall. We need to open our doors wider. And this includes the private sector. Because, as we heard in a video message from Sir Richard Branson, businesses must play a greater role in making our planet more peaceful.

A third major achievement of this meeting came through our ideas for the future.

We reviewed our toolbox, and we picked out many tools, which we can use more frequently and more efficiently going forward.

For example, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General called this the “common blueprint for more peaceful, stable, resilient groups of societies”. But, we need to do more to fully grasp its preventive potential.

Peace operations are another example. And here, I want to repeat the call made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement: to look closer at how these operations can better support sustaining peace.

Or, inclusion. Because this can be both an aim and a tool. We can act on the recommendations of the recent progress study on youth, peace and security. And we can pay more attention to the gender aspects of other tools for Sustaining Peace, including conflict analysis.

Also, regional organisations have their own toolboxes. The United Nations must learn from, and support, them.

Finally, when we talk about tools for the future, we cannot ignore finance. Many voices called attention to the proposals outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. And they urged us to consider them seriously. Others spoke up loudly in support of the United Nations’ Peacebuilding Fund. And, our interactive discussions also generated some exciting ideas about financing for Sustaining Peace.

This is only a fraction of our wider toolbox, and I hope to capture more in my summary.

So, excellencies, dear colleagues, this was a successful high-level meeting, but, we cannot speak only about success. The realities of peace for many people on the ground are too horrific. And the signs that things could get even worse are too clear. There are challenges, and there are concerns. And it is up to all of us to act in response. Not just those of us who are living with conflict, not just those of us who
have vested economic or social interest, not just those of us who have the time or the money, but every single one of us.

Our shared responsibility is clear. In fact, it is the basis of the United Nations Charter. In the words of the President of Ireland, this is “a most profound political and moral responsibility — not only to the citizens of our own nations, but to the peoples of other nations”.

And, we all signed up to it. That is why sustaining peace rests on all of our shoulders. That is why we all have an interest in achieving it. And that is why we all stand to lose if we decide to go down a more dangerous path alone.

We must embrace our political and moral responsibility. We must keep the promises we made in 2016. And we must bring sustaining peace out of this hall to people on the ground.

I thank you.
III. High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the President of the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, from 24 to 26 April 2018.

The meeting had the highest level of attendance in the current session and was a resounding manifestation of political support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including in relation to mediation and conflict prevention. The meeting provided a platform to generate new ideas, foster political attention to the need to do more for peace and prevention, ensure a follow-up process and anchor sustaining peace in the agenda of the General Assembly.

In addition to the high-level segment and the plenary debate, four interactive dialogues were held on: (1) sustainable financing for peace; (2) strengthening the United Nations work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the field; (3) strategic partnerships for peace; and (4) United Nations comprehensive and integrated approach to peace. Member States and other entities also held a number of side events in the lead up to the high-level meeting. The list of those side events is presented below.

This morning, our meeting on sustaining peace has seen the highest levels of attendance at the United Nations this year. But this is not enough. The stakes are too high; the effects of conflicts are too inhuman; the warning signs of further outbreaks are too visible; and the disregard of our most fundamental principles is too frequent. We need to go beyond the resolutions; beyond the statements and the words. We need to bring all of our cards to the table. And we need to recommit to this new approach to peace.

As an outcome of the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, the General Assembly adopted the procedural resolution 72/276 on follow-up to the report of the Secretary General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Security Council adopted resolution 2413 (2018), which mirrors the General Assembly’s resolution. The resolutions establish a strong mandate for the United Nations to further advance, explore and consider the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the Secretary-General’s report.

The President also released the Chair’s summary of the high-level meeting, which synthesizes the key recurring messages that stood out and highlights the experiences shared by Member States and the relevant stakeholders who attended the meeting.

The concept note for the high-level meeting, the final programme, the Chair’s summary and the statements delivered by panelists at the high-level meeting are presented below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-level Side Event on the Contribution of Human Rights to Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Tuesday, 27 February</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>OHCHR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch of UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict</td>
<td>Tuesday, 6 March</td>
<td>USIP, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>UN; World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Action: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development</td>
<td>Wednesday, 4 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 6</td>
<td>UNMAS; Permanent Mission of Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Power and Sustaining Peace: The Role of Grassroots Nonviolent Movements in Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Thursday, 12 April</td>
<td>IPI</td>
<td>USIP; IPI; Peace Direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-level Roundtable on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Monday, 23 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 3</td>
<td>Group of Friends on SSR (co-chaired by the Permanent Missions of Slovakia and South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The preventive potential of the UN human rights instruments — what does it mean in practice?</td>
<td>Monday, 23 April</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Germany</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Youth Take on the Progress Study</td>
<td>Tuesday, 24 April</td>
<td>UNFPA, Orange Café, 5th floor</td>
<td>UNOY Peacebuilders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas and Global Platforms for Preventing Violent Conflict and Sustaining Peace on the Road to 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 24 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 12</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of Nigeria and Canada, Stimson, Igarapé, Savannah Center, UN 2020, and the Alliance for Peacebuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sahel Alliance: working hand in hand with the United Nations to invest for the future of Sahel</td>
<td>Tuesday, 24 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 5</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of France and Germany, and the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining peace and human rights</td>
<td>Tuesday, 24 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 12</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative ceremony to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War</td>
<td>Tuesday, 24 April</td>
<td>UN Delegates’ Entrance</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-equality as a key to the sustainability of peace - A dialogue on national experiences</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Delegates Dining Room</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Bangladesh, and Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVENT</td>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>ORGANIZER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Peace: African Women Mediators in Focus</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 3</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Women and Peacebuilding: Exploring the Age &amp; Gender Dimensions of Participation in Informal and Formal Peacebuilding</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>UNFPA’s Orange Café</td>
<td>Plan International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-level Meeting on Reconciliation and Leadership in the Prevention of Conflict and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 5</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of Timor-Leste and Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-Level Technical Briefing on the Global Report on Food Crises</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 12</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of the Netherlands; FAO; WFP; EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translating the Progress Study into Action: A civil society round table on “The Missing Peace”</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>UNFPA, Conference Room 5D</td>
<td>Search for Common Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operationalising Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Prevention and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 12</td>
<td>Permanent Missions of Sweden, Indonesia, Kenya, Colombia, Korea; World Bank; PBSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Peace in Action: Windows of Opportunity to build more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 12</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amplifying Women’s Voices Towards Sustainable Peace: Women CSO-Led Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Thursday, 26 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 11</td>
<td>Global Network of Women Peacebuilders; UN Women; Permanent Mission of Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Role of Education in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace</td>
<td>Thursday, 26 April</td>
<td>Conference Room 5</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Costa Rica; University for Peace to the UN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting into Practice Resolution 2250: Launch event for UNITAR’s free e-learning course on Youth &amp; Peacebuilding and AC4’s YPS leadership certificate</td>
<td>Thursday, 26 April</td>
<td>Conference Room E</td>
<td>UNITAR; AC4/Columbia University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concept note for the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 24–25 April 2018

Overview

In reference to General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282(2016) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the President of the General Assembly will convene, under the agenda item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, a high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The overarching objective of the High-Level Meeting is to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

As specific objectives, the meeting will also reflect on how to:

1. Respond to the renewed emphasis on conflict prevention and on addressing the root causes of conflicts to sustain peace;
2. Strengthen operational and policy coherence including through accountable leadership, and improved capacity across the United Nations system in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
3. Increase, restructure and better prioritize funding to United Nations peacebuilding activities;
4. Strengthen partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace among the United Nations and key stakeholders in the field at the country, regional and global levels;
5. Enhance and strengthen the role of women and youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

The 2016 resolutions (General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)) renew the United Nations commitment to conflict prevention as embodied in the Charter.

Yet, violent conflicts in many parts of the world are surging and becoming more complex, deadly and protracted. As the nature of conflicts changed over the past decades, the world has witnessed a troubling increase in casualties among innocent civilians, who have been the targets of direct attacks, as well as unparalleled numbers of displaced populations.

Following the high-level reviews of peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), there is growing understanding that the United Nations needs to adjust its capacities to build and sustain peace. It must engage with Member States long before conflict breaks out and be able to support them at all stages of conflict.

Participants

The high-level meeting will be attended by national Governments, civil society, including women and youth groups and representatives of the private sector, international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and academia.

Format

The two-day meeting will consist of an opening and a high-level segment, a high-level lunch, a plenary debate of the General Assembly, four interactive dialogues and a closing segment.
For further information, please refer to the letter of the President of the General Assembly, dated 7 March 2018, which circulated the logistics note of the High-level meeting.

Outcome

A draft procedural resolution is to be adopted by the General Assembly during the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on 24–25 April. In addition, the President of the General Assembly will publish a summary of the discussions held during the two-day meeting.

Preliminary Draft Programme

**Tuesday 24 April 2018**

**Opening segment**

*UN system representatives*

*Special guests*

*Civil society representative*

*Youth representative*

**High-Level Segment**

**Plenary debate**

**Interactive Dialogue I: Sustainable Financing for Peace**

As the 2018 UN-World Bank *Pathways for Peace* Report highlights, more resources are spent on addressing the aftermath of conflicts than on preventing them from flaring up and escalating. The study makes a compelling case for prevention by pointing out its economic benefits both nationally and internationally. The amount spent on preventing violent conflict in the first instance is a fraction of that spent on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The resolutions on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture emphasize the importance of “adequate, predictable and sustained financing in order to effectively assist countries to sustain peace and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.”

The resolutions also recognize that to share risks and maximize the impact of peacebuilding efforts, strategic partnerships, pooled funding, blended financing among the UN, bilateral and international donors, multilateral financial institutions and the private sector are needed. Therefore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding to United Nations peacebuilding activities.

Released in February, the Secretary-General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) provides Member States with a set of financing options. Interactive Dialogue I will bring together Member States, international and regional financial institutions, development banks, private sector, civil society and the UN system to reflect on the specific proposals contained in the Secretary-General’s report for sustained financing for peacebuilding and on ways to further mobilize resources.

Suggested topics to be addressed:

1. *How can Member States ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for nationally led United Nations peacebuilding activities?*

2. *How can financing for sustaining peace and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals mutually support and complement each other?*
3. How to address the continuing under-resourcing of the Peacebuilding Fund to take advantage of its catalytic nature? How to achieve the Quantum Leap in contributions to the Fund as per the Secretary-General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace?

4. How to build partnerships with International Financial Institutions and the private sector that reinforce traditional financing mechanisms and lead to innovative ways to finance sustaining peace?

Panelists:
International Financial Institution
Regional Financial Institution
Private Sector
Civil Society Representative

Interactive Dialogue II: Strengthening the United Nations Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field

Referring to the 2016 resolutions, a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace encompasses “the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes, strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels, and promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity, including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice and transitional justice, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

The implementation of the broad concept of sustaining peace requires a coherent approach across the United Nations system and strengthened coordination among its principal intergovernmental organs. Building peace is at the core of the work of the United Nations and is an activity that demands a “whole-of-system” approach.

While acknowledging the need for changing the Organization’s working culture and methods, the Secretary-General has undertaken efforts to reform the United Nations’ system with a view to improving its effectiveness. His report on the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar (A/72/525) contains specific proposals on how to prioritize prevention and sustaining peace. The Secretary-General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) further develops how to enhance United Nations’ policy and operational coherence to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Building on the enhanced flexibility in its working methods over the past two years, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays a key role as an advisory body that fosters better coordination and complementarity among the United Nations’ principal organs, governing bodies of UN entities and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, women’s group, youth organizations, and the private sector.

Interactive Dialogue II will discuss the United Nations toolbox for sustaining peace, and the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in the report in support of sustaining peace in the field. It will cover the PBC and its innovative, new working methods, and its support to country and regional contexts. It will furthermore be an opportunity to hear from a member of the of the Advisory Group of Experts that provided the basis for the resolutions on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The Dialogue will further focus on how the three reform streams proposed by the Secretary-General can help strengthen the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Suggested topics to be addressed:
1. How can the United Nations better support Member States in the field comprehensively and strategically?

2. How can the advisory and convening roles of the PBC be further enhanced and results-driven?

3. How to further enhance the role of the PBC?

4. How can the revitalization of PBSO contribute to enhanced coherence in support of the field? What is needed to further revitalize PBSO?

Panelists:
United Nations representative from the field
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
Civil society representative
Member of the Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Board on Mediation
Member of the AGE report on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

Wednesday 25 April 2018

Plenary debate
Interactive Dialogue III: Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations in the Field for Peace

While the primary responsibility of identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace belongs to Governments, the resolutions on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture acknowledge the fundamental role of relevant stakeholders in assisting national authorities to pursue their peacebuilding objectives. They therefore call for “close strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations, national Governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, women’s groups, youth organizations, and the private sector.”

The Secretary-General’s report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace acknowledges that “an ecosystem of partners working in support of governments is critical for sustaining peace”. In this regard, the report underlines the role of the Peacebuilding Commission for enhanced collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

As part of the activities outlined in his Roadmap to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, convened a multi-stakeholder event, entitled “Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” on 8 December 2017 at Columbia University to discuss the critical role of partnerships in sustaining peace and prevention. The two take-aways of the event were that engaging stakeholders are an important aspect of prevention in itself and that local expertise paired with national, regional and international capabilities are indispensable for the successful implementation of the resolutions on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

Interactive Dialogue III intends to build on this discussion to strengthen strategic partnerships with the United Nations for peace. The panel will bring together representatives from the United Nations in the field, civil society, including women’s groups, regional organizations, academia as well as youth organizations. It will be an occasion for relevant stakeholders to reflect on how they can contribute to the current debate on prevention of conflict and to assist national Governments with their sustaining peace priorities.

Suggested topics to be addressed:

1. How to effectively build an “ecosystem of partners” for sustaining peace?
2. How to ensure that partnerships build on the comparative advantages of different actors? How to effectively engage women and young people in peacebuilding efforts?

3. How can partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations be enhanced?

4. How to effectively develop community-engagement strategies in cooperation with national authorities?

Panelists:
United Nations representative from the field
Civil society representative
Regional Organization
Representative of the youth

Interactive Dialogue IV: UN Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace

The resolutions on the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture recognize that development, peace and security as well as human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The Secretary-General report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace highlights successful examples of cross-pillar cooperation in conflict-affected countries, maximizing impact on the ground and providing for a coherent approach to the United Nations’ engagement in the field. The challenge is how to turn these ad hoc examples of good practices into a coherent and integrated approach to peace.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges the interdependence between development and peace and security. It further recognizes that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”. According to the recent Secretary-General report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, most people in extreme poverty live in countries affected by conflict. The 2030 Agenda is the paramount goal of the United Nations, and it also happens to be the best defence against the risks of violent conflict.

In this regard, the Secretary-General proposes concrete measures to strengthen leadership, accountability and capacity in both the headquarters and the field to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace and further builds on the proposed development reform (A/72/492/Add.1).

Although sustainable development programmes are a core part of prevention efforts, they should be implemented in tandem with other policies that promote human rights and address root causes of conflict. As the UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace report underscores, changing the incentives of actors to act violently is a fundamental component of preventing conflict.

Interactive Dialogue IV assesses how to further integrate in a comprehensive manner peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the overall work of the United Nations in the field and at headquarters. The panel will bring together representatives from across the United Nations system to discuss ways to further strengthen a system-wide approach to prevention.

Suggested topics to be addressed:

1. How can the United Nations system ensure policy and operational coherence, accountable leadership and enhanced capacities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace across its pillars?

2. How to better integrate a youth and a gender perspective to a cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace?

3. How can sustainable development and the promotion of human rights be part of conflict prevention efforts?
Panelists:
United Nations representatives
Civil society representative
Gender Expert

Plenary debate
Closing session
Final Programme of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held from 24 to 26 April 2018

OPENING SEGMENT

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák  
*President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly*

H.E. Mr. António Guterres  
*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Ms. Michelle Yeoh  
*Actress, Producer and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador*

Mr. Ishmael Beah  
*UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War*

Ms. Joy Onyesoh  
*President of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in Nigeria*

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake  
*Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth*

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

HIGH-LEVEL LUNCH

*Keynote speakers*

H.E. Ms. Mary Robinson  
*Member of the Elders, President, Mary Robinson Foundation — Climate Justice and former President of Ireland*

H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão  
*Eminent Person of the g7+ and Former President and Former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste*

*Moderator*

Ms. Femi Oke  
*Journalist and Television Presenter*

PLENARY DEBATE
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE I: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR PEACE

Video Message
Mr. Richard Branson
Founder of Virgin Group

Speakers
Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin
Senior Vice President, World Bank Group
Ms. Durreen Shahnaz
Founder and CEO of Impact Investment Exchange (IIX)
Ms. María Victoria Llorente
Executive Director of Fundación Ideas para la Paz
Dr. Donald Kaberuka
High representative for the African Union Peace Fund, and Chairman and Managing Partner at SouthBridge
Ms. Kate Thompson
Principal, Federal Strategy and Operations, Deloitte Consulting LLP

Moderator
Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

Invited as respondent from the floor
H.E. Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Stakeholders from civil society
Ms. Christina Bennet
Head of Programme, Overseas Development Institute, Humanitarian Policy Group
Mr. Scofield Muliru
Scofield Associates
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE II: STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS WORK ON PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN THE FIELD

Speakers
Ms. Najat Rochdi
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, UN Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme

Mr. Thomas Greminger
Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

H.E. Ms. Roza Otunbayeva
Former President of Kyrgyzstan and Member of Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Board on Mediation

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

Ms. Saraswathi Menon
Member of the AGE report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

Moderator
Ms. Ameerah Haq
Former Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support and Vice Chair of the Independent Panel on Peace Operations, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor Leste

Invited as respondent from the floor
H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Cote d’Ivoire

H.E. Mr. Dănuț Sebastian Neculăescu
State Secretary for Regional Affairs and Multilateral Global Affairs in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Stakeholders from civil society
Mr. Julian Rodriguez Sastoque
International Dome for Peace Foundation (DOMOPAZ)

Mr. Vasu Gounden
Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

PLENARY DEBATE
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE III: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FOR PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE

Speakers

Mr. Yacoub El Hillo  
*United Nations Resident Coordinator for Liberia, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Humanitarian Coordinator*

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa  
*Chair of the Association of War Affected Women*

Ms. Ilwad Elman  
*Director of Programs and Development Elman Peace and Human Rights Center*

Dr. Jeffrey Sachs  
*President of General Assembly’s External Advisor, University Professor at Columbia University and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network*

Moderator

Mr. Nik Gowing  
*President of General Assembly’s External Advisor, International Broadcaster; Founder “Thinking the Unthinkable” project*

Invited as respondent from the floor

H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

Stakeholders from civil society

Ms. Anca Gliga  
*Youth Peace Ambassadors Network*

Mr. Peter van Sluijs  
*Cordaid*
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE IV: UN COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PEACE

Video Message

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women

Speakers

Mr. Peter Maurer
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Ms. Susan McDade
Assistant Administrator, Director, Bureau of Management, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Miroslav Jenča
Officer in Charge, Department of Political Affairs, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Andrew Gilmour
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Ms. Purna Sen
Director of Policy, Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, UN Women

Moderator

Ms. Adriana Abdenur
Director of Peace and Security of Igarapé Institute

Invited as respondent from the floor

H.E. Mr. Nestor Popolizio
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru

Stakeholders from civil society

Mr. James Thuch Madhier
Rainmaker Organization for Sustainable Development

Ms. Farahnaz Ghodsinia
Children of Mindanao

CLOSING SEGMENT

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák
President of the General Assembly
Summary of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

Introduction


2. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Michelle Yeoh, the UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War, Mr. Ishmael Beah, the President of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in Nigeria, Ms. Joy Onyesoh, and the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, opened the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

3. The opening segment highlighted that conflict prevention and sustaining peace must be at the heart of the UN work. Speakers stressed that more countries are experiencing violent conflict and an unprecedented number of civilians, in particular women and children, are directly affected by them. In view of the current challenges, calls were made for enhanced leadership from the United Nations. In this regard, the need for coherence within the UN system in support of Governments and their people’s peacebuilding priorities was also underscored, as well as the urgent need for mobilization of resources for peace. Speakers also highlighted the links between sustainable development, peacebuilding and sustaining peace and human rights and called for active engagement of women and the youth in peacebuilding efforts as agents for peace.

4. One hundred twenty-five Member States and five Observers to the General Assembly took the floor in the plenary debate of the High-Level Meeting, including five Heads of State, one Head of Government, two Deputy Prime-Ministers, 21 Ministers and 16 Vice-Ministers in a resounding manifestation of political support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including for mediation and conflict prevention. On the occasion, Member States also voiced their support for the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its central theme: the importance of United Nations system-wide coherence in support of nationally-led efforts to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and an increased focus on prevention, guided by national ownership and people-centred approaches.

5. A total number of 150 civil society representatives participated in the activities related to the High-Level Meeting, including the four interactive dialogues that were held in parallel to the plenary debate.

6. The topics covered in the interactive dialogues were:
   (i) Sustainable Financing for Peace;
   (ii) Strengthening the UN Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field;
   (iii) Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations in the Field for Peace; and
   (iv) UN Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace.
The High-Level Meeting reached **gender parity** among the speakers in the opening, the high-level lunch and interactive dialogues, with a total of 19 male and 19 female panelists.

As an **outcome** of the High-Level Meeting, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the procedural resolution 72/276 on the “Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. In parallel, the Security Council unanimously adopted the **identical resolution 2413 (2018)** after holding a briefing session on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on 25 April 2018. Two years after the adoption of the identical resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, both organs of the United Nations came together once again with one voice in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

In this regard, the resolution adopted as an outcome of the high-level meeting decide to further discuss the recommendations and options contained the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to further advance, explore and consider their implementation. They also request that the Secretary-General further reports on his recommendations and options, including those on financing for United Nations peacebuilding activities, during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. For the following session, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

As anticipated by the President of the General Assembly, this summary is another outcome of the high-level meeting, the aim of which is to synthetize the key recurring messages that stood out in the high-level meeting. This summary therefore aims at capturing the experiences shared by Member States and the relevant stakeholders that attended the High-Level Meeting.

**Plenary**

While emphasizing that lasting peace is an on-going process, Member States stressed that **Government authorities have to be fully committed to sustaining peace and own their peacebuilding efforts in conjunction with all sectors of their society**. Delegations also acknowledged the usefulness of the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, expressed support for the continuation of the United Nations’ efforts and underscored the particular needs of countries transitioning to a post-conflict stage. In this regard, they reaffirmed their commitment to the 2016 resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the notion of sustaining peace as defined therein.

Heads of State and Government, ministers, vice-ministers and senior officials expressed concern with the surge of violent conflicts in many parts of the world and highlighted their own experiences with making and sustaining peace. Several Member States also expressed their concern at what they described as the Security Council’s selective intervention in situations of risk and crisis. The United Nations’ response to the crisis in Syria and other protracted conflicts was criticized as it undermined the credibility of the United Nations in face of global threats to international peace and security. In this regard, a few participants also called for the Security Council to effectively fulfil its mandate. Delegations also warned of the threats to international peace and security posed by the spread of radicalization, terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, weapons of mass destruction, violent extremism, marginalization, exclusion and unaddressed grievances.

In light of the above, participants called for addressing the root causes of conflict, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, institution building, deradicalization,
education, respect for and protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law, access to justice, security sector reform, respect for international law, the use of preventive diplomacy, mediation, early warning mechanisms and strengthening multilateralism.

14. They also emphasized the importance of enhanced coherence and the pursuit of integrated and strategic approaches across the entire United Nations system in support of Member State-led peacebuilding efforts. Many delegations cautioned that this approach must be based on sound political and conflict analysis that recognizes the uniqueness and fluidity of each national and regional context rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

15. In this regard, the Secretary-General’s peace and security, development and management reforms were welcomed as timely and appropriate, in the hope of tearing down “silos” and strengthening accountability to deliver results and increase coordination and coherence and in line with the international community’s refocused attention on prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. Numerous Member States recognized the unique and important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in enhancing coherence among Member States and various partners, and called for a further strengthened Peacebuilding Support Office.

16. Member States also noted that the United Nations alone cannot achieve peacebuilding and sustaining peace and called for enhanced strategic partnerships that bring together key actors from across governments, the United Nations system, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, including women’s groups and youth organizations, international financial institutions, academia and the private sector. Emphasis particularly was placed on the need for improving cooperation on peacebuilding and sustaining peace with the African Union.

17. Inclusivity and a people-centred approach in the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace was a central part of the discussions. Many stressed the call in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and affirmed that peace is more sustainable when all parts of the society are involved, including women and youth. It was underlined that women should no longer be perceived as merely victims of conflict and rather as key players in peacebuilding. Citing from the progress report on youth, peace and security, Member States highlighted the importance of ensuring youth meaningful participation in peacebuilding activities and providing them with equitable access to basic services (education, employment and other opportunities) to foster resilient societies and strengthen social cohesion.

18. Member States also broadly recognized the importance of prevention, citing from the UN-World Bank study, Pathways for Peace, that conflict prevention was “cost-effective, saves lives, and safeguards development gains”. It was also highlighted that a scaled-up system for prevention action could save, in accordance with the United Nations-World Bank study, between $5 billion and $70 billion per year, which could be invested in development to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

19. The need to provide the Secretary-General and the United Nations system with the required tools, particularly for adequate, predictable and sustained financing of peacebuilding initiatives was also acknowledged. The chronic under-resourcing of the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as overall shortage of funds for peacebuilding, were pointed as major challenges moving forward. The Secretary-General’s appeal for a “quantum leap” in funding to the Peacebuilding Fund was recalled in this regard. References were also made to the proposals made by Secretary-General to mobilize resources to peacebuilding from assessed and voluntary contributions, as well as from other innovative financing solutions.
20. Many delegations affirmed the **strong interlinkages between peace and development** and, sharing their own country examples and citing from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underscored that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Member States built on the thesis of the World Bank study that both peace and violence are path-dependent and that a considerable proportion of contemporary conflicts are rooted in group-based grievances, which usually evolve from feelings of exclusion injustice and unfairness. In this regard, they reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important blueprint for building more peaceful societies and called on the UN development system to enhance its capacity in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

21. Member States also asserted that the UN should make use of the **interlinkages and mutually reinforcing nature among the three pillars — peace and security, development and human rights** to enhance effectiveness and timeliness of the UN conflict prevention and human rights-based sustaining peace activities. It was stressed that while human rights violations and abuses are consequences of violent conflict they are also indicators of potential instability or escalation of conflict. In this regard, many Member States underlined the potential role of the Human Rights Council in sustaining peace and suggested utilizing human rights treaties and international norms as a prevention tool and its monitoring mechanisms as an integral part of early warning.

22. The plenary session concluded with the understanding that constructive discussion on sustaining peace should continue actively among Member States, the United Nations system and all other stakeholders beyond the high-level meeting, and that now is the time to **focus on implementation**. Similarly, it was noted that continued momentum and consistent support from Member States are critical in ensuring successful implementation of the twin resolutions and continuing to build a stronger and more effective peacebuilding architecture with greater emphasis on conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

**Interactive Dialogue I: Sustainable Financing for Peace**

23. The first interactive dialogue brought together Member States, international and regional financial institutions, development banks, private sector, civil society and the United Nations system to reflect on the specific proposals contained in the Secretary-General’s report for sustained financing for peacebuilding and on ways to further mobilize resources.

24. The speakers were invited to reflect on:

   (i) **How to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for nationally led United Nations peacebuilding efforts**;

   (ii) **How financing for sustaining peace and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals can be complementary**;

   (iii) **How to address the continuing under-resourcing of the Peacebuilding Fund and to achieve the quantum leap that the Secretary-General called for**; and

   (iv) **How to build partnerships that reinforce traditional financing mechanisms and lead to innovative financing for sustaining peace**.

25. Central to the discussion was a recognition by the panel that the surge of violent conflict is one of the greatest impediments to sustainable and inclusive growth. This **interlinkage between sustaining peace and sustainable development was strongly emphasized**, including through the example of the Colombian peace agreement. The cost of responding to successive, intractable crises has become unsustainably high as the United Nations is spending $7 billion on addressing the consequences of conflict and less than $1 billion on preventing them from flaring up.
26. The UN-World Bank study, *Pathways for Peace*, originated from the conviction that the international community's attention must be refocused on prevention. This analysis demonstrates average net savings of close to a total of $5 billion per year in even the most pessimistic prevention scenario, including a saving of $698 million to the international community on humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations. Optimistic scenarios project net savings of $70 billion per year in total and $1.5 billion savings on humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations. There is ample evidence that prevention works, saves lives, and is cost-effective.

27. Speakers also reflected that given the increasingly diverse nature of development finance, an integrated response to peacebuilding requires strategic and effective partnerships with international financial institutions. The United Nations and the World Bank are governed by different yet complementary mandates, but share a commitment to prevention, including preventing violent conflict. In this regard, the World Bank shareholders recently endorsed a package of measures that will greatly strengthen the institution's financial ability to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and allow for greater responsiveness to risks to stability in fragile countries.

28. The representatives from the private sector noted that more can be done to utilize its transformative power, expertise, ability to unlock capital and access resources in the interest of peace. This can include galvanizing stakeholders from the public, private and philanthropic sectors to jointly create innovative financial products for peace. Speakers also highlighted the necessity of exploring innovative financing methods to build and sustain peace. Innovative finance can harness the power of finance to benefit society and the environment, and help build inclusion and reduce inequalities. Innovative solutions, such as investments aimed at the economic empowerment of women and at boosting the economy of countries with high-risk of conflict, were given as a way of illustration of recent involvement of the private sector with sustaining peace and sustainable development.

29. The role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes was also stressed. Regional organizations have hands-on knowledge and expertise, strong local networks, and analytical capacity. The panel also reflected on the specific challenges that the African Union also faces with sustainable financing in the regionally led peace operations. The catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Fund was recognized and calls were made for a “quantum leap” in support for the Fund.

30. Participants stressed the need for paying due consideration to the recommendations and options provided by the Secretary-General on assessed, voluntary and innovative financing to peacebuilding. They also looked forward to further elaboration of the financing options in the requested report of the Secretary-General in the seventy-third session.

Interactive Dialogue II: Strengthening the United Nations’ Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field

31. The second interactive dialogue brought together speakers from the United Nations headquarters and the field, a regional organization as well as a representative of Secretary-General’s high-level advisory board on mediation and academia. Speakers were invited to reflect on:

(i) how the United Nations can better support Member States in the field comprehensively and strategically;
(ii) how the advisory and convening roles of the Peacebuilding Commission can be further enhanced and results-driven;
(iii) how to further enhance the role of the Peacebuilding Commission; and
(iv) how the revitalization of the Peacebuilding Support Office can contribute to enhanced coherence in support of the UN work in the field; what is needed to further revitalize the Peacebuilding Support Office.

32. As **fragmentation remains a challenge** for the effectiveness of the United Nations’ work, speakers stressed the need for more integration, coordination and coherence of the United Nations’ activities in the field. Emphasis was placed on the need to bring together work in peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian action in support of nationally-owned initiatives that seek to meet identified needs and challenges across the peace and conflict continuum. There were calls for joint analysis, the identification of joint goals and a “whole-of-system” approach.

33. Panelists also remarked that international activities to sustain peace cannot substitute nationally owned efforts but rather must reflect an effort to listen to the needs of Member States and their people and accompany governments and societies to realize their priorities. The United Nations has the ability to connect the dots and the convening power to gather all relevant actors around the table.

34. There was a mutual understanding that **peacebuilding plans should be drawn based upon existing policies** to avoid duplication and should be developed at the country level. In the same vein, consultation processes to develop such plans should be given the time needed and be led in an inclusive manner. For example, in the case of the Central African Republic, the United Nations’ support included a joint peacebuilding and recovery needs assessment by the United Nations, World Bank and the European Union, to assist the government to identify its priorities and define a way forward, supplemented by the necessary resources. These efforts were translated into a comprehensive national plan for recovery and peacebuilding. In Côte d’Ivoire, the United Nations supported national efforts in building stability and peace and the government had taken the ownership over the key pillars defined in the relevant Security Council resolutions. In Liberia, a national peacebuilding plan was developed and coordinated by the national government with support from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The case of Liberia in the Peacebuilding Commission provided lessons learned on promoting local and national ownership, and providing time for inclusive consultation, including with women.

35. The responsibility of United Nations intergovernmental bodies that guide the UN’s work in the field in prioritizing addressing root causes of conflict was emphasized. In that regard, the Peacebuilding Commission was mentioned as serving as unique platform to enhance coherence between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It was noted that the Peacebuilding Commission plays an important role as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body that can facilitate coherence in international peacebuilding efforts, connecting the pillars of the United Nations system, and serving as a platform to bring together a diverse and broad-ranging sets of actors on country-specific, regional, and thematic issues.

36. The interactive dialogue outlined the new Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its aim to enable the integration of the sustaining peace framework in the engagement of peacekeeping operations, including through enhanced performance and accountability, more rigorous and independent strategic reviews of peacekeeping operations, examination of political objectives, enhanced coherence across the system and improved cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in peacekeeping mission settings.

37. Regional and sub-regional organizations also outlined their toolbox for prevention, conflict settlement, building and sustaining peace in the field, structural prevention and partnerships.
Interactive Dialogue III: Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

38. The third interactive dialogue brought together speakers from the United Nations in the field, civil society, private sector and academia to reflect on
   (i) How to effectively build an ecosystem of partners for sustaining peace;
   (ii) How to ensure that partnerships build on the comparative advantages of different actors;
   (iii) How to effectively engage women and young people in peacebuilding efforts;
   (iv) How to enhance partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations; and
   (v) How to effectively develop community-engagement strategies in cooperation with national authorities.

39. The importance of partnerships was underscored strongly, mostly with the understanding that sustaining peace requires collective responsibility. As such, the United Nations was encouraged to foster relationships widely, with various stakeholders such as multilateral organizations, sub regional and regional groups, private sector, International Financial Institutions and civil society. It was acknowledged that the success of partnerships is also rooted at the national level, with the inclusion of women and youth.

40. Speakers noted that sub-regional and regional groups have their fingers on the pulse and proximity to the conflicts. They also have the expertise, strong local networks and analytical capacity and, therefore, can play a pivotal role in mediation and settlement of disputes. Thus, it is important to identify ways of enhancing partnerships and financing regional and sub-regional organizations. There have been useful examples of joint mediation support from various multilateral organizations and conflict analysis to understand drivers of conflict.

41. Another key important partner is the private sector. There was agreement that this avenue is underutilized. The private sector is an important partner in the sustainability of peace and in the creation of an enabling environment. The private sector controls 90 per cent of the global job market and 60 per cent of global GDP. Consequently, its key for them to be engaged in discussions on sustaining peace as they have transformative potential, competency to harness resources. Speakers called on the United Nations to understand the nuances of the private sector with a view to engaging them in a constructive manner, and forging partnerships with comparative advantage.

42. Given that most of today’s conflicts are not between countries, rather within countries, with multiple actors, as the Secretary-General report mentions, it is a must to effectively build an ecosystem of partners. Therefore, utilizing partnerships with civil society and academia, women’s groups and especially youth groups plays a vital role to this ecosystem.

43. There was recognition that in a world where development finance is increasingly diverse, an integrated response to peacebuilding requires strategic and effective partnerships with international financial institutions that act as primary financial partners of many governments.

44. In this regard, developing partnerships with the World Bank, has already made great strides for the United Nations particularly by harnessing the UN’s implementation capacity, security operations, deep-field presence and normative frameworks to the World Bank’s significant financial resources and technical expertise in specific peacebuilding contexts. The recent United Nations-World Bank study, Pathways for Peace, has been another positive contribution to the discourse on sustaining peace.
Interactive Dialogue IV: United Nations Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace

45. The fourth interactive dialogue brought together representatives from the UN, international organizations and civil society. Speakers were invited to reflect on

(i) How the United Nations system can ensure policy and operational coherence, accountable leadership and enhanced capacities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace across its pillars;

(ii) How to better integrate a youth and a gender perspective with a cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace; and

(iii) How sustainable development and the promotion of human rights can be part of conflict prevention efforts.

46. It was widely acknowledged that a cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace and peacebuilding requires coherence and coordination at the country level. In this regard, United Nations Resident Coordinators are key in facilitating dialogue between the national government and the United Nations country team when negotiating the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. It was particularly noted that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals goes hand in hand with sustaining peace, as unaddressed grievances due to marginalization and exclusion have the potential to breed violence.

47. The United Nations deploys over 40 peace and development advisors to every region to work with national partners on addressing potential drivers of conflict and with United Nations Country Teams to ensure that the United Nations’ development engagement is sensitive to the country context. They are a model for systematic and system-wide integrated analysis and programming, which is increasingly becoming the norm, used to inform decision making at the highest levels.

48. Sustaining peace also calls for greater emphasis on regional strategies, approaches and engagement. The United Nations’ regional political offices were mentioned as to be particularly effective platforms for preventive diplomacy and mediation. UN Regional Commissions can serve as think tanks to identify challenges, opportunities and threats.

49. It was noted that there was growing recognition that human rights are a necessary foundation for peace and their violations an early warning sign of potential conflict. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and treaties that derive from it can be used as prevention tools. It was noted that the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies do important monitoring work. Citing increasing threats to the universality of human rights and shrinking space for civil society, one speaker argued that the United Nations system and Member States need to reaffirm their commitment to human rights. It was emphasized that sustaining peace cannot be achieved without ending impunity and ensuring reconciliation and justice.

50. Humanitarian action and the promotion of international humanitarian law are vital stabilizing factors and humanitarian assistance can pave the way for peace. In this context, it is important that the UN approach to peacebuilding also allows space for principled humanitarian action.

51. Inclusion must be the basis for everything the United Nations does. That is particularly true for women and youth. The recently published progress report on youth, peace and security was mentioned in this context. Women must be promoted as equal and strategic leaders. Women need to have more active political roles, including as parliamentarians. The panel called to invest in better data and more gender analysis to inform decision making on gender and peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Fund was commended for allocating 36 per cent of its resources for projects supporting women’s peacebuilding work in 2017.
52. Finally, the panel noted the need for better understanding and investing in long term and structural prevention. Climate change, land disputes and increasing water insecurity in many countries were identified as threats to peace. The panel also outlined the risks of illegal arms transfers and trade, the use of which results in serious violations of international law, and the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity.

Summary of key messages:

(i) Conflict prevention and sustaining peace should be at the heart of the work of the United Nations;

(ii) Government authorities have to be fully committed to sustaining peace and must own their peacebuilding efforts in conjunction with all sectors of their society;

(iii) There is a need for greater coherence within the United Nations system in support of Governments and their people’s peacebuilding priorities;

(iv) There is an urgent need for mobilization of resources for peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(v) Women and the youth are active and indispensable agents for peace and they should be included in all stages of sustaining peace efforts and activities;

(vi) The United Nations alone cannot achieve sustaining peace and, therefore, enhanced strategic partnerships are needed, most notably with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, private sector, international financial institutions and the civil society;

(vii) The Secretary-General’s peace and security, development and management reforms and their implementation shall assist in improving role of the UN in sustaining peace and preventing conflict;

(viii) The Peacebuilding Commission is a unique platform for the promotion of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its advisory role and convening power potential should be maximally utilized moving forward;

(ix) The three pillars of the United Nations — peace and security, development and human rights — are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. A coherent and integrated approach across the three pillars can contribute to the implementation of sustaining peace;

(x) Discussion on sustaining peace should continue actively among Member States, the UN system and all other stakeholders beyond the High-level Meeting and it is important to keep momentum for the implementation of the 2016 resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.
The General Assembly adopted by consensus the **procedural resolution 72/276** on follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see below). In parallel, following a briefing session on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, held on 25 April 2018, the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2413 (2018)** mirroring the General Assembly resolution.

In its resolution, the General Assembly decide to further discussion on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and requested the Secretary-General to present at its seventy-third session a report on the recommendations and options contained in his report.
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 26 April 2018

72/276. Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), of 27 April 2016, taking note of the efforts and the progress made to date, and encouraging further action by Member States and the United Nations system to implement the resolutions,

Welcoming the consultations with Member States undertaken by the Secretary-General with respect to his reform proposals, and taking note of the ongoing work in this regard,

Taking note of the discussions at the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, held on 24 and 25 April 2018,

1. Welcomes the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace,1 takes note with appreciation of the recommendations and options contained therein, and decides to discuss them further;

2. Invites the relevant United Nations bodies and organs, including the Peacebuilding Commission, to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the established procedures, during the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions of the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, during its seventy-third session, an interim report further elaborating on his recommendations and options, including those on financing for United Nations peacebuilding activities;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, during its seventy-fourth session, a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, focusing on continued implementation of resolution 70/262 and progress in the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

87th plenary meeting
26 April 2018

---

1 A/72/707-S/2018/43.
Statements made by panelists at the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, held in New York from 24 to 26 April 2018

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Thank you for this opportunity to renew our joint commitment to build and sustain peace.

I welcome your high-level attention to this issue, at a key moment for our collective efforts, and at a time when peace is fragile and at risk in many places around the world.

Two years ago, the General Assembly and the Security Council sent an unequivocal message by passing ambitious twin resolutions pledging to work better together to sustain peace “at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions.”

These resolutions stressed that while governments have primary responsibility for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, we can all do more to build peaceful and resilient societies.

Two years on, it is time to look at progress and forge a common path ahead.

No one can doubt the many benefits of globalization: the integration of the world’s economies; the expansion of trade; the reduction in poverty and improvements in living standards; the stunning advances in technology.

But at the same time, we must recognize that in some fundamental ways, our world is going backwards.

More countries are experiencing violent conflict than at any time in nearly three decades.

Record numbers of civilians are being killed or injured by explosive weapons in urban areas.

Record numbers of people are on the move, displaced by violence, war and persecution.

We see horrific violations of human rights, and rising nationalism, racism and xenophobia.

Inequalities are increasing; whole regions, countries and communities can find themselves isolated from progress and left behind by growth. Women and girls face discrimination of all kinds.

These are all indications that we need greater unity and courage — to ease the fears of the people we serve; to set the world on track to a better future; and to lay the foundations of sustainable peace and development.

I hope this High-level Meeting will build greater momentum to implement the resolutions passed in 2016 towards sustaining peace.

***

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The central message of my report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace is that we need to enhance the coherence of international efforts in support of national governments and their people.

The scale and nature of the challenge we face calls for closer strategic and operational partnerships between all key stakeholders, based on what are the national priorities and the national policies. These key stakeholders include Governments, the United Nations, other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, women’s groups, youth organizations and the private sector.

To achieve greater coherence, we are strengthening partnerships around all our efforts, and at every stage along the peace continuum from conflict prevention and resolution to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and long-term development.

My High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation is aimed at building on the expertise of skilled diplomats to support action for peace around the world, strengthening our relationships with regional organizations, non-governmental groups and others who are engaged in this critical activity for peace.
Last month, I launched the Action for Peacekeeping initiative to mobilize greater support for stronger and safer UN peacekeeping missions.

One important element of the initiative is to strengthen relationships with all our partners and stakeholders, including the countries that contribute troops, in a generous way, but also police, equipment and other resources.

We are also aiming to strengthen support to the Peacebuilding Commission, the platform that brings together partnerships to enhance coherence between all stakeholders, by revitalizing the Peacebuilding Support Office that would be strengthened with the reform and strengthen also the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office’s role across the UN system. This will increase our capacity to facilitate transition in post-conflict situations.

All these efforts are beginning to bear fruit. In Liberia, for example, the transition from the peacekeeping mission, UNMIL, to our Country Team demonstrated a new level of UN-wide coordination and preparation.

But clearly, as the President said, more remains to be done, both in countries at risk and at the United Nations.

Sustaining peace will only be realized through committed, inclusive national ownership that considers the needs of the most marginalized, including women, young people, minorities and people with disabilities.

Women are critically important peacebuilders and I am strongly committed to their inclusion in all peacebuilding processes. The United Nations’ 7-point Action Plan on women’s participation in peacebuilding sets out measures to increase financing for gender-responsive peacebuilding, to expand women’s access to decision-making and to improve gender-sensitive analysis and planning. Gender-related issues must remain at the forefront of this debate. And our commitment to parity is very much in line with it.

I also warmly welcome the new report on Youth, Peace and Security which will have an important role in shaping our engagement with young women and men. It is beyond time to recognize the major contribution young people can make to peace and security. I hope you will support my reforms in this area, aiming at putting young people in charge and taking full advantage of their knowledge, ideas and initiatives.

Above all, sustainable, inclusive development, deeply rooted in respect for all human rights — economic, social, cultural, civil and political — is the world’s best preventive tool against violent conflict and instability.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our common blueprint for more peaceful, stable, resilient group of societies.

Sustainable development is an end in itself. But it also makes a critical contribution to preventing conflict.

Investing in sustained peace means investing in basic services, bringing humanitarian and development agencies together, building effective and accountable institutions, protecting human rights, promoting social cohesion and diversity and moving to sustainable energy.

Quality education and decent jobs and training for young people are fundamental.

We need a holistic approach which prioritizes prevention and addresses the root causes of conflict by integrating peace, sustainable development and human rights.

*****

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Mon rapport contient des propositions visant à ce que l’appui concerté apporté aux États Membres par l’ensemble des organismes des Nations Unies soit plus efficace et plus efficient, grâce à une réforme des secteurs du développement, de la gestion et de la paix et la sécurité.

Je suis déterminé à préparer l’Organisation des Nations Unies au monde de demain.

Pour cela, son financement est un aspect essentiel. Si aucun progrès n’est fait en ce qui concerne le financement des activités de consolidation de la paix, les efforts que nous avons faits par ailleurs pour sauver des vies, stabiliser la situation dans les pays en crise, soulager les souffrances et protéger les personnes vulnérables risquent d’être vains.

Ces dix dernières années, la communauté internationale a consacré 233 milliards de dollars aux interventions humanitaires, au maintien de la paix et à l’accueil des réfugiés.

Nous devons investir bien davantage dans la prévention parce qu’elle est efficace et économique et surtout parce qu’elle sauve des vies.

Le Fonds pour la consolidation de la paix a déjà démontré sa capacité à apporter un appui aux partenaires nationaux ; à soutenir la transition vers la paix et la stabilité ; à renforcer la cohérence en distribuant des ressources par l’intermédiaire de plus de 25 organismes des Nations Unies, des gouvernements et d’autres partenaires ; et à faire concorder ses objectifs avec ceux des institutions financières internationales et d’autres acteurs avec un effet multiplicateur remarquable.

Le Fonds est réactif et peut intervenir rapidement face à l’imminence d’une situation de crise. Il joue un rôle de catalyseur et peut mobiliser des fonds auprès d’autres financiers. Il finance des projets dans lesquels personne d’autre ne se risque à investir et favorise la diversité et
l’inclusion puisque nombre de ses programmes viennent en aide aux femmes et aux jeunes.

Je demande une nouvelle fois que l’on porte les ressources du Fonds à 500 millions de dollars par an.

Dans mon rapport, je propose plusieurs moyens d’accroître, restructurer et hiérarchiser le financement des activités de consolidation de la paix en faisant appel à des contributions volontaires, régulières et à des financements innovants. J’espère que vous accorderiez à ces propositions l’attention qu’elles méritent.

Dans les réformes que j’ai engagées en ce qui concerne la paix et la sécurité, il est également proposé d’augmenter de 50 % le nombre de postes permanents au Bureau d’appui à la consolidation de la paix, ce qui pourra être fait sans engager de frais supplémentaires grâce aux économies découlant des gains d’efficacité réalisés par la réforme.

Le renforcement du Bureau d’appui à la consolidation de la paix proposé dans la réforme, et l’augmentation des ressources allouées au Fonds de consolidation de la paix doivent faire le lien entre notre action en faveur de la paix et de la sécurité et toutes nos autres activités, grâce à une mise en commun des outils et des méthodes et au renforcement des partenariats.

****

Mr. President, Excellencies,

I am encouraged that at a time of discord and divisions, Member States have come together around the crucial endeavour of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Tomorrow I will address the Security Council on the same issue.

We need the strong support of both the Security Council and the General Assembly to build and sustain peace across the continuum, from prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping to peacebuilding and long-term development, as I have referred in the beginning of my intervention.

I welcome your resolution on my report and hope for continued discussions on strengthening the peacebuilding architecture, to overcome fragmentation and work together effectively and coherently.

I look forward to our discussions at this High-level Meeting, and to our continued work together to fulfill one of the primary purposes of the United Nations: building and maintaining global peace and security.

Thank you very much.
gender-based violence. They become victims of human trafficking, sexual slavery and forced marriage.

For children and youth, the devastating, long-term effects of suffering through violence and conflict can lead to psychological trauma and can have a negative impact on cognitive and social development. It can also put them at risk of perpetrating violence or becoming victims of violence later in life.

The human cost of war and violence is tragic, devastating and simply too high. But the financial costs borne by the affected countries, regions and the international community are also enormous, wide reaching and have long-term consequences.

Focus on Prevention

Much of the efforts and resources of the international community — amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars — have been dedicated to responding to crises once they have already broken out.

What we should be doing instead is preventing conflict in the first place. It could save countless lives and billions of dollars.

The UN Charter establishes the prevention of violent conflict as the overriding objective of the United Nations with the aim to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

Conflict prevention is our mandate and we need to be able to fulfill it.

Rebalancing the UN’s focus from reaction to prevention is at the heart of the Sustaining Peace agenda. I thank the Secretary General for declaring prevention the priority of the UN. This includes not just the prevention of violent conflict, for which the concept of sustaining peace is critical, but the prevention of crises and human suffering, including through actions such as combatting climate change and ensuring disaster preparedness. And, we must not forget, empowering women.

The role of Women in Sustaining Peace

The resolutions on sustaining peace place great emphasis on conflict prevention. They also underline the importance of inclusion and the essential role women play in this process.

Inclusivity means staying true to the 2030 Agenda’s pledge to leave no one behind.

Inclusive and sustained peacebuilding means the full participation of women in society, without which neither peace nor prosperity can be assured over the long term. Women’s empowerment transforms our communities and makes peace more sustainable.

Evidence shows that peacebuilding interventions are more effective if they are directly tied to promoting gender equality.

What’s more, women should be active agents in peace negotiations and peacebuilding — not merely beneficiaries of services who need protection. The inclusion of women and women’s groups in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes measurably strengthens protection efforts, deepens the effectiveness of peacebuilding and helps to ensure sustainability of peace accords.

The UN agency I work most closely with, UNDP, knows from experience that this is the most effective approach. Supporting the capacity of countries to prevent violent conflict and sustain peace — and include women in the process — is a major part of UNDP’s work. For example, in Malawi, UNDP and the UN Department of Political Affairs supported the government in establishing a National Peace Architecture that enables women and youth to act as national conflict mediators.

Gender equality contributes to durable peace and sustainable development. Systemic disparities between women and men in the economic, social and political sectors stand in the way of sustainable development and durable peace.

Women need to be engaged in all spheres of social life and their priorities must inform the agenda for sustainable development, conflict prevention, early recovery from crises, lasting peace and resilience.

To make this a reality, necessary funds and resources need to be allocated to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, especially in peacebuilding contexts.
The Link Between Sustainable Development and Peace

Promoting both the empowerment of women and maintenance of peaceful and inclusive societies are key elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNDP and other UN agencies have made women’s empowerment and sustainable development the centerpiece of their efforts to help support and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

UN agencies have been undertaking such prevention-focused initiatives in many parts of the world. For instance, thanks to its field presence in nearly 170 countries and the breadth of its technical expertise, UNDP is able to provide tailored and integrated support to nations and their leadership in many areas, including the rule of law, access to justice, human rights, elections, constitutional processes, local governance, sustainable livelihoods and climate adaptation.

The fundamental premise of the recently released UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace report is that we simply cannot achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals without addressing and preventing conflict. In fact, the Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint to help eliminate the root causes of violence and unrest.

Building and sustaining peace sits at the very core of the United Nations’ being. If we are to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” sustainable development is imperative.

But development is neither achievable nor sustainable in the absence of peace. It is critical that we work in concert towards attaining both sustainable peace and sustainable development.

The Role of Member States

As we know, UN Member States carry the key responsibility to achieve and sustain peace.

Realizing lasting peace is a long-term endeavor that involves building resilient institutions, securing economic transformation and addressing inequalities and grievances that can lead to conflict.

We must recognize that this process can take years and even decades. And we need to give the UN system the time, space and resources to pursue such long-term strategies that yield lasting results.

Let’s focus this High-Level Meeting on how we can work together to strengthen the UN’s ability to deliver on its mandate to eradicate the root causes of conflict, prevent the escalation of violence, bring about lasting peace — and leave no one behind.

Ishmael Beah
UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,

Thank you for convening this timely and needed gathering to evaluate the work of the United Nations on “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace” my gratitude to the rest of those present, ambassadors, representatives of various nations and various bodies of the United Nations, NGOs, groups, civil society and all of those who do the much-needed work of safeguarding and preserving humanity.

Perhaps one of the most important values and necessity of the United Nations is that it remains the only place in the world where we can all gather to discuss the importance of how we should be of service to humanity. And to the world. And more now than ever the world needs this organization and such gatherings and our discussions must be in safeguarding the very nature of human life everywhere. My capacity as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for children affected by war and conflict tasks me with advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable members and the future of our world: children.

If we embark on peacebuilding without them, without serious, intelligent, and honest thinking about them and shape a world that does not only protect them but also makes them into active citizens of their nations with the moral and ethical standards that enables them to be decent human beings, then we have failed and all of our efforts here today wouldn’t yield to a future way we’d be proud of.

With this in mind it is of no surprise how worrying and disturbing it is to think about the current state of our world. A world where children continue to live in conflicts and are under attack at a shocking scale with parties to conflict blatantly disregarding international law, policies, resolutions and even national laws regarding the protection of the most vulnerable members of our society.
From Syria to South Sudan, Myanmar to Yemen, Nigeria, so on et cetera, et cetera children are being targeted and exposed to attack in brutal violence in their homes, schools and playgrounds. As these attacks continue year after year we cannot become numb, these levels of brutality cannot be the new normal.

Children have become frontline targets, used as human shields, killed, maimed and recruited to fight, raped, forced marriages, abductions and enslavement have become standard tactics in conflicts.

Millions more children are paying the indirect price of these conflicts suffering from malnutrition, disease and trauma as basic services including access to food, water, sanitation and health are denied, damaged, or destroyed in the fighting. And in a good number of cases these basic necessities are not met or not available to begin with.

Amidst the horrors that children living in conflict are exposed to, there is hope such as release of 200 children last week in South Sudan, but much more needs to be done. UNICEF and other organizations are working to protect and provide for children living in war and cause all parties of conflict and all influence over them to end violations against children.

This call has been made time and time again since I was a child and in war myself.

We have come a long way from the reports that led to the creation of the Office of Children in armed conflict, the creation of protocols, the Paris the Cape Town principles and many Security Council resolutions. There is no shortage of important and noble ideas in policies. However, there remains a lot of commitment. From nations to fully implement these ideas on paper of which most are not legally binding documents were created on the understanding that we agree as a world we cannot think below a certain threshold of human dignity. Nowadays, I am uncertain whether this is true.

United Nations University did a fairly recent study commissioned by various UN organizations and participated by civil society and countries on the ground where this research was done and looked at the concepts, particularly of the idea of radicalization and deradicalization, in three ongoing conflicts in the world — the case studies were done for Syria, Iraq, Mali and Nigeria. This research draws on other nations, as well, it is a study that I recommend we all read for our purpose here today.

The argument is that terrorist groups that extremist groups that have posed new security dimensions for us in the world have been looked at differently particularly the children that find themselves in such groups during demobilization.

Their efforts are looked at and perceived differently, some of them face trials instead of rehabilitation. They face punitive measures and these are very direct violations of the principles of international law and most of the resolutions that we have here. Now the realities that I may highlight a little bit from the research, it starts and goes as follows, association with groups determined to be terrorists or violent extremists is increasingly criminalized and children caught up in these determinations face detention, prosecution and sometimes abuse.

Some states are prosecuting juveniles under adult terrorism legislations and some are lowering the age of criminal responsibility allowing courts to prosecute children as young as 15. In Iraq authorities are holding more than 1400 foreign women and their children who surrounded with ISIS fighters in late 2017 — on a questionable legal base. Boys are being detained on the suspicion of having joined ISIS. In Syria boys have been arrested, detained, abused and stigmatized for perceived affiliations.

The Nigerian Government is currently thought to be detaining thousands of children as well as adults who it fears are associated with Boko Haram. Many detained have been encountered during military operations, but others including a large number of children appear to have been arrested arbitrarily as they fled from Boko Haram. These detainees without charge or access to families or lawyers are kept in deplorable conditions and appear to be held in violation of even Nigerian and international law.

Outside of conflict context, states are also amending criminal laws and administrative procedures to bolster exiting counter-terrorism powers. In France, for example, as part of an effort to strengthen the state’s counter-terrorism posture, the maximum pretrial detention was increased up to three years for children age 16 and older.

Terrorism offenses have become so broad and loose affiliations, preparatory or ancillary acts and material support are increasing covered. Which makes children much more likely to be caught in the net in light of the fact that children do not generally play the roles of commanding or planning terrorist activities.

Some states are using children suspected or demonstrated associations with armed groups as grounds for barring their reentry into the country or stripping their citizenships. Some of states have administrative measures to discourage people from returning to conflict zones and have go so far to refuse to let children back in their countries after suspected involvement with an armed group. For example, the UK Home Secretary announced that they can revoke British citizenship if in doing so is in the public’s interest.

They are already significant underlying problems that exist in societies that I exacerbated by the presence of jihadist or radical groups. The way forward is to attend to these problems rather than holding children accountable for it.
all. There must be an exception when it comes to what we agree on to protect children.

And that must be the best interest of the child always.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we leave here today, and we have to be honest with each other, to build peace in the world we have to make sure in so doing, we do not violate the very principles, the very fundamental rights of human dignity are not violated as we move along. We understand there’s need for security in the world and work must be done to counter that but please as we do so let’s not forget our humanity in that process.

Thank you.

Joy Onyesoh
President of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Nigeria (WILPF)

Mr. President, Secretary-General, your Excellencies,

I thank you for this honor of addressing this Assembly this morning.

In my capacity as the President of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom of Nigeria, I’ve had the opportunity of working at multiple levels. In one of my visits to a community in the eastern states of Nigeria I met a lady I would call Amina.

Amina narrated her story of the conflicts that pervades parts of Nigeria. As she fled from her community, which was attacked by Boko Haram, she had three children she had a young child aged 7 months, a daughter aged 10 years, and she had a son 4 years. As they fled the attack, she strapped her young daughter on her back, asked her older daughter to take care of the younger son and they ran.

During the course of running, she didn’t know when the child she strapped on her back fell off. The younger daughter didn’t know when she lost hold of her younger brother. This is one of the realities of the human cost of conflict.

In talking about sustaining peace, we should be aware of the integrated approach that involves putting local women’s voices and rights at the center. It’s a shift from crisis response to a more proactive conflict prevention. This requires reorientation work around amplifying local women’s municipal participation and root cause analysis for peace.

Effective gender conflict analysis involves a participatory approach that engages and utilizes the experience of diverse stakeholders, and this aims at changing of structural power for gender equality and women’s human rights.

Women like Amina is just one of the thousands of women we see from Nigeria to Cameroon to Chad to Colombia to face the reality of armed conflict. It therefore becomes very critical that the United Nations and international communities are to effectively support the participation and rights of at-risk and marginalized communities, there needs to be a holistic approach to prevention that strengthens women’s human rights and reduces armed and violent conflict, including addressing violent masculinity and disarmament.

A commitment to gender conflict analysis prioritizes increased engagements with civil society as key stakeholders and this drives measures towards ensuring their substantive participation.

This goes beyond the number to concrete engagement in the development of targeted interventions which are contextually relevant and appropriate. It also requires creating enabling environment for women civil society that ensures access, justice, and increases core ongoing sustained funding and political support for the work women are doing on the ground.

I commend the increased number of civil societies to address the UN Security Council in 2017, the Security Council lectured on the mission that prioritized civil society, increased engagement of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict with civil society is really very commendable.

On my flight to New York from Nigeria, I had the opportunity of watching an American-produced movie, Hidden Figures. This movie narrates the different realities of three female mathematicians. Ms. Spencer, Ms. Monet and Ms. Hansen across gender lines to help launch Apollo into United States. Now one thing that struck me about this movie is how much women are hidden figures in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding process. Yes, we keep talking about women in sustainable peace but how do we, on the ground, implement the strategies and talk we have always talked about.
We live and work with structures that continuously exclude, discriminate and stereotype women.

We hear talks that are in dissonance with what’s actually being implemented on the ground. As women activists we will keep pushing and advocating for an integrated approach that puts the rights and perspectives of women at the center of sustaining peace.

Women, peace and security issues are one of the most recognized agendas at the United Nations. Yet funding for gender equality and Women’s Movement building remains inadequate.

- Between 2012 and 2013, only 2% of aid to peace and security for fragile states targeted gender equality.
- Between 2010 and 2015 financial support allocated by major donor countries to promote gender equality dropped by more than 50%.
- Of the about 74 national action plans on women, peace and security existence, only 23% include allocated budgets for implementation.

Continuously we witness gender blind national budgets, which results in cuts in health and social services related expenditures contribute to poverty and gender inequality.

As part of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom over 100 years of action for an integrated approach to peace and security, we call for action on sustaining peace to put women’s participation and rights at the center of conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

In particular we call for a gender conflict analysis across the UN system that is based on local women’s perspectives, also on partnerships to prioritize women’s civil societies as key stakeholders and financing that substantially scaled up funding for gender equality, including core ongoing support for women’s civil societies.

Finally, sustaining peace requires consistent and committed political will. To move out of the comfort zone and challenge dominant narratives on gender, conflict analysis and power. The big reflective question I will leave us today as we continue our dialogue on the High-Level Meeting is, beyond the rhetoric, are we committed to taking the bold steps that ensure an inclusive, accountable and demilitarized approach to sustaining peace?

This is a question that we need to ask ourselves as a collective. The United Nations system is a beacon of hope to men and women alike, and we should keep that hope and the flame of hope burning.

Thank you.

Jayathma Wickramanayake
Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

What if I tell you that conflict is good? Conflict isn’t bad. In fact, it is good. 25-year-old Mohammad told me as we were sitting inside a temporary shelter in an IDP camp in Baghdad, Iraq.

The camp was overpopulated with displaced Iraqis coming from Mosul last August. And everyone had lost their homes, property, education, loved ones during the dreadful journey escaping Daesh.

How can someone who lost everything to a conflict say that conflict isn’t bad? I asked him in surprise.

Mohammad went on. Over time the term conflict has received a negative connotation. I beg to differ. Having a conflict means that there is diversity, that there are differences of opinions, that status quo is being challenged. All of which are important for the growth of our human civilization.

And he goes on. But what truly decides if a conflict is good or bad is the way that we choose to deal with it. The way we choose to resolve it. The decision to use non-violence over violence, dialogue over arrogance, and compromise over intransigence will decide how conflicts are written in history books.

We grew up in the age of unfathomable conflicts and violence and unprecedented forced displacement. If any generation would know the value of peace, that would be us. Therefore, it is our responsibility as a generation to not repeat the mistakes of our past generations. There will always be conflicts. But our generation will choose to resolve them in peace.

I couldn’t agree more with him.
President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General Guterres, Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The complex nature of sustaining peace requires us to tap into the potential and creativity of young people. The largest generation in the history of the world.

An estimated 408 million young people live in settings affected by armed conflict and violence. Yesterday, I had the privilege to brief the Security Council on youth, peace and security. At its heart were discussions on the contributions of young women and men to conflict prevention, humanitarian relief, peace negotiations and durable peace.

There was a resounding call to support young people who work on peace and stability in their communities, often with very little support, funding or visibility, and sometimes under direct threat.

I encourage everyone to read the independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, which contains unfiltered views and aspirations of over 4,000 young people from across the world.

It gives us unique insights on how young people see and experience the world we live in, their hopes for peace and security, their demands towards governments and the multi-lateral system.

According to the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, and illustrated over and over in my interactions with young people on the ground, there are two key issues we need to immediately address.

One, the growing mistrust from young generations towards formal political institutions. Two, the exclusion of young people from meaningfully participating in civic political and economic life.

Supporting youth participation mechanisms such as youth councils, and youth lead organizations and networks and including young people in electoral processes, political party structures, formal peace processes and decision-making bodies at local, national, and international levels are key to durable peace.

As I always like to say, meaningful youth participation is prevention.

I am confident that this High-Level Meeting will emphasize concrete actions that can address the mistrust that young people have so vehemently expressed and the structural injustices they face, which prevents them from realizing their true potential.

Ladies and gentlemen, young people for too long have been calling the United Nations to go beyond addressing the immediate needs of war torn countries to focusing on sustaining peace.

We need the United Nations to be proactive, not reactive.

This is why we need to build on the youth, peace and security agenda, mandated by the Security Council Resolution 2250.

The youth, peace and security agenda is at the intersection of Agenda 2030, of the women, peace and security agenda, of the human rights frameworks and a core contribution to the prevention of conflict and violence. This agenda was born to ensure that young people are not only called upon when it’s time to wave flags or when their votes are needed or to go to war, but are listened and taken seriously when they want to shape their present and future.

Yesterday, on behalf of young people, I asked the Security Council to further strengthen the youth, peace and security agenda and open up regular discussions on the role of youth in sustaining peace.

Today I issue the same call to you. This General Assembly has representatives of every Member State and with your enormous reach you can make a huge difference for this generation of young people. And when you do, they will open a new future for generations to come.

Youth-led peacebuilding can benefit from your political, institutional and most importantly financial support.

This is why I call on you now to ensure youth rights are central to sustaining peace.

I have two brief recommendations for consideration at the interactive dialogues today and tomorrow.

First, sustainable financing for peace should entail a significant funding increase for the peacebuilding work led by young people.

Earlier the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General called for increasing the Peacebuilding Fund’s resources. Allow me to take this call a step further and invite you to consider that the youth instrument of the Peacebuilding Fund is adequately financed to offer tangible support to young peacebuilders on the ground.

These young people have a unique ability to access remote communities and marginalized stakeholders. They need accessible funding streams and support to strengthen their organizations.

Second, see young people as your partners in the sustaining peace agenda, not as a footnote in your policies or problems to be dealt with.

Transforming the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the field especially requires making
sure that the governments and the UN country teams are equipped with the know-how and structures to engage young people as productive and positive actors as they are.

Our new approach to peace must ensure that young people are integrated in all sequenced stages of the sustaining peace agenda from the planning to implementation, from its review to ensuring durability.

When uninformed discussions and mainstream media highlights young people as a threat to peace and security, I have had the unique privilege to meet young peacebuilders on the ground.

I met a youth group in Iraq who are working with young people from diverse backgrounds, religions and ethnicities to train each other to resolve conflicts through dialogue and negotiation.

In Somalia, I met young people who formed an emergency response group to the Mogadishu terror attacks last year.

In Colombia I met with young people who organized the peace camp and who, through silent protest applied pressure, on their Government until a new peace deal was reached.

Here, in the United States, I watched young people march for their lives.

This is the potential and commitment young people offer to you as policymakers. We can choose to ignore that call. We can choose to exclude that potential.

But that would mean that 20 years from now I would sit in your position and would have to listen to another young person calling for youth empowerment demanding for her rights and we would still be in the same point in history without moving an inch forward.

So please, remember a generation counts on you to make the right decision.

Thank you.

Sir Richard Branson
Humanitarian, Philanthropist, Founder of the Virgin Group

Good morning everybody,

It’s a great honor to address this high level meeting on peacebuilding, and I would like to thank the president, the General Assembly, for giving me this opportunity.

Ever since my very first steps as a young entrepreneur, I have believed business should strive to make people’s lives better. Disrupting established models, challenging norms, and entrenched interests has always been part of our mission. But as we work to change business for good, I felt we should also do everything we can to change the world for the better. Regrettably, business has a long history of doing just the opposite. Depleting natural resources, colluding with totalitarian governments, and in its worst, asseses, exploiting communities around the world.

It goes without saying, when it comes to making our planet a more peaceful place, business will have to play a far, far, more positive and constructive role.

You see, peace is much more than the absence of armed conflict. Lasting peace is a state of sustained political, social, and economic stability that requires all of us to embrace humanity’s core values, openness, tolerance, diversity, and inclusion.

Business can thrive where these values are upheld and in turn we can drive growth, employment and ultimately, prosperity. I can’t think of a better business contribution to conflict resolution.

As you discuss what effective financing for peace might look like, please consider that some of the most important investments in the international community can make are investments in stable institutions, in the rule of law, and more broadly, in the capacity of governments to create an
enabling environment that supports open and free trade, routes out corruption, and promotes good governance.

As an investor and as an entrepreneur, I’d say that’s money well spent.

Yet in a world of new fault lines, increasing populism, and protectionist rhetoric, these investments require greater leadership than perhaps at any time since the end of the Cold War. Many of you in the room are aware of these new threats, and I suspect we all should be.

But please rest assured that most of us in business share your values too and we stand ready to be your partners, be it in our communities or on the global stage. More than ever, we need to join hands. In this spirit, I wish all of you a most productive and inspiring meeting, and thanks very much for listening.

Cheers.

Donald Kaberuka
High representative for the African Union Peace Fund and Chairman and Managing Partner at SouthBridge

I want to talk about three things. African Union and how it’s prepared to be a partner for you in peacebuilding. I also want to talk about African Peace Fund as an instrument. And thirdly, I want to refer to the findings of the commission I’ve been co-chairing with the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, David Cameron, on state fragility, growth and development, for which I am to commend the outcomes.

Essentially, I want to make a couple of simple points familiar to you. Number one, that since 1945, the United Nations has been the bullock of building peace to keeping peace in the world. But we now know, as the report mentions, that no single organization can do that on its own. And I want to go further to say that African Union has proven to be a relevant partner in this regard — especially where there’s no peace to keep and there’s no possibility of remaining neutral or minimal use of force. Thirdly, I want to say to you that we need to rethink financing to make it predictable and reliable as the report was mentioning, and then I want to refer to you to the Peace Fund and the progress we’re making.

Various high level reports have noted that the nature of international peace and security threats has evolved, no single organization has the legitimacy and the capabilities to act alone. Since the established of the African Union in 2002, the Union and its regional economic communities and mechanisms have demonstrated a clear comparative advantage in two particular type of situations. First, admissions were offensive operations, neutrality of force is not possible, and second, where the UN Security Council was not able to mobilize the requisite political consensus to initiate action.

While the African Union has the mandate, the legitimacy and the experience to deploy rapidly in order to deliver stabilization and counter terrorism operations, it is unable to sustain such missions over the medium to long term because it lacks sufficient means. There’s general agreement that the current financing arrangement for peace support operations are neither reliable nor predictable, especially in the context of high-tempo combat operations.

While partners have demonstrated much flexibility and innovation, there is a consensus that the current financing arrangements are less than optimal. Given this situation, and given the critical niche that the AU is able to play and the rapidly evolving security threats which are placing ever greater demands on the international architecture, ensuring predictable and sustainable financing has been a major agenda for the African Union.

The reality is that the overall effectiveness of the actions undertaken by the international community to address a given crisis should be seen as a continuum. But deploying its peace support operations in conformity with its role as the first responder and in line with the constitutive acts, the AU has always envisaged the transformation at the appropriate time, of its own security footprint into a UN peacekeeping operation with the broader comprehensive approach carried by multidisciplinary actors. By enhancing the predictability of support the AU action, the international community will help create and enabling a more responsive environment that enables it to forecast long term stabilization efforts. Experiences have shown that a failure to do so often results in the relapse or the deterioration of the security environment and frequently inhibits
peacebuilding efforts. That’s why the AU has always consistently agreed for a mechanism that ensures the predictability and sustainability, including a possibility of accessing UN assessed contributions for AU led peace operations that the UN itself cannot undertake, which is critical for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In this respect, the recommendations of the reports which are consistent with AU’s own common African position were pertinent and groundbreaking. I want to recall the recommendations of the report, which says, and I quote, the UN assessed contributions should be provided on a case by case basis to fund the African Union peace support operations authorized by the UN Security Council. The decision by the AU Assembly of Heads of State in 2015 to take financial responsibility for 24% of peace activities by 2020 is a major milestone. Of equal significance is African Union decision to reinvigorate the peace fund and endow $400 million to finance preventive, diplomacy, readiness capabilities and maintain a crisis reserve facility.

I want to say to you here that progress has been incredibly encouraging. Since 2017, the fund has received exactly what was expected from the members for year one. Now going to $50 million. This represents the highest-level member states’ contributions to the peace fund since its creation in 1993.

With respect to the financing of AU led operations through UN assessed contributions, I want to salute the 18 of November 2016 Security Council Resolution 2320, which represented a formal stance of readiness by the council to consider the matter. The UN Secretary-General reports presented to the Council in June 2017 and the following Security Council resolution 2378 are keeping these issues on the agenda.

During the January 2018 summit, the assembly has adopted the peace fund instruments which sets out the governance and management arrangements. The key objective in 2018 is to fully operationalize the governance and management structure based on the peace fund instruments adopted by the AU Assembly in January 2018. We’ll ensure that the member states contribution to the fund will meet the target. We ensure outreach and engagement to members of the UN Security Council to ensure there is follow up to the decisions taken this year. Let me assure all of you here that AU members in building the peace fund are doing so consistent with domestic regulations and international obligations. And I want to assure you that everything we will do be done in the spirit of cooperation with the UN.

Let me mention a word on the commission chaired by myself and the former Prime Minister David Cameron. I want to commend some points that are important to the UN. Their approach is to deal with fragilities that to date are not delivering. There’s a need to re-engineer our approach to fragile states, and this report says how it can be done. Including how to bring business upstream and downstream in dealing with fragility.

I hope I have an occasion to delve in this report later, but I want to say here that it’s a report which we think could be a big building step to what we are trying to do.

I thank you, chair.

**Durreen Shahnaz**

Founder and CEO of Impact Investment Exchange (IIX)

Honorable Secretary General of the United Nations, President of the General Assembly, Your Excellencies,

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for giving the me the opportunity to speak to you all today about ‘The Role of Innovative Finance in Sustainable Peace’. It is indeed a great honor.

I stand before you not only as an expert on innovative finance but also as a woman whose life has been shaped by wars. During the first years of my life, in 1971, I lived through the Bangladesh Independence War, and once I became an adult and created my first start-up in New York City, I was one of the lucky few to live through the collapse of the Twin Towers on 9/11. I have emerged from these experiences as a defiant optimist with a relentless determination to change the way the world works and a resilient optimism that change is possible. To catalyze this change, I have enlisted one of the greatest weapons on this planet — finance — as a tool to create peace.

While I myself, as well as many of you in this room, have lived a life shaped by war, if one steps back and looks at post-World War II history — at history since the creation of
the United Nations — the truth is that the world today is the most peaceful it has been in human history.

I truly believe that one of the reasons we have been experiencing relatively more peace in comparison to earlier eras is that we have evolved in how we think about peace.

In the last few decades, we have grown from thinking of peace as something we keep, to acknowledging peace as something we build. We have evolved from thinking of peace purely as a product of policy, to peace as a product of our systems. As a result, today we are advocating for sustainable peace — addressing at their very roots the inequalities and injustices within today’s world that can lead to conflict. Building peace in a new way by changing the existing systems — including the financial system — within which every being operates.

Today, there is no escaping that we live in a globalized world where everything is interconnected — ideas through the internet, people through travel, and capital through the global financial markets. However, the connections are not always smooth or obvious, and not everyone has a ticket to travel in this interconnected global highway. Globalization opens doors to new opportunity — but only to some. The divide between the winners and losers of globalization exaggerates inequalities on a global scale — creating social and economic unrest. If we can promote inclusion and close inequality gaps in our financial and economic systems, we can tackle a crucial source of conflict.

As the first Bangladeshi Woman to work on Wall Street, I experienced first-hand that our global financial system is an elite club where only a limited group belong. I wanted to change that. I wanted to open access to credit and economic opportunity to even the most remote and marginalized corners of the world — I wanted to connect the Wall Streets of the world with the Back Streets of underserved communities. I wanted to erase the inequalities in this system that make people feel they don’t belong — the inequalities that prevent peace.

Hence, a decade ago, I started on an audacious journey to use finance to create peace. I founded IIX and its sister organization, the IIX Foundation, two pioneers in the impact investing movement based in Singapore. This is a movement that harnesses the power of finance to benefit society and the environment. IIX’s work in this space transforms finance to promote sustainable peace by creating innovative solutions to build inclusion and reduce inequalities.

Through innovative finance, we have built the infrastructure for a new financial system where all people belong. We started by creating the world’s first social stock exchange, followed by Asia’s largest debt and equity crowdfunding platform for impact investing, and most recently we listed the world’s first Women’s Livelihood Bond. The Women’s Livelihood Bond brought over 385,000 disadvantaged women of Southeast Asia to the forefront of the capital markets. It created a place for the Cambodian woman entrepreneur, the Filipino farmer, and the Vietnamese mother in the financial market — an opportunity previously not only unavailable but unthinkable to these women. This is the result of defiant optimism — the result of defiantly identifying the flaws in the existing system and optimistically setting out to change this system.

To date, the work of IIX has spanned 40 countries and has successfully impacted the lives of over 15 million disadvantaged people and used innovative finance to bring in over $75 million of investment from the private sector to build a more equal, resilient and peaceful world. IIX has now embarked on a series of Women’s Livelihood Bonds, Women’s Health Bonds and Sustainable Fisheries Bonds.

To create sustainable peace requires that we acknowledge that peace is not solely a product of policy but of today’s systems that each of us lives within. These systems are created, structured, and reinforced by the public sector, the private sector, and civil society. This means we all have a shared responsibility to build peace. We have a shared responsibility to promote inclusion. We have a shared responsibility to create a sense of belonging. Not only do we each have this responsibility, but we have the capacity... especially when we work together.

If we don’t achieve sustainable peace, the costs will be high, very high. The economic impact of violence to the global economy was $13.6 trillion in 2015, the equivalent of $5 per day for every person on the planet, or 11 times the size of global foreign direct investment (FDI). This amount is on top of the 5 to 7 trillion dollars estimated to be needed annually to meet the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. These 3 figures may seem overwhelming; however, if we can harness the power of financial markets, which globally total $210 trillion, the figures become more manageable.

In order to tap into this vast capital market to promote sustainable peace, I present to you today the Innovative Finance for Sustainable Peace Initiative.

‘Innovative Finance for Sustainable Peace’ is a 5-year initiative that aims to advance the global peacebuilding agenda by leveraging the power of the financial markets. The overarching mission of the program will be to use innovative financial mechanisms to unlock $1 billion, impacting 100 million lives, to drive forward sustainable peacebuilding efforts across the globe — in post-conflict countries, countries with high-risk of conflict and countries seeking to mitigate rising threats of violence by creating systemic social-economic resilience. The initiative will aim to achieve three underlying objectives:
1. To effectively use financial markets to drive sustainable peace across the world by creating ‘businessworthy’ companies, equal communities and a resilient planet for all;

2. To embed a gender-lens to the global peace dividend and shift the narrative from viewing women as victims of war to recognizing women as solutions to peacebuilding;

3. To galvanize key stakeholders from the public, private and philanthropic sectors to jointly create innovative financial products for peace.

This is an initiative that IIX and its partners have already begun to implement. I invite you all to join us in this movement.

Today is my 50th birthday. 50 years ago, I was born into a conservative Muslim family as the fourth daughter. Growing up, my grandfather used to tell me that, according to the astrological charts, the moment I was born came once in a century — the moment was called ‘chura moni’ — the peak and jewel of a moment ensuring a child born that moment will reach great heights. My grandfather would then continue on to say, ‘if only you were born a boy, then you could have reached the peak....’

I stand here today, proudly, as a woman who is reaching her peak with defiance and with optimism.

Your Excellencies, I want the girl who is born today to know that she has already reached her chura moni because she is born in a world that celebrates her birth; a world where she, and all of us, belong; a world that is embracing a new financial paradigm to promote equality; and a world that is giving sustainable peace a chance.

Be Defiant. Be an Optimist. A peaceful future is at reach through innovative finance.

Thank you.

Mahmoud Mohieldin
Senior Vice President, World Bank

Good afternoon,

It’s great to be a speaker after the President Kaberuka who has spent many good years coordinating efforts with the MDBs, with partners in development, to fight poverty and enhance the stable development in Africa, and I make reference in the coming few seconds to many of the good thought that he put forward.

It’s an honor as well to speak after our birthday-lady, who is trying hard to bring the back street to Wall Street. And I hope for the benefits and the good that could come from Wall Street, through the innovative techniques. I have the pleasure of chatting about what she’s doing during lunch, and it’s very impressive. Say that, while I work in close association with an agency that had been around for tens of years, the International Finance Corporation, which is part of the World Bank Group, that does investments based on environmental, social, and government principles.

I’m focusing on three out of your four questions that you put at the very beginning, Oscar. The one related to finance, the one related to the links between peace and sustainable development, and of course, links all of that to the IFIs. One can always blame the shortage of time for not giving you satisfactory answers for all of these questions, but I’ll try. First, why an agency like the World Bank, even if it’s only focused beyond this issue of great partnership that we have today, even if we’re going to focus on our own mandate, of ending extreme poverty and trying to achieve shared prosperity, we should be very concerned about peace, and we should be very concerned about fragility, and dealing with conflict, because our estimates, actually our joint estimates based on this Pathways to Peace Joint Report is telling us, according to the current trajectory, more than 60% of the global poor will be in conflict affected countries. So even if we just focus, based on our mandate, and doing our job, we should be very much concerned about what is happening in this area.
There are lots of numbers. There are more of an estimate than actual numbers and of course not counting at all what couldn’t be counted. You can’t put any kind of a price tag to the loss of innocent lives or casualties. But we’ve an average of $35 billion in damages, again, based on this report you just mentioned, Oscar.

And that could really present it and say for doing better in ending extreme poverty and enhancing sustainable development.

In addition, the figures are telling us that at least 80% of the total spending in the humanitarian relief is to do with conflict. That is exactly the opposite of what was the case in the past, where 80% or more were due to natural disasters. Now, because of human made disasters.

So, it’s really a common-sense approach to development to focus on doing sustainable development and put into considerations and fully factor in the different elements related to peace, peacekeeping, peacebuilding.

Having said that, there have been two developments. One, I hope that all of you are aware of, because it happened already two years ago, that either the International Development Association, which is the fund for the poor, had located significant resources to crisis response, to dealing with refugees, and dealing more in cases of fragility and development countries.

I have newer piece of news. During the spring meetings on the 21st of April, just a couple of days ago, there was an agreement by all of the shareholders — the 189 shareholders of the World Bank Group --, to have a capital increase of 13 billion, paid in capital; and you will be pleased to know that it’s not just the money. It’s basically the kind of dormant to multilateralism, and to the support of development and finance and institution in times that the value of multilateralism might have been challenged or questioned.

But you might be pleased to know that the three conditions, after of course doing our reforms which were already finished with but there are still more to come in some particular areas, but we need to do more in gender, we need to do more in fragile and post conflict countries, and we need to do more with partnerships with the private sector. These were basically the three conditions that our shareholders, all of them are members of the UN, have put forward. And when I go to this report, Oscar, trying to consult what was really behind all of these conflicts, the issues related to exclusion, matters related to inequality and injustice have been very much emphasized.

For our shareholders coming from the development side, telling us “Well, enough of exclusion, get more opportunities for the young, get women more involved in the workplace and the participation and the economic and political lives, and indeed, try to be more decentralized when it comes to the actions of development, and I prefer actually localization rather than decentralization when it comes to these matters. This is pretty much complementary approach, and kind of a conversion of ideas between the UN system and the IFIs.

And finally, you challenge us with this funding issue. I appreciate, I like the innovative approaches to funding, especially with the shortages of public financing. Despite the increase of ODA, still we need more leveraging, more blended finance, and I’m happy this word is now becoming used frequently, including the interagency task force report that was mentioned, and the President Kaberuka and say I congratulate the World Bank for the $13 billion but that will not be enough in order to fill gaps of budget, and he’s very much right.

But before getting into innovative finance, I need to take a matter very seriously here.

That it’s good to talk about innovations and good to talk about partnership. But these partnerships are going to be with budgets with government money, with a government that should be disciplined in engaging into finance.

Now the Managing Director of IMF, not the World Bank, Mme. Lagarde, is telling us that public debt to GDP has been increasing from 33% of GDP to 47% of GDP, approaching 50%. This is very bad news to development and peace. I like to bring you back to your memory to the debt crisis of the 1980s, and the implications of this debt crisis on poverty in Africa, South Asia, Latin America. If we’re complaining about issues of concern related to poverty and fragility today, if governments are not with adequate budget support, they can’t be good partners or innovators with the private sector, much of the money will be spent to their service rather than on sustaining development. In our approach, sustainable development is one we claim, in Washington, that this is the main way to deal with any kind of conflict. But of course, in New York, in the UN, I have to say it’s “one” of the important factors.

But taking development seriously will not really happen if budgets are pushing us in deficit finance and threw budget deficits into some sort of disasters and the public debt arena. I’m saying that, while I’m comfortable that there have been very good partnerships and I wish, in the revision of the pathways to peace which I’m going to mention tomorrow, when we are going to be providing an update of the examples in the online version, finding and seeing many good work in innovative finance, especially in the humanitarian development plexus, and there are some attempts now through the work on the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund that could be as well using this kind of good partnership and innovation.
So the story today is telling us there is a great deal of progress, that there is a development finance agency more capable than ever before capable to do its part in dealing with the challenges of sustainable development, peacebuilding and the humanitarian work with the UN system, but there are many challenges as well associated with some of the issues related to the economies, some of the matters related to fast urbanization without organization, and indeed, we need to be careful in handling those if we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a more peaceful environment in the world.

Thank you very much.

María Victoria Llorente
Executive Director, Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP)

Good afternoon,

I would like to extend a warm greeting to my fellow panellists and all who are joining us in this innovative dialogue. I would also like to thank the United Nations for inviting me to this session as civil society.

I will take this occasion to ponder on the challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Colombian Peace Agreement, particularly in terms of the need to promote partnerships and synergies among States, businesses and international actors as a fundamental element for adding the resources needed for making peace sustainable.

The Colombian Government has estimated that the implementation of the Peace Agreement will cost approximately USD$47 billion (COP$129.5 billions) in a 15-year period. In the next 15 years we will have to dedicate 0.8% of our annual GDP to this task. So far, the State has committed to finance 85%, and the remaining 15% will need to be covered through international cooperation and private investment. This implies a huge political commitment.

All of this is happening within a very troubled and uncertain political environment in Colombia, given the upcoming presidential elections and the continued questioning of the legitimacy of the Peace Agreement from different political and social actors.

This leaves us in the middle of a significant challenge: overcoming the barriers that prevent actors from engaging in partnerships that could lead to the profound changes needed to integrate my country, to transform our rural areas, and to avoid major setbacks in our peacebuilding process.

We all know that the peacebuilding and the sustainable development agendas are deeply intertwined. Colombia has made a great effort to precise this relationship. Our National Planning Department has stated that 16 out of the 17 SDGs have indicators related to the implementation of the Peace Agreement (being the only exception SDG No. 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans”). In addition, there is a coincidence in the timeline for both the SDG (which are planned for 2030) and the Peace Agreement Implementation Plan (which goes until 2031).

The most obvious connection between these two agendas occurs around the issue of rural development, considered one of the main root-causes of our armed conflict. Its importance is reflected in the fact that it concentrates 85.4% of the total peace implementation budget. There is no doubt that the closure of gaps in rural areas are deeply related to the SDGs: poverty reduction, education, health, combating inequality, improving living conditions, and so on.

Making the connection, between peacebuilding and SDGs explicit, both at the political and financial level, is paramount. But we have to go to the action, and we have learned in Colombia that “there is a lot of distance from the saying to the doing”.

I would like to raise two questions trying to illuminate the path of action.

The first question has to do with the sequencing: when should peacebuilding financing give way to development financing? Or, may they coexist in a blended/coordinated form?

As we all know making, maintaining and building peace are not linear processes, as is also the case with development. There are many overlaps.

A perfect example of the point I want to make is the coca crops problem, which lies right in the middle of the intersection between peace, security and development. At first, this matter needs both a security approach and peacebuilding
resources within the stabilization phase. But, if there is any expectation of durable and life-changing solutions over time, we have to move swiftly to look for resources under the development agenda. In Colombia, after 30 years of facing this problem without lasting successes, we are still debating about the framework to approach it: is it security? Is it peace? is it development? I would say all of the above.

Now the second question I would like to raise is how can we bring together and promote partnerships between actors that are scattered and that seem to have different funding priorities? And most specifically, how can we actively mobilize the business sector and move from the current crowding-out model to a crowding-in one.

Although it has been said repeatedly that the inclusion of the business sector in the peacebuilding agenda is paramount for sustainability, we are far from making it a reality. Returning to the government data that I mentioned before about the financing of the implementation of the peace agreement, the overwhelming majority falls on the state, the contribution of the private ones seems to be completely underestimated.

Until now, the business contribution has been limited to tax incentives to invest in the areas most affected by the conflict. These incentives by the way have failed to unleash the participation of the private sector. As many business people claim: these incentives were never even consulted with them.

In Colombia there are a few promising opportunities emerging in the area of social impact investment: 1) Social Impact Bonds promoted between business foundations and the Inter-American Development Bank are generating employment opportunities for vulnerable populations. 2) There are more than 30 investors in the social impact sector which have reported a total of USD 6,7 M in their asset management. 3) International development agencies, as USAID, is currently promoting innovative partnerships in Colombia that involves private actors under the “blended financing model” to transform and create legal opportunities in troubled rural areas.

There are also some promising news related to the private social investment. According to the latest measurement of the private social investment, 66 corporations invested USD$147 million on these matters. Much of this is actually contributing to peacebuilding although not all businesses are aware of it. Of course, scaling-up is critical. There is a great potential to optimize private investment with peace financing: as long as we get actors to effectively address and join capacities and resources to strengthen the peacebuilding and development nexus.

However, there is still much to be done to get actors to work together in order to forge linkages between peace and development financing.

It seems that the pieces of the puzzle are in front of us: there are actors with resources and a rather straightforward complementarity between peace and development financing. The real challenge lies in exercising leadership and building up the willingness among actors to join the pieces.

A Public-Private Pact for Peacebuilding is imperative. Civil society organizations like mine, connected to the private sector, could play a critical role in articulating, and promoting innovative partnerships to ensure sustainable peace.

Kate Thompson
Principal, Deloitte Consulting

Thank you, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My comments will be brief.

As I was introduced, I’m a partner with Deloitte Consulting. I spent the first half of my career as a leader in some of the world’s largest, multinational companies in the world. And I spent the second half of my career figuring out how to apply those market based lessons learned from the private sector to fragile states in post conflict countries in the developing world. That’s what I do for Deloitte. And I wanted to share just a few of the things I’ve learned along the way and some thoughts and questions with you that maybe we can tackle in Q and A time.

The first thought is the private sector count for 90% of the world’s jobs and 60% of global GDP. Some 10% of the world’s public companies generate 80% of all profits. And these are just the financial assets. That’s even before we start to consider the transformative potential of the private
sector’s know how, its ability to innovative, its reach its resources and its ability to scale.

So private sector has far more potential to finance sustainable peace than any other sector. And much to gain in doing so. In fact, like the SDGs, achieving sustainable peace can only with achieved if the private sector opts in, leans in, and leads.

Against that landscape, I have sort of three questions. Why is it that some companies do invest? What motivates them to investment? And what causes some to opt out? And what can we do differently to attract a greater share of the private sector to invest more with greater impact?

Let’s start with what motivates companies to investment. Today’s executives like Richard Branson, they are acutely aware that the strength and attractiveness of their businesses to investors, to stakeholders, to employees, to potential employees — is evaluated on much more than their financial indicators. It’s tied to a commitment to conclusive growth and a mission with purpose that contributes to a greater good.

Millenials, who will make up 80% of the world’s workforce by 2020, are really having an active role in shaping this ethos — which does not mean that profits and profitability are unimportant.

Profit is important. It’s why we want greater private sector participation. Because they have the liquidity and the know how to actually drive economic growth and progress.

We’re also learning that, increasingly, businesses that do the right thing for the right reasons, are more profitable. They attract and retain the best talent. They’ve got the best reputation. This generation of consumers in particular are more loyal and often pay more to companies whose missions they believe in.

Businesses create opportunities to access new markets. They invest in resources and new and diversified value chains. They invest to access new and diverse talent pools, and a plethora of innovations that emerge outside of traditional developed markets. In country after country we’re seeing brilliant solutions to local problems: they are emerging from people with little more than an idea and grit and perseverance, and sometimes a lucky break.

So, what dissuades companies from investing more or at all? Perhaps the most significant barrier is the ability to operate effectively in complex environments they don’t understand, that are rarely fully transparent, and where it’s often very difficult to access and mitigate the risks and the opportunities, which means it’s very hard for private sectors to de risk their investments.

Local partnerships are essential to helping businesses navigate the social, political, and economic labyrinths that exist in every country. Businesses often find it very difficult to coordinate with different stakeholders they need to interact with in order to be successful. They don’t speak the language or understand the culture, both of which are extremely important in creating trusted relationships.

Another barrier: The fourth industrial revolution is changing the nature of work. It’s changing the workforce, the structure of the workforce, the skills needed, and the business models at an incredibly rapid pace. So, whereas most developing countries built their education systems, their own workforce, business models, and their economies on 20th century paradigms, these are quickly growing obsolete, and further widening the gap between the businesses, what businesses need, and what countries have to offer.

Finally, what can we do differently to garner more private sector participation in financing peace? Multilateral and bilateral institutions and donors have very productive roles to navigate as conveners, as guides, helping businesses navigate unfamiliar territory and for their expertise in defining the problems that need to be solved — which the private sector defines as opportunities.

In many respects, bilateral, multilateral institutions are already playing these roles. But their participation is still ad hoc. It’s more ad hoc than it is systematic, and they are still only working with less than 10% of the private sector.

So how do we expand and deepen the private sector participation? A couple of thoughts and I’ll wrap up. First, we have to recognize that involving the private sector doesn’t mean outsourcing the problem to the private sector. It’s a partnership based on comparative advantages. We hear a lot of governments, donors and institutions say, “let’s get the private sector to do that”, when the solution will only come up when each with a partnership that observes and understands what each party comparative advantages are.

Donors and institutions need to understand how the private sector thinks and acts. How do incentives need to be structure to attract investments? What are the barriers that need to be addressed? How do businesses evaluate and mitigate risk?

They need to be engaged with the private sector in ways that the private sector recognizes and is used to responding to. So, they need to be able to say, I have a problem, here is what I want to achieve, here are my constraints... Please find me a solution.

It’s interesting to watch institutions replicate or try to replicate competencies that are better used by leveraging what already existed in the market, what the private sector is already able to do. Whether that is digital identity or using
blockchain or other types of innovations that can solve the kinds of problems that we deal with and grapple with in development every single day.

Donor organizations are uniquely positioned to fuel local entrepreneurship and innovation and to convene the private sector, impact investors, venture capitalists and a growing number of blended finance instruments. But it is the private sector that is going to scale those solutions once they are incubated and bring it to full scale.

If you can add to those types of opportunities and know how, market access, technology upgrades, there’s real opportunity for transformational progress. And finally, there is value in being able to move beyond between the big systemic solutions, whereas creating enabling environments, and smaller, more targeted transactional changes that can have exponential impact.

Examples, dematerializing construction permits in the beginning of a reconstruction operation can help to get vital infrastructure built faster, cheaper, and with far less corruption. Seems at the outset of the reconstruction of Kosovo, the cement factory attracted an investor who rebuilt the factory, the community, the roads and the schools and employed 300 more people than previously, when the cement factory was destroyed.

The private sector has unique, distinct comparative advantage, not only in financing sustainable peace, but in helping to solve many of the problems and challenges that donor organization and institutional organizations grapple with every day. And increasingly, they want to be part of the solution.

I think that the organizations that can figure out how to crack the nut and the terms of engagements between public sector and private sector organizations will be able to unleash unfathomable potential.

And may it be soon.

Thank you.

---

**Ine Eriksen Søreide**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway**

I said that I could speak from my chair just to save some time, and I thought that would be a good idea so more people could have the opportunity to have interventions. And I think the interventions we've heard so far are both very good and very relevant.

When the nature of conflict are changing and becoming more complex, more protracted, we have to change the way that we are working. And I know that that’s easy on say, but now we have a report on the table from the Secretary-General which I think offers some good and substantive ideas on how to do financing. We have momentum when it comes to countries working together in order to push through needed reforms in the field of peacebuilding, and I think that the report that came out from both the UN and the World Bank on how we're spending our resources. We're actually spending less than $1 billion on preventing conflict, and more than $7 billion on repairing when conflict has occurred. I think all these numbers are staggering, and it tells us a story about the need to work in different ways.

That is why we have also waved our very strong support, together with other countries, for some of the ideas that the Secretary-General has in his report of sustaining peace.

I think that some of the issues were mentioned on how to do financing in a better way. For instance, one area of particular interest which I think we should explore is how we can use unutilized life funds for peacekeeping operations. Instead of paying them back to countries, then maybe using them for peacebuilding efforts.

That doesn't mean that we have to spend more money; we just have to spend the money we've already allocated in a different way, in order to sustain peace and hopefully prevent new wars and new conflicts from breaking out.

We have a lot of good proposals on the table. I hope all member countries will discuss in an open mind and open
Norway and Indonesia have taken a role to move this agenda forward. We have, from Norway’s side, very good experiences with the Peacebuilding Fund. That’s also why we are one of the biggest donors, and we’re increasing our donations this year, because we see that many of the funding channels for the UN is now working very well. We see that the Central Emergency Response Fund in the same manner is able to react quickly, and to respond to the different crisis that we see.

Lastly, I just want to pick up on one thing that has been mentioned also on the panel. The need to involve and engage also women and young people.

If you don’t do that, we can talk about funding of peace efforts as much as we like. It won’t help us.

And we see from practical experience, and I can mention Colombia as one country where we see that this has happened. When you engage civil society, women, young people, the chances of sustaining peace for a longer time, making development a part of the agenda is so much bigger than if you exclude.

That is also why Norway has taken the initiative — and I had a wonderful collection of female peace mediators in Oslo just about a month ago — trying to establish a global network of women mediators. We have a lot of regional networks and we’ve been learning from South Africa, which plays one of the first ones, up and running.

We see that has a chance of succeeding. The Secretary-General in his on mediators’ panel with 9 women and 9 men is a good example of follow. And I would just like to end with what Bowie said when she took the stage. She said, “women are not the observers to conflict, why should we be the mediators of peace?”

With that, I conclude my remarks.

Thank you.
3. Enable more resilient and diverse funding streams. Adopt an integrated approach to financing for peace, development, humanitarian response and climate change, help lower private-sector risk and facilitate the expanded use of appropriate financial instruments, including insurance and impact bonds, in investing in conflict contexts and fragile settings.

Scofield Muliru
Scofield Associates

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN and the President of the General Assembly, for the invitation to this forum.

The presentation borrows from the Business 4 Peace (B4P) model with the argument that better engagement processes provide for a paradigm shift requiring the "whole society's" inclusiveness for the success of sustainable peacebuilding.

We agree that; just and inclusive societies provide a stable foundation for businesses to succeed. While under-development provides fertile ground for recurrence of conflict, the participation of business in the political economy of conflict creates and exacerbates it in fragile environments.

Bearing in mind the developmental prisms of engagement for peace; does "corporate peace, therefore, mean social peace? What about scenarios where the dominant assumption of peaceful coexistence based on established structures of governance and mechanisms of democratization, promotion of the rule of law and free markets; in fragile states, is quashed by the profit-oriented role as critical mandate of businesses? What are the avenues for the UN to monitor and ensure commitment to the Business for Peace tenets? To respond to these questions, I provide four recommendations for a mutually supportive and sustainable peace vs. development process;

1. Drafting of unitary global Development Social Responsibility and Corporate Social Responsibility Frameworks for Peacebuilding (DSR & CSR-FP) that align to target the nation state's needs for the different businesses to operate and for development to occur in an accountable manner.

2. Facilitation of grass-root business engagement processes that provide accountability and commitment through role definition, inclusivity and expertise on early warning signs, to prevent conflict; especially in non-extractive industry, that provides for GDP contributions of upwards of 60% in fragile states. This process will be sustainable, cheaper and also build resilience by focusing on what works in the different contexts.

3. Development of a sustainable and mutually beneficial Peace-Code focusing on the advancement of peacebuilding needs assessment and definitions of a code of ethics that provides the UN with a coordination mechanism and a leading role in the process; under SDG 16.

4. Finally, formulation of research on various business dynamics, and creation of feedback loops that assist the UN's PBC and the various actors to respond, based on the context-specific needs in fragile environments, as an avenue of dealing with the Washington consensus that did not respond to different contexts of conflict, the priorities of microfinance of trade over aid and, the benefits to the local communities.
Najat Rochdi
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Thank you, Madame Chair,

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for giving a voice to the field and providing us with the opportunity to also have a reading of how we should better work and improve from the field perspective. I would like also to thank you participants who are still here after a long day, and I think this is demonstrating your interest in how the UN can better work and better address sustaining peace.

As other people have said, I’m the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Central African Republic, and in my statement, I’m going to stress how in the Central African Republic, the UN system with the partners have translated — in very specific terms — the best way to have a greater impact. Many things were said this morning about the need for greater coordination, the need for a greater integration, and it’s crucial and it saves lives, in fact, to be able to work together as a peacekeeping mission, as development actors, as humanitarian actor, as security actors, and as actors for recovery. Quite simply, because peacekeeping is an entire cycle. We build peace. We maintain it, preserve it at different levels in the life cycle of peacekeeping.

And at each of these phases of the cycle, there’s a need for different actors. Peace doesn’t begin easily, nor does it end easily. Any country of peace in the world has to make sure that peace is sustainable, that social peace is sustainable, that people would be safe.

So even countries where there’s no conflict, the concern for maintaining stability, security, social peace, and social justice, that basic concern is shared by everyone. That is the first point.

The second point that is crucial, it’s important that in this approach, that it’s very clear and very essential in the report of the Secretary General, it’s that any action, any step, any strategy that is implemented in order to sustain peace must not be a strategy or approach or actions which are dictated by others.

It’s listening to a community. It’s listening to member states. It’s following the vision of the government’s concern and involves our support. Our role as United Nations is not to replace anybody. Our role as United Nations is to support countries and the vision that they have chosen and the priorities that they have chosen in order to respond to a very clear need from their people, from their community, and from their citizens.

And that is crucial.

As the United Nations, we also have a unique role to play to truly connect the dots and to bring everyone around the table. Because sustaining peace, building peace, and maintaining peace is not the monopoly of the United Nations. And no organization alone today can be able to claim to keep the peace alone. Accompanying governments in the implementation also means a major change in mentality and the end of silo efforts where everyone works in his own little space. Whether a UN agency, whether a technical partner, whether a financial partner, political partner or bilateral partner, whether you’re a multilateral agency, whether a regional organization, we’re all in the same scenario, which is to preserve the dignity of citizens who have suffered so much from the different conflicts and who have been wounded by the impact of a certain number of conflict. This is created, we have work frameworks for that, we have tools for that, and nothing prevents us from doing that. Apart of course, the will of each one of us to truly work together.

In the Central African Republic, this began with a tripartite work between the European Union, the UN, and the World Bank with the accompaniment of the government in defining their vision and the strategy for recovery and for peacebuilding — the RCPCA plan.

Now this strategy is very clear fashion, the priorities of the country, to avoid the repetitive cycle of conflicts, and to enter into a cycle of building a sustainable peace. That was not only done from a security point of view. Of course, security is very important. And of course, we have to prevent people from killing each other, but that’s not enough. You have to provide elements and you have to provide specific results of what the peace dividends can be.

People I met on the ground, whenever I met men and women, and I asked the question, the parents said, “I
want my children to go to school and that they can dream of a better future”. Many were saying, “We want justice, because we want to stop believing that the only way for us to have vengeance is by taking up weapons and bringing justice with our own hands”. Others said “Well, the peace dividends change also seeing the state authority, which is there, and which is not completely absent, and which represents those taking control of the territory and taking over the institutions once again”.

Those are the fundamental elements and each of the components that I spoke about calls for different actors, and in some cases developing agencies, in other cases, the peacekeeping mission, and in other cases, the World Bank. And so, it’s crucial that there be this common analysis, that there is this collective planning. Because when a country finds itself trying to bring together all of the available resources, all of the different assistance and expertise which are available, it’s crucial to also have a common understanding and to have common objectives, and those objectives are the objectives involved in peacekeeping.

It is also crucial that regional organizations intervene. They have to intervene because very often many conflicts that we see involvement several regional actors. Very often a sustaining peace or peacekeeping does not depend on national actors but they also call in a certain number of neighboring countries, and from that point of view, regional organizations are crucial, which it comes to effectively making a positive contribution to this peacekeeping. And lastly, of course the role of women and young people — that goes without saying. But it’s especially the role of local communities. We have to listen to them.

I learned many things from the best way to address certain priorities to providing solutions which were not necessarily in our usual reasoning that we have to present programs but which were very simple and immediately responded to the needs of the community.

And I would like to conclude with a quote. You know that Saint Exupery was a visionary, and he said that the future was only the present which needs to be put into order. It is not enough to predict the future, but to pave its way.

The report of the Secretary General shows us how we can do better to keep peace and to sustain peace. But it is the collective responsibility. It is the responsibility of all member states, the responsibility of donors, and our responsibilities as the United Nations to allow this future, and to pave its way.

But precisely because there are so many issues on the UN’s plate at the moment, there is all the more need to make effective use of regional arrangements.

With that in mind, let me (briefly) highlight five areas where I think the OSCE can contribute most effectively to the UN’s work on building and sustaining peace in the field.

First, conflict prevention. The OSCE has a proven track record in conflict prevention. Over the past 25 years, we have developed a well-equipped tool box of institutions and mechanisms for early warning and early action. These include the High Commissioner on National Minorities, fact-finding missions, and the preventive diplomacy of our field operations, for example in the Balkans.

Second, conflict settlement. Article 52 of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter encourages regional arrangements (like the OSCE) to develop the pacific settlement of local disputes.

Thomas Greminger
Secretary-General, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Madame Moderator, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am delighted to be here today. I wish to thank President Lajčák for the invitation.

Secretary-General Guterres has rightly called for a “surge in diplomacy for peace”. I am fully behind his effort to put prevention and peacebuilding front and center.

I think we are all too aware of the current challenges to international peace and security. So, I will not dwell on them.

But precisely because there are so many issues on the UN’s plate at the moment, there is all the more need to make effective use of regional arrangements.

With that in mind, let me (briefly) highlight five areas where I think the OSCE can contribute most effectively to the UN’s work on building and sustaining peace in the field.

First, conflict prevention. The OSCE has a proven track record in conflict prevention. Over the past 25 years, we have developed a well-equipped tool box of institutions and mechanisms for early warning and early action. These include the High Commissioner on National Minorities, fact-finding missions, and the preventive diplomacy of our field operations, for example in the Balkans.

Second, conflict settlement. Article 52 of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter encourages regional arrangements (like the OSCE) to develop the pacific settlement of local disputes.
This we do through the “5+2” format dealing with the Transdniestrian settlement process, the Minsk process on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and (together with the EU and the UN) in the Geneva International Discussions on the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The OSCE also chairs the Trilateral Contact Group which is seeking a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in certain regions of eastern Ukraine. These are some good examples of joint regional action. Hopefully the OSCE’s efforts can take some pressure off the Security Council.

Third, building and sustaining peace in the field. The OSCE’s 16 field operations in Eastern Europe, South East Europe and Central Asia are among our strongest peacebuilding tools. Our biggest and most high-profile mission at the moment is the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. It is comprised of close to 800 civilian observers from more than 40 countries, working in a hostile environment to monitor the cease-fire. The Mission has benefitted from specialized UN expertise and advice on the use of technical means such as satellite pictures, use of UAVs, cameras and other technical means. There is scope for further cooperation, not least if the UN were to deploy a peace operation in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

This kind of partnership is not entirely new. Take for example UN-OSCE cooperation in Kosovo. Linked to Security Council Resolution 1244, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo was established as a distinct but constituent component within UNMIK. It had a clear lead in establishing key democratic institutions such as the Kosovo Judicial Institute, the Central Election Commission, the Ombudsperson, and the Kosovo Police Service School. It continues to play an active role today.

Fourth, structural prevention. In the spirit of SDG 16, the OSCE promotes peace, justice and strong institutions. The OSCE’s Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights helps states to enhance their national capacity to protect fundamental freedoms, uphold the rule of law, and enact good governance. OSCE field activities help foster robust democratic institutions, facilitate dialogue and reconciliation processes, strengthen people-to-people contacts, and promote tolerance and non-discrimination. In our field work, we strive to make sure that conflict resolution strategies take into account areas where civil-society actors and “peace constituents”, including women, youth, and faith-based groups, may best contribute possible solutions through localized approaches. Experience shows that such an inclusive approach is vital for sustaining peace.

My fifth and final point is partnerships. The OSCE is a cooperative inter-state organization. In the long term, the work of our executive structures can only be successful with the buy-in of the states involved. That is why it is important for our field activities to have good relations with the host countries.

But there are other constituencies as well, like parliamentarians and civil society.

Furthermore, the OSCE seldom acts alone. There are usually several other international actors on the ground. Which is why partnerships in the field are vital.

And speaking of partnership, we hope to further strengthen our cooperation with the UN in the areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace which are core activities of the OSCE and where, I believe, we have significant experience, unique institutions and operations, and added value.

Thank you for your attention.

Rosa Otunbayeva
Former President of Kyrgyzstan and Member of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Board on Mediation

Thank you very much.

In the past quarter century of independence, the young states of Eurasia, we’ve been traveling a path full of complicated challenges. We have been building our young states, implementing market economies, opening up the world, democratizing our societies, creating new systems of political governance. And resisting the radicalization of religion which is actively filling the hearts and minds of people after so many years of repression.

In central Asia, region of 70 million people, warm winds have been blowing recently. Leaders of our countries have been creating a favorable climate for the resolution of entrenched problems, war demarcations between countries, management of water and energy. They strive to set
up a single economic, political, and cultural space where people can trade, communicate, and move freely around.

I’m sure that the creation of a Central Asian identity would become a powerful tool for the prevention of conflicts in the region. The region still suffers from unequal access to distribution of economic and natural resources. Unemployment is rampant, especially among the youth who is to become easy prey for extremist religious groups.

I'm happy to learn that the World Bank has begun important systematic research into the phenomenon of violent extremism in Central Asia. Such knowledge is important and necessary for us. I also call the World Bank Group to pay close attention to the cultural practices of communities in peacebuilding. I do believe that culture matters in development, as well as in sustaining peace.

When conflict broke out in my country in the spring of 2010, the whole world came to help us. UN’s role is irreplaceable. Nobody can replace the United Nations. United Nations holds its efficient secret weapon, which is resources of their peacebuilding fund.

This conflict shook all the UN agencies represented in the country, brought them together, forced them to reexamine the work, determine all of the resources and potential in the interest of solving problems. This crisis began the restructuring of the UN’s organizational system in my country.

Kyrghyzstan’s experience shows positive examples of what it means to effectively build peace, eight years on from a major act of violence. However, we do realize that sustaining peace is an evolutionary development that builds upon the carts of progress.

Conflict in my country has a cyclical nature, unfortunately. It took place in the 1970s, then it was repeated in 1990, and again in 2010. We must at last address the structural roots of conflict. We badly need steady financial support for prevention.

Altogether, during the last 7 years, the UN’s agencies, funds and programs, along with local partners have implemented projects worth $40 million. This money is little when we analyze the situation in the world.

There are so many numbers vis à vis to peacebuilding, however much money is spent on the military expenses.

And I only give one number. Nearly $15 billion spent in peacebuilding, peacekeeping each year, while global military spending sits at $5.6 trillion.

So, in other words, we live in a world in which we are prepared to wage war rather than promote peace.

To achieve our long term objectives, so we need multi year predictable funding. Our hope, as well as the hope of many countries prone to crisis, is that the donor community support Secretary General’s call to increase the peacebuilding funding sources up to $500 million annually. And I’m pleased to hear this morning at the General Assembly session that a lot of countries have supported this call.

And I very much hope that countries, members of the United Nations, will share this vision, not only in words but also in true deeds, specifically the administrative and budgetary committee.

During this crisis, we saw also witnesses of the humanitarian crises that are introduced when conflicts break out. Humanitarian crisis was declared by my government and, under the direction of OCHA, UN Country teams were transformed into humanitarian clusters, focusing on food, shelter and sanitation.

But UN country teams are not prepared for this. Never ending streams of visitors and high level missions from headquarters, destructed the UN Senior management in the field.

I agree with the idea of giving more weight to the country offices and regional coordinators. Specifically, in their efforts of helping counteract root causes of conflicts on a country level, and playing leading coordination of role for peace and in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Position of relatively new peace development advisor also is a big help. I want to say a word about the UN regional center for preventative diplomacy, which played an important role in the resolution of the crisis and peacebuilding in 2010, in my country.

However, in my opinion, it has great untapped potential. It is too conservative on its work and it lacks mobility, innovation, and creativity. It reacts weakly to emerging issues.

In the last decade, it has only worked on two subjects: water and terrorism. But even in this second area, it is time to move on to the aspect of violent extremism and new methods of preventing it. Technology, the internet, big data, and sure, I want to say one word about the role of women.

Women in our part of the world live still in quite traditional hierarchical society, although urbanization, migration — internal and external — is quite intensive. And women’s words are starting to be heard publicly, and their status has changed. Nevertheless, I understand that escalation of women in the public arena is still very limited, and see them around the table, decision making table, is still quite difficult.

I support Secretary General’s emphasis on the need to increase the role of women and ethnic minorities in
decision making, but we should stay on the position that this is not yet the situation in the places.

Secretary-General has spoken about the role of the OSCE. In our part of the world, OSCE has a rich potential and experience, and we should work together, OSCE and the UN, wherever it be.

Thank you.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General, Peacekeeping Operations

Thank you very much, and it’s good to be here with you and particularly good to be in that panel chaired by you with such a great experience in peacekeeping.

And the issue today, the connection between peacekeeping is building, sustaining peace is really relevant to what we’re trying to do, and particularly relevant to the question of the durability of what we do in the field, the empowerment of national authorities, the scope of the mandate, the issue of partnership and so on and so forth.

But let me start briefly to by saying a few words on what we’re trying to do. First of all, do better, which is a key condition to then address the broader perspective of interacting with the challenge of peacebuilding, sustaining peace, and how we go about on these fronts.

Very briefly, the initiative that we’ve taken here are three different natures. The first one, which is the sort of less strategic one, is improving our performance. It’s generated by a report on reducing the number of fatalities, the Cruz report, but what the Cruise report says and the action plan that follows this said and talked about and addressed are most of the key issues that had to do with performance.

In other words, making sure that we implement our rules in the field, making sure that we have the right training, that we have the right leadership, and that we assess performance, and we have accountability for performance issues, issues of equipment, and issue of how we deal with basically our own protection, including after incidents.

I think it’s particularly important to insist on the fact that by better protecting yourself, we do better protect the population we serve.

So that’s #1.

#2, are the so called strategic reviews, what are indefinitely led now, and I think it’s important to highlight the connection between the topic we’re addressing today and the strategic reviews, because one of the key objectives of these review is to take a bold look at the political objectives on the given situation and to access whether the mandate fits within these objectives, and also with relation to what the other entities both within the system and outside the system could do, and of course take a look at the effectiveness in which we implement our mandates.

And I think this strategic review, you have to do also with need to make sure that the peacekeeping operation and the mandate should evolve over time, and of course the evolution of peacekeeping operation, and that mandate very much have to do with the the political space we have, and also the security space that we have to engage more on peacebuilding and activities related to sustaining peace.

And the third initiative still related to improving the way we do things is the so called it’s the umbrella initiative. In other words, the focal action for peacekeeping initiative which covers the two lesser initiatives that I refer to.

But they’re about telling the states what we’re doing and also engaging them to support us in this capacity of as political actors, as financial and true and contributing countries, and also has potential partners, members of a region or sub-regional organization, and really, the message is that we won’t be able to achieve what we’re trying to achieve without the political support and the active engagement of member states. And as you know, we’re aiming to highlight this on the occasion of next opening session in September, and we’re looking at many states as possible to set up a practical engagement and commitment for the peacekeeping operation and improvement.

Now turning to a more statistic role and articulation between peacekeeping operation and sustaining peace and building a durable outcome, I think there are a couple of areas that I think we can highlight briefly.

First of all, it’s the role of peacekeeping in supporting national efforts and building national and local institutions. And this role is basically and the amount, the scope of
what can be done by a peacekeeping operation are predicated on the political space that we have, and also the security conditions. But at the same time, it’s a key role for peacekeeping and it would just highlight in the support of national efforts, what we do in terms of electoral assistance, which we did in Central African Republic, and the DRC and prepare to do again, the engagement at local level with local communities and mediators as part of our role to diffuse local tension, which is a very important and not so well-known role of our peace keepers. And within that, our role in interacting with the local community, one, the role of women is highlighted. It’s important to have more female in peacekeeping, in that role. But more specifically, the role of peacekeeping in building institutions, particularly the key institution of a state is really one of the key priorities. I think beyond the support of political process and the protection of civilians, as much as we can do support to institution building, the better.

There are some peacekeeping operation where we have no political space to do that. Because in addition to security conditions, adequate security conditions to do that, we also need to have the support and cooperation of the state, which we have to a different degree peacekeeping operation. But at the same time, whether we can do that, we’ve we do, I would say the example of the role that security sector reform played in Liberia and Cote d’Ivoire, the efforts that we’re making today in the Central African Republic, and the context. Gradually supports the return of Central African armed forces and security forces to the Central African territory, and the support that we continue to bring to the FARDC armed forces in the NABRC.

Same goes for police and corrections, by the way, we have innovative mechanism that brings together the different players in the UN system, which is the global focal point for justice, police, and corrections.

And then last but not least, the role that we play in supporting the initiation of more development and peacebuilding related projects via the use of path project, or the like of the CDR, the community violation reduction project, which are not an end in themselves, but a way of initiating local peace and opening the door to other players in the area of peacebuilding.

Now, my last words would be to say that we have developed a very strong coordination and relation with the peacebuilding commission and the peacebuilding fund, and they have been very useful in supporting a number of key projects, and then again, using the occasion of analyticity, I would of President Najat, the Central African Republic, I would the peacebuilding, national recovery and peacebuilding plan, and I do agree that the peacebuilding fund should be strengthened, and this would really help us not only in carrying out more of these projects, but also in helping in the transition from peacekeeping to the form of UN present, which is clearly an area where we still have shortcomings. I will end by highlighting the importance of partnership in that context. The partnership with the other UN entities and the importance of, as Najat said, not to the importance of furthering the partnership with regional players, influential member states, but also and more specifically, regional organizations. We’ll stop there, and I thank you for your attention.

Saraswathi Menon
Member of the Advisory Group of Experts for the report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

I am very grateful to the Office of the President of the General Assembly for giving me this opportunity to share some thoughts on how the UN’s work in the field can be strengthened. As we meet, far too many, women, men and children have no guarantee of leading normal lives and are under continual threat of violence, dislocation and trauma. As an international community we are not doing well. We have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals and set lofty targets for the world including the universality of peace but we are not yet living that reality. To many a life without violence, discrimination and inequality seem to be unreachable.

I was a member of the Advisory Group of Experts or AGE who reviewed the UN peace building architecture in 2015 and so despite having served many years in the UN, I hope I can contribute to this meeting with an independent voice. Since we submitted our report we have had two new resolutions in the General Assembly and the Security Council and the first steps towards UN reform are being taken by the new Secretary General. So, there is movement at the
normative level and at the organizational bureaucratic level. But please allow me to underline three framing concerns that the AGE had in the context of strengthening the United Nations in the field.

First, we do need to talk about sustaining peace and not just peace building. The term is important because it draws attention to issues well beyond building and restoring peace after a violent conflict. It is because we took this standpoint that the AGE chose the term sustaining peace. We understood sustaining peace as much more than the absence of conflict or the settlement of conflict. Sustaining peace allows people to lead the lives they choose, in harmony with others. People don't begin life after a conflict ends. People live before, during and after a conflict. And people live with conflict in their daily lives. Different opinions and perspectives are healthy and make a society vibrant. It is only when it spills over into violence that it threatens the fabric of society. If the UN is to promote sustainable peace it must engage throughout people's lives.

This requires a continuous cycle of commitment from the inter-governamental, political UN and the UN organizational system that spans human rights, development and peace and security. Sustaining peace means tackling root causes to prevent conflict, including inequality, discrimination and deprivation; building resilient national capacity and institutions, not just in government; promoting non-violent approaches to resolving conflict and perceived differences; and ensuring that the voices of those who suffer deprivation and discrimination are heard. And all this not just during and after a conflict but throughout the engagement of the UN with a country and its people.

In our review we found that one of the key barriers to the UN's effectiveness to serve people and their countries is fragmentation at all levels — at the inter-governamental level, at the level of the UN system of organizations, agencies, funds and programmes, and in the connections between the UN and the wider world. The divisions within the UN make it difficult for its institutions to address the long term, multi-dimensional aspects of sustaining peace. We do see some positive changes in the way of working of the Peacebuilding Commission. But the emphasis is still largely on the eve or immediately after a conflict. We see proposals to revamp the Peacebuilding Fund and to provide assured funding from operational peacekeeping funds to peace building. Both were important recommendations in our report but in the main they deal with post conflict situations. We do see stronger linkages between peace building support, development coordination and the political offices of the UN in the recent rearrangements of functions. This integration is welcome but it does not necessarily address, and without safeguards could complicate, the effectiveness of a neutral UN development system in contributing to sustaining peace.

The sea change will have to come with a different way of working at the country level throughout the UN's engagement. In our report we talked of the need for the UN in the field to have different capacities. This would include being able to analyze potential root causes of conflict, to understand and appreciate local ways of tackling conflict, to be more responsive to a wider array of national actors, to play fully the role of concerned advisor to the government without any taint of carrying the political brief of one or the other external actor and so on.

The sea change will come when the commitment of inter-governmental bodies that guide the work of the UN in the field, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the governing bodies of specialized agencies, funds and programmes prioritize addressing root causes of conflict in the UN's work. The sea change will come when operational arrangements are implemented that integrate functions, as in the few cases we saw of an Executive Representative of the Secretary General, not because of decisions in New York, but because this integration actually addresses priorities on the ground. The sea change will come when sustaining peace is not just part of an external evaluation but an integral part of the UN systems own review of its work, which is why we recommended that this be a standing agenda item for the Chief Executives Board that the Secretary-General chairs.

Second, primacy for achieving sustainable peace rests on the ground. It lies with countries and their leaders at all levels of society. At the end of the day it is only national institutions that can truly sustain peace. Sustaining peace is not possible without national ownership in its broadest sense — including all groups in society, however divergent their views.

The support of the international community is key particularly in vulnerable situations. I think it is important to make a clear distinction between national and international institutions when we talk of civil society, the private sector or financing institutions. The international community can provide platforms for political negotiation, provide support in situations of economic fragility and help to create a climate of peace. Too often the engagement of outside forces is negative — they preempt national action and deplete national capacity. They may supply arms, foment unrest and control governance. We see cases of occupation in the name of the lack of capacity of a weak state or even unilateral military action in the name of protecting people. It is what happens beyond the UN that is the real context and driver of sustainable peace.
Real change will happen when the UN in the field works in a way that fosters national ownership, gives voice to the marginalized and respects the pace of national transformation. This is not always easy but we saw a wonderful example of this when we went to Timor Leste during our review. We were told that the UN in the early days provided the space for the building of national capacity by managing governance in tandem with national authorities. We saw the exemplary role of national leaders, including examples where national leaders took decisions that sometimes went against international advice but in the end worked much better. Timor Leste is still a poor country but it is a country that is solving its own problems. Surely that is central to sustaining peace.

Real change will come when the UN’s engagement with conflict affected countries and their partners, especially neighbors and regional organizations, is that of an honest broker always willing to promote the positive and expose the negative. Encouraging good partnerships by setting standards could be a key contribution. There have been cases where the UN has been silent or worse still a handmaiden of power play by outsiders. As the conscience of the world, the UN has to speak out.

Third, and finally, violent conflict springs from real or perceived inequalities, discrimination and deprivation. Upholding universal human rights as an integral part of development and peace building efforts is, therefore, essential to sustaining peace.

In our review we found that this is one of the most difficult challenges because of the global context of conflict. Today the politics of exclusion is a key driver of violent conflict. Unequal access to productive assets, such as land and water, foster conflict. Often one or the other set of ethnic, religious, or tribal interests dominate. Minorities are oppressed, scapegoated or violently targeted. Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, caste, gender or other social divisions exist in all societies. But they do not always spill over into violent conflict.

Transformation to real peace will only be possible when the UN in the field supports national actors to surface and act on these inequalities and nationally specific forms of discrimination. This is a potential minefield and requires a UN in the field that is unquestionably unbiased and prepared to work in the long term with national partners to promote voice, governance and shared vision. A short-term Band-Aid approach after a conflict will not work. Tackling unequal access and discrimination to prevent violent conflict requires reaching reconciliation and sustaining peace through broad and inclusive participation, involving state and civil society stakeholders all the way down to the grass roots level. There are huge dividends when the UN partners and supports action for equality.

Let me give you just one example — women’s leadership and gender equality. Why is it important that the UN understand and work towards gender equality? Women experience conflict differently. Conflict increases the tolerance of violence in society and this leads to the increased prevalence of sexual and gender based violence. The burden of unpaid care work falls primarily on women in all societies, but for poor women in conflict torn societies fetching firewood or water becomes dangerous and not just onerous. Importantly, women have responded differently to conflict. They have organized for peace in conflict situations across Africa, Central Asia, South Asia and Latin America. We saw the results when we went to Sierra Leone during our review. Yet women are not sufficiently engaged in formal peace processes or peace building. So prioritizing gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s leadership goes to the heart of preventing conflict, looking at peace from the long-term perspective of people and sustaining a peace underpinned by human rights and development.

Thank you very much.

Marcel Amon-Tanoh
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Côte d’Ivoire

Good afternoon,
I’d like to thank you for this opportunity to share Côte d’Ivoire’s major achievements in terms of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I’d also like to welcome and commend the multifaceted support that the United Nations has provided to my government’s efforts towards stability and peace.

After more than nearly a decade of crises from 1999 to 2010 and after the crisis at the end of 2010 through April 2011, approximately, Côte d’Ivoire has firmly stepped onto the
path of progress and peacebuilding, thanks to the excellent collaboration progressively established itself between the government of Cote d’Ivoire and the United Nations operation in Cote d’Ivoire.

That’s been in resolution which wins the foundations for peace. More broadly as part of the its priorities in the area of emerging from crisis and peacebuilding, the government has taken ownership of the key pillars defined in security council resolutions that established the mandate of the United Nations operation in Cote d’Ivoire. These priorities which are shared by the international community involved in the framework of the peacebuilding fund, these priorities have allowed to implement our priority action plan for peacebuilding, which have been funded by 30 million US dollars.

And this built on domestic efforts of the government in areas of social cohesion, normalizing political life, and security.

As part of this framework, the government of Cote d’Ivoire has implemented a number of programs and initiatives and thanks to its determination has been able to restore state authority and security on the entirety of our country’s territory, as well as accelerate and make irreversible national reconciliation and social cohesion, as well as successfully complete DDR and security sector reform promote rule of law and human rights, and all of this allowed the state institutions to return to normal see, in particular through the reestablishment of the administration, redeployment of security forces and the quick organization almost within Constitutional deadlines of elections, Presidential, legislative, local elections, and this is a symbol of the strengthening of democracy and inclusivity in our life. I would like to highlight major achievements of the government that have been made possible by an unprecedented commitment of national resources.

For instance, our DDR program which was completely in only three years from 2012 to 2015 and thanks to the state taking over and contributing more than 70% of the cost of this program, we were able to reinsert more than 70,000 ex-combatants, a complex security sector reform process has been carried out, transforming the security sector in all its aspects, and an inclusive policy of reparations for victims, the establishment of key bodies, national reconciliation, for instance, the national truth and reconciliation commission.

As well as the establishment by the President of a presidential emergency program, which has allowed to finance important basic social infrastructure in remote areas to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable populations. The justice sector has not been forgotten. It’s been strengthened, human rights have been strengthened and good governance has been made a government priority.

UNOC and the entirety of the United Nations System have been close partners throughout this process, for instance, in the area of promoting social cohesion, maintaining political dialogue, and supporting rural communities.

The United Nations helped my country to build peace after the crisis. Today after the conclusion of UNOC, my country is firmly committed to sustaining peace through the positive impact of its economic development, and the results speak for themselves here. 95% of refugees have returned to Cote d’Ivoire. The security section is satisfactory. The government continues to improve. Institutions are stable and are becoming strengthened with every day. The economy is solid and generates employment opportunities for youth and the vulnerable and has an annual growth rate of 8% to 9% since 2012.

To conclude, the experience of Cote d’Ivoire in peacebuilding and sustaining peace should be continued and should be strengthened. It shows it’s possible to build a lasting peace with full respect for democracy and human rights even after a serious crisis.

All the efforts undertaken as part of the effort by our government show my country’s determination to achieve sustainable peace which is a precondition to human and economic development.

I hope that my statement through the several illustrations I’ve operated provided has been able to highlight the major steps forward that we have been able to make as part of a broad program of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I hope that in the future, I will be able to share more details with you and participate in a mutually enriching exchange.

I thank you.
Dănuț Sebastian Neculăescu
State Secretary for Regional Affairs and Multilateral Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Thank you, Madame Moderator,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The twin resolutions recognize the critical role of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated, intergovernmental advisor body. It’s also meant to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts in support of country led efforts to build peaceful and resilient societies.

The Peacebuilding Commission has an important bridging role to play in this respect.

The report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, requested by the resolutions highlights the unique role of the Commission as a key platform and form to enhance intergovernmental coherence between the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.

It underscores that coherence and complementary among the principal organs of the United Nations with respect to their mandates, including the governing bodies of the UN entities are critical.

Three important elements of the work of the Commission in sustaining peace in the field.

First, the commission has embraced the intention of the joint resolutions over the past two years, diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This new orientation of the Commission has enabled it to work better in support of national processes, mission transitions, and cross border and regional issues, across contexts and at the invitation and with the consent of the countries concerned such as the Great Lakes, the Sahel, Colombia, Burkina Faso, the Solomon Islands, the Gambia, Sri Lanka, and Kyrgyzstan. This is in parallel to its long-term engagement in countries as Burundi, Sierra Leone, CAR, Liberia and Guinea Bissau.

This engagement has served to underline the importance of lessons sharing across diverse contexts. While recognizing that each case is unique, recent discussions at PBC have demonstrated that the lessons learned from one country can benefit others.

Our discussion on Sri Lanka in late 2017 last year was also an opportunity for the Colombian delegate to underscore the similarities between the two, and the value of sharing lessons.

The Commission has advanced discussion on important thematic issues for peacebuilding, including in relation to national ownership, youth, financing, and institution building, as well as gender, including through the continued implementation of its gender strategy adopted in 2016.

Second. Let me underscore the important role of the Commission in strengthening partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Peacebuilding Commission plays the unique role in strengthening coherence within the UN and in fostering partnerships with other actors. Notably, in the past two years as the priority, the Commission has strengthened its collaboration with international financial institutions, regional organizations, and where relevant, the private sector and civil society. These partnerships are a core component of discussions are critical to supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace on the ground.

In the Sahel, for example, the Security Council has emphasized the importance of the convening role of the Commission in peacebuilding efforts, and thus in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN system, the countries in the Sahel, and other regional and international partners with a view of supporting UNOWAS in advancing the implementation of the UN integrated strategy for Sahel.

Similarly, the Central African Republic configuration of the PBC has identified the UN-World Bank relationship in the field as one of the priority areas.

This brings me to the final point, that of the imperative of coherence and bridging. The Commission brings together members of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and ECOSOC as well as the top troop and financial contributors to the UN System.

The Commission serves as a bridge for the work done across relevant principal organs. We are seeking to
harness the different perspectives that the members of the Commission can bring in representing the organs and categories of the countries they represent and we can build on this to achieve even greater impact in the future.

The challenges in the context such as the Sahel are complex and multidimensional. Political and security dimensions but also humanitarian and development dimensions. Our support must be integrated and coherent to produce effective and long-term results.

In Liberia, the Commission has provided assistance to the Security Council in the formation and transition of a peacekeeping operation mandate and development of a national peacebuilding plan.

Since the adoption. Resolution 2333 of 23 of December 2016, the Commission worked closely with the government of Liberia and the UN System to support a smooth transition process.

Since that time, the PBC has also convened discussions on the mapping of capacity need in view of peacebuilding priorities following the departure of UNMIL.

The PBC stands ready to provide continued support, if needed, to Liberia in the development of its new national development agenda, incorporating also its peacebuilding priorities. This is assistance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in practice and a good example of the kind of role the Commission could play with respect to other countries or regional situations if and when called upon by the General Assembly and Security Council, in accordance with its mandate role.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking forward, the Peacebuilding Commission stands ready in support of the continued realization of the resolution on the peacebuilding architecture, and is envisaged by the newly adopted resolution to follow up on the report of the Secretary-General of peacebuilding and sustaining peace to further discuss the options and recommendations it contains.

Thank you very much.

Vasu Gounden
Executive Director, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

Thank you very much.

I’ve been involved with conflict for over 35 years. The first 10 years as a protagonist in a conflict through a liberation war in South Africa. The other 25 years, working with the African Union, the United Nations, and regional organizations.

So where are we today? The theater of conflict is shifted to urban areas and the reason for that is because of exponential population growth, rapid urbanization and climate change. This will proliferate conflict in the world increasing very rapidly.

The second point, the ability of governments to respond will diminish.

Thirdly, the ability of the UN will increasingly be limited by the doctrine of sovereignty.

Fourthly, the solution will lie in the capacity of local actors so the United Nations will have partners in addition to governments to complement its effort to deal with poverty, inequality and unemployment while mitigating conflict through local mediation, reconciliation and building social cohesion.

Finally, to build resilience and sustainability in countries the UN must also build its own resilience and sustainability, and, let me just say, ironically, that the entire day we have spent today and I’m sure we will spend tomorrow at the UN and the global community, talking about a peacebuilding and how to improve the UN’s capacity and the main focus has been in building local capacities. And as a young gentleman sitting next to me here who is doing exactly that, and he’s given less than 30 seconds while there have been many other speeches here today. So, I’m going to yield to him now.

Thank you.
Colombia has lived the scourge of war, but is starting to live the peace today thanks to organizations such as the UN.

Challenge to strengthen the UN work on Peacebuilding is on make close the UN beyond the institutional structure and one step is considering the people not just recipients but also agents of change, stakeholders, recognizing their role as full citizens; and there are to main essential players: young people and civil society, using a special tool, the volunteerism.

Make volunteers to the people, especially the youth, in the projects, activities or programs led by the UN in the field, allow a multiplier effect in terms of generational and sectoral impact.

Young people are creative, innovators, proactive, dreamers, we have a lot energy and ideas to join effort for common purposes with the UN not just in the implementation of programs, also in the formulation.

In this way Governments have a fundamental task and is to be the bridge to join the UN with, for example, young people or civil society in general.

It’s important to ensure conditions and support to youth-led organizations and initiatives in the territories, especially in rural areas, to identify leaders and processes and in this way, link them with the UN; that’s a comprehensive and inclusive approach that in the case of Colombia, is supporting the non-repetition of violence and sustainable development.

I bring you greetings from Liberia. I am going to be loyal to the five minutes, but I’m going to be Liberia centric and try to bring some realism to the global debates that we are having on sustaining peace and peacebuilding.

Liberia has recently been touted as a success story in peacekeeping terms. The UN peacekeepers have just left after 15 years. Liberia has just left the agenda of the Security Council after 25 years and Liberia is a success story in peacekeeping terms, no question.

Liberia today is very fragile, and I would like us to have a discussion looking at Liberia through the lens of prevention. If there is a big screen here in New York where colleagues and everybody is looking at countries closely, in order to intervene, to prevent relapse or falling into conflict, Liberia should be on that screen.

After the successful peacekeeping, the country is still weak. A weak economy, negative growth, weak national institutions and highly centralized government system and the root causes of the civil war not having been fully addressed. The reconciliation work is in progress, the situation of women leaves a lot of work for us to do and so on...

So, this is why we could celebrate for about five seconds after peacekeepers have done a good job and after Liberia has been brought back successfully to the community of nations and after three successive successful elections, two terms by the first African President elected, H.E. Ms. Ellen Sirleaf, and more recently the football celebrity being elected as the new President. He has been in office for about three months.

We are very strongly on the ground as the United Nations, but we had to go through a recalibration exercise. When
you have a peacekeeping mission in a country as small as the state of Virginia, with 4.5 million people, a highly endowed and very rich country, but poorly managed for a long time, and you have peacekeepers there for that long — at some moment, Liberia in fact that Liberia has a largest peacekeeping operation in the world was 17,000 troops. That is gone, and that departure has actually exposed, once again, the fragility of the country and yet the United Nations continues to be in the country with 17 UN agencies, funds and programmes that are now going to be struggling to raise the resources, hence the importance of pool funding as captured in the vision of the Secretary General to sustaining peace.

UN agencies are configured to work in silos because they are funded differently, they are supported differently and they are mandated different. The challenge is to actually bring the UN together to deliver a package of strategic support to Liberia to continue sustaining peace and to continue being a success story, not only in peacekeeping but in peace building.

Now the Liberian themselves are the largest stakeholders and I think the biggest asset and Liberia today is that Liberians do not want to go back to war and that is something that should always be emphasized. Especially the women, the women are the ones who stopped the war in Liberia after 14 years. It was the women who actually staged sit-ins saying we are not leaving until the men agree to talk and that is how the peace talk started in Accra, and that is an incredibly powerful resource that we continue to work with these partnerships.

Women have a lot of issues. There is 103 members of the parliament, but only 11 of them are women, so there is room for large improvement there, for better representation of women and that is why working with women groups at the grassroots level is imperative.

Secondly, there is tension between tradition and law in Liberia, where women continue to be victimized every day and perpetrators get away with it. Rape is rampant and perpetrators get away with it. This is why partnering not with women as victims but with women as a force of change it is imperative.

Youth: 70 percent of the population of Liberia are under the age of 35 and that is another resource, but Liberian youth have lost a generation to the war and Liberian youth today are losing a generation because 62 percent of the children who should be in school or out of school. And I think it is fair to say that 100,000 fighters were demobilized, many of them were child soldiers and today are living on the fringe of society, almost shunned by society because they are unemployable unskilled — skilled in doing certain things, of course, perpetrating wars — but they have actually worked peacefully to a large extent over the last 14 years because of the presence of peacekeepers.

Our challenge now going forward is how to engage this force of positive change, positively. That can only come through job creations, agriculture mainly and better education for all. I know I am being warned. I am just trying to throw headlines so that we don’t get mesmerized for too long about the success story in peacekeeping terms, but not yet fully there in peace building. Partnerships include the Peacebuilding Commission and that is the venue we will be working with now that Liberia has left the agenda of the Security Council. The Peacebuilding Support Office, a catalyst, strategic, flexible and timely interventionist in supporting peacebuilding is another partner. And then finally, of course all of you in this room.

Thank you very much.

Visaka Dharmadasa
Chair, Association of War-affected Women

First of all, I want to thank the President of the General Assembly for inviting me to the interactive dialogue on “Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations in the Field for Peace” during the high-level meeting on Building and Sustaining peace.

As all other initiatives, to build Peace and to sustain it, partnerships are very important, especially when one look at Peacebuilding and more so, of sustaining it, the partnerships are vital,

We know that United Nations walk into conflict affected countries on invitation of the affected countries, other than in extraordinary situations. So, it is natural that it builds a partnership with the government of the country.

Is it enough only to work in partnership with governments?
As we all know more and more today’s Armed conflicts are not between countries, but rather within a country, where many actors are involved, be it the groups with opposing political ideology, or different ethnic or religious groups, and in most cases with one or multiple groups who have taken arms against the government or has been provoked by the acts of the government to do so. Finding ways and means, in the first place for cessation of hostilities or solutions to these very complex root causes for conflict is very difficult and cannot be done by one entity. As nature of the conflicts are changing the solutions and the methodologies in finding solutions also need to be changed.

As the nature of conflicts have changed, as it is said before the growing new trend that we see is, Armed groups committing crimes beyond their own countries, and more and more collaborations are created with similar entities cross boarders or individuals are recruited from cross boarder as well far away countries. These collaborations do go beyond countries geographically bounded by land. The modern technology and the connectivity using new media platforms are used very effectively for these collaborations.

Thus, it is vital that United Nations look into strategic partnerships within the given conflict affected country and beyond. As Secretary General’s report very clearly mentions it is a must, to effectively build ecosystem of partners.

Firstly, it is very important to build strategic partnerships with the regional organizations whereby creating synergies for multiple countries to work together for the common goal of building and sustaining peace. And also, to look into individual conflict-ridden countries to build strategic partnerships with the various stake holders of those conflicts.

We know that apart from governments and governmental entities, corporate sector, media as well a broader array of Civil society organizations, and NGOs, women’s groups and youth led entities within and outside of the conflict affected country play an important role. Especially when one think of today’s conflicts the Diaspora play a very crucial role. Therefore, it is very important to build strategic partnerships with these various entities,

One also must understand and take into consideration that these entities do have different and most often competing agendas, desires and goals as well priorities. It is very important to strategically look into the most common denominator where at least the majority can come to agreement with. And be very creative in building the partnerships with all actors, taking into consideration each and every one’s priorities, needs and aspirations.

We know very well it is easier said than done, but who says peace building is easy? Even if one were able, with great difficulty, to get the conflicting parties to the table making them to agree even over one issue is challenging, and here again the strategic partnerships come in to play a very crucial role. After lengthy processes of negotiations, once the parties come to agreement and a peace accord is signed, most often everybody, including international community feels like that the job is done, but experience shows world over however tedious it is to build peace, sustaining the peace is even more difficult.

In here the “Ecosystem of Partners” are very important, one tend to always think that big actors or players such as governments, big corporations INGOs and national level NGOs, are the only ones who play a role, yes they play very important roles, but when it comes to bringing the parties to the table and also making them agree to difficult issues and signing agreements and sustaining the peace by way of fully implementing the agreed upon issues, the groups at the grass roots, mainly women’s groups play a vital role.

We do have many examples:

1. In the Liberian conflict the role played by the women including Ms. Leymah Gbowee is significant, they were able to confine the parties to the negotiating table without letting them leave before coming to an agreement.

2. In Northern Ireland Ms. Monica Mc Williams stayed at the table and kept others also, and today she is playing a key role in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

3. In Sri Lanka, we as mothers of Soldiers Missing in Action were able to contribute in a significant way to our peace process, I led 7 mothers to the jungles to meet the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to know what happened to our sons, our meeting with them made us understand that they were ready for a ceasefire and our message to the Government of Sri Lanka that they are ready for a ceasefire, led to the Ceasefire in 2001.

There are many actions that women’s groups world over have taken for prevention and prevent escalation of armed conflicts, as well to silence guns and get the parties to the table. But once the table is set most often the women are forgotten. 18 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security. We are yet to see that the United Nations as well other countries who are Mediating or Facilitating peace processes appointing more women as negotiators or mediators.

We are very happy that the President of the General Assembly has taken the initiative to look in to “how partnerships can support in sustaining Peace”. We believe, understanding that strategic partnerships with an “Ecosystem of partners” are vital for preventing armed conflicts and Building and Sustaining Peace is the first step and it will lead to a new and successful chapter of the Peace Building Architecture of the United Nations. As the takeaways of the event of How partnerships can support in sustaining peace.
have clearly said that engaging stakeholders are an important aspect of prevention, and that local expertise paired with national, regional, and international capabilities are indispensable for the successful implementation of the resolutions.

In conclusion, I would like to make a couple of recommendations on how the United Nations can engage stakeholders in order to build more effective strategic partnerships especially with women groups.

1. When conflict analysis is done, make sure that gender disaggregated data is obtained and analyzed, which can inform the level of women’s engagements in conflict prevention.
2. Make sure to meet women’s groups from community level when envoys are visiting conflict affected countries.
3. Make sure to have a structure in place to include all stakeholders for consultations and build strategic partnerships with them locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.
4. Make sure to include women who are locally rooted and globally connected as mediators in peace negotiations and processes.

Thank you.

Ilwad Elman
Director of Programs and Development Elman Peace and Human Rights Center

Good morning. I am very happy to be with you all.

I run a human rights organization in Somalia called Elman Peace Center. At the core of it, we are an institution that since 1990 has been monitoring, documenting, and reporting on violations and abuses that happen in the country and also providing services directly to those that we identify through our reports.

Our view of change to building a sustaining peace is through human rights and it is four tiered. Our first intervention is promoting and protecting human rights, the second is direct service delivery to victims, human rights violations and abuse, and then advocacy, education, and to end harmful cultures, and social norms that create space for human rights violations to continue. And finally, policy, holding our government as well as regional bodies accountable.

The theme of our discussion today on strategic partnerships with the UN for building a sustaining peace is one that echoes many of the commitments and statements that we have heard over the past few days from governments, activists, and the UN as well, is that to build peace in this day and age that we are living in, business as usual will not work: we must work together more effectively and we need different actors in the spaces.

We heard the Security Council open debate on the 23rd on Youth, Peace, and Security progress study was tabled. I am proud to have contributed to as one of the advisors to the lead author. It showcased the positive contribution of young peacekeepers globally and highlighted the dangers of policy and violence of exclusion.

Through this work and with the work of the organization, I have been involved in consultations with young people all around the world to hear their practical, actionable recommendations for building a safer and more enabling environment for us all. I was in South Sudan two weeks ago where I met with young people doing incredible work to build peace in their communities and preventing violence in the margins of ongoing peace talks. The question they were asking themselves was what if the peace talks fail? What can we do to prevent mass calamity?

In Uganda, I met with young university students, businessmen, and women using tools such as beat boxing and art for peace. I also work directly with young people that have left the armed groups and are now utilizing their own experiences to create pathways for their peers to defect and acquire civilized status.

Young people are already doing work in building and sustaining peace and the opportunities that exist today for the UN is to partner with young people.

I am also excited about the conversations that have been happening on the margins about the last few days about further exploring human rights as a preventative measure to conflicts. Human rights is not just a box that we take after war, but a fundamental prerequisite to stability and peacebuilding during times of conflict. This is an opportunity for the UN to work with human rights defenders in the grassroots directly.
At the moment the different actors in the peace and security space, the many different coordination bodies and working groups failed to adequately operate a perspective of national organizations and particularly local youth initiatives.

It is the case in Somalia, as I have seen in my work as well in many other contexts. It is still a very difficult space for civil society and it is becoming increasingly challenging as governments to decide appropriate levels or areas were civil society organizations can and cannot engage.

Because of this, the role of youth has become passive and they are not empowered to actually influence the overall response and prevention efforts and our participation is frequently limited to implementing partners, although our actions and influence within the community are indeed transformative and this is a missed opportunity.

Because of the diminished ability of young people to contribute to conceptual issues, effective collaboration between various governments and international counterparts in pursuit of peace is hindered. It is also clear that the stakes are incredibly high for us as a global community and it is time to rethink current frameworks on human rights, international law and a direct correlation at building a sustaining peace.

This debate in the recent resolutions of sustaining peace present a crucially important opportunity to explore new, creative and locally conjectural solutions to help untangle the complex and multilayer challenges of human rights, but also building peace through that lens. I hope that is where our recommendations will yield today, exploring innovative new ways to partner to build peace globally.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Sachs
President of General Assembly’s External Advisor, University Professor at Columbia University and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

I would like to add one basic idea, which is that we need a more careful typology of the conflicts that we face and when conflicts arise, we need to systematically understand them and do that in the context of the United Nations processes better than we do right now.

I would mention at least four kinds of conflicts that we face. One, are conflicts really resulting from extreme poverty and the strife that can arise from that, hunger, internal migration, and so forth. That we know is a grim reality and is a failure of the international development processes: people fight when they are hungry, when they have no jobs, when they are recruited for local political reasons because they are desperate.

A second kind of conflict is interethnic conflict that can occur basically at any level of income. And these are part of what I would say the pathology of human nature, that we are easily prone to “us versus them” thinking. We can be provoked by demagogues into hatred for a neighbor who has been a neighbor for decades but is a different ethnicity and this is all a normal part of human nature and it is a cause of war probably for the most ancient times of our species.

A third kind of war is of course wars of aggression when one country attacks another country. That has been observed as less frequent now, but, of course, it still occurs. In 2003, the US attack on Iraq was a war of aggression. The date was announced, and the war was launched completely outside of the UN Charter.

The fourth kind of war that is extremely important is a proxy war. A proxy war is a war that often has combatants from many countries pouring into a region, typically financed by
many outside interests. And this is, I would say, the situation in Syria now. These wars are often called civil wars. They are not civil wars. They are multi-country wars.

They engage almost all of the regional actors and many international actors. They are extremely recalcitrant to peacemaking because of the role of powerful P5 countries, especially the United States I would say, and they are extremely harmful because lots of weapons come in, big weapons, and we know in the case of Syria that half a million people have died and more than 10 million people have been displaced — and those displacements have had ripple effects completely destabilizing European politics over the last seven years.

We need to be able to analyze conflicts because each of these has a different source. Sometimes it is a mix of these, but for all of the wonderful work of local peacekeepers, that is not going to end the war in Syria because the war in Syria is a war in which the United States, Russia, Iran, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia and others are actively engaged. It absolutely overwhelms local peacemaking efforts. It is all filled with lies. So, the problem is that it is even portrayed as a civil war and it is nothing of the sort. It is a regional war and an international war that is very dangerous and could get out of hand.

I believe that the UN Member States should insist on honest reporting and, in a way, let the chips fall where they might. Of course, this is very hard because there are powerful interests here, but the purpose of this body is to stop wars like that. Also, to stop the other clashes but do remember that by far the biggest casualties in the world today are in these proxy wars, not in the local conflicts. The local conflicts should stop, and we should do what we can to stop them, but the massive killing that threatens the entire world’s stability is because of major powers and we need to be able to address this.

This is the core purpose of this institution. And we face real challenges in doing that. If we look at the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, the most important casualty lists right now these are all big power wars. Afghanistan has been at war because of outside powers for 40 years now. It has been devastated by the CIA, by the Soviet Union, by the United States, repeated, devastating wars that that country had absolutely nothing to do with. In a way it was used for the purposes of great power, politics, and proxy fighting.

I don’t find the analysis that we do at all adequate to this. There is almost no honesty about what is going on and because of that, there is almost no way to actually stop these conflicts and then we wonder why things aren’t working and we blame local people for this very often, or we call it interethnic conflict when it is really stoked from outside, when it is a regional or global power. I know my own country is engaged in wars in at least a dozen countries now. Drone strikes, covert operations that are completely against the UN Charter in my opinion, and this is important for us because the world is endangered by this.

Let me conclude by noting something that I would regard as an interesting point which all of you know well, but I don’t think we utilize adequately. The UN Security Council is often blocked because the veto means that when one of the belligerents doesn’t want a straight back to fighting or telling about the circumstances, there is a veto. This is usually the end of the story. People throw up their hands, what can you do? The result is a denigration of the UN Charter, which, by the way, is very clear and very wonderful and vital for our survival because it says there are only two cases for war: one is self defense and the other is a vote of the UN Security Council.

I will just wrap up here to make the following point: We have procedures in the United Nations that when the UN Security Council is blocked, the General Assembly can proceed and, of course, this is the famous Resolution 377 which was taken in 1950 which says “resolves that the Security Council because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members of fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to members for collective measures”. I think this is absolutely vital for real peacemaking on the planet.

Thank you.
Thank you very much for the invitation to this interactive dialogue session on ‘Strategic Partnerships with the UN for Peace.’ We thank the panelists for their useful presentations.

The topic of this session is very important to us, considering our revitalized peace process, which we actively pursue in partnership with the international community, including the UN.

As I highlighted yesterday in the plenary session: the sustained engagement of international actors in support of peace-building is essential. Without strong, well-coordinated international support, fragile states can hardly achieve durable peace on their own.

We know this first-hand in Afghanistan, as we continue relentlessly combating terrorism and pursuing peace simultaneously. This dual-track approach is mutually reinforcing, and will continue until we achieve the goal at hand.

For several years, Afghanistan has sought a peaceful settlement with reconcilable elements of the armed opposition to end many years of violence and conflict imposed on our country. As of late, our efforts under the Kabul Process have helped strengthen ‘regional and international consensus’ on the imperative of peace for our stability and that of the region.

In February, at the second Meeting of the Kabul Process: we made a comprehensive peace offer to the Taliban. The offer was based on an extensive national consultative process with Afghan civil society, youth groups, women activists, political forces and religious figures. Our aim is a negotiated political settlement based on a credible agreement that would address the needs and expectations of the Afghan Government; the armed opposition, and all Afghans.

Some key elements of the offer include:

Reintegration of armed opposition into the society, as well as their inclusion into the political process and State; Possible Constitutional amendments that don’t undermine our achievements since 2001; Full protection of human rights, including the equal rights of Afghan women and the hard-earned democratic gains we have made over the past 17 years; We have always stressed that regional and international support for peace in Afghanistan is a necessary condition for success. We are pleased that regional countries have converged - more than ever before - to help us achieve our objectives for peace.

This convergence is based on the recognition that peace in Afghanistan means peace and stability in the wider region.

The UN has been engaged with a multitude of stakeholders, including regional countries and organizations on our peace and reconciliation efforts. The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process is a key platform, within which this engagement continues in a steady process.

We also welcome the UN’s collaboration with regional organizations, platforms and initiatives, such as the OIC, CICA, OSCE, SAARC, SCO, the C5+1, and the UN Center for Preventive Diplomacy.

We encourage the UN to bring more coherence to bear on the efforts of these entities for further building regional consensus in support of the Afghan-led peace process and our stabilization efforts.

I must highlight that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has been a strong supporter of our peace efforts, emphasizing in every forum the importance of the Afghan leadership and ownership under the Kabul Process. UNAMA is also a close partner in our effort for ensuring women’s prominent role in all stages of the Peace Process - based on our National Action Plan for SC RESOLUTION 1325.

Promoting development is key pillar of the sustaining peace agenda. With more jobs and confident communities, the greater the prospects for durable peace in any society. Whether in Afghanistan or elsewhere, the UN’s role should evolve with new realities, based on ‘national ownership and leadership’ of development priorities. The ONE-UN model is essential to achieve this goal.

To conclude, I want to reiterate the importance of sustained international engagement with our peace-making and peace-building efforts in Afghanistan for regional stability and global peace. Our experience in Afghanistan can provide useful lessons for how the UN can expand its cooperation and partnership with different stakeholders for conflict-prevention, peace-making initiatives, and peace-building programs.

Thank You!
There is now evidence that youth and women’s engagement is critical to achieve sustainable peace, as initially recognized by resolutions 1325 and 2250.

The Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security provided concrete recommendations that deserve full endorsement and support from all actors. It provides a clear roadmap towards the strengthening of young people’s active engagement. Only by partnering and including them at each stage, from the elaboration of policies to the implementation of programmes, will we create a real “ecosystem of partners” where everyone brings their unique skills.

The comparative advantages of young people in building peace come from their social and human added values. They are uniquely skilled to build and mobilize the social fabric of trust within their communities, by reaching the “hard to reach” and operating at times in areas where no other actors exist. They also have an impact beyond their peers: from minorities to local and national authorities, elderly people, families, displaced persons.

Studies show that youth-led peacebuilding is heavily underfunded and lacks capacity to monitor and evaluate their work. These challenges put limits on the sustainability of their efforts, leaving the full potential of young people untapped. As such, the UN and Member States need to keep each other accountable towards making a joint financial, social and political investment in young people.

At policy level, actively engaging young people and women requires an early on multi-sector and holistic approach, which includes specific focus on prevention rather than reactive approaches, peace education, capacity building, inter-faith dialogue and inclusion programs. Lastly, in order to ensure a meaningful implementation of these policies we need to address change at a systemic level, starting from the UN system and governmental actors in development and peace. For instance, how many UN country offices and how many governments actively focus on including young men and women in their processes? How many donors have youth-specific funding lines? How often are youth consulted prior to elaborating specific policies or programmes related to their own communities?

In order to realize the very ambitious agenda of sustaining peace, everyone in the ecosystem has to play its part in coordination and coherence, remembering that Peace is only sustainable if built from below, with and among people, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.

As embodied in the Resolution 2282 sustaining peace is to be understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are considered.

Emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and ALL other national stakeholders.

The resolution also stresses that civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace.

Please allow me to make 3 interrelated comments on sustaining peace, inclusion and partnerships:

Firstly, on Sustaining Peace
• The sustaining peace resolutions notes that the scale and nature of sustaining peace requires commitment to inclusive partnerships to ensure coordinated and cooperative approaches to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.
• Today’s conflicts have also become more complex. Often, they are closely connected with global challenges, such as climate change, growing inequalities or international organized crime. Their complex and interconnected nature means that isolated actions by individual actors quickly hit a glass ceiling. What we really need are new ways of cooperating with each other. Building and sustaining peace requires inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership.

• Building and sustaining peace efforts need to be locally brewed, regionally anchored and internationally supported. If we are to build multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional partnership to build and sustain peace, inclusivity should be at the core.

• Building and sustaining peace requires a focus on people, inclusion of local people affected by conflict and violence, ensuring that existing local capacities for sustaining peace are the starting point for any engagement.

• We need to be cognizant of the on the ground realities and need to embark on context specific approaches — so context sensitivity is key.

• Approaches need to enhance and ensure effective inclusive local ownership.

Second, on Inclusion

• Preventing conflict, sustaining peace and mostly building lasting peace requires inclusivity and partnership.

• Civil society inclusion is vital. Overlooking this important component of society could risk perpetuating grievances or generating new ones which thus undermine efforts of peace.

• Inclusion therefore needs to be more than a tokenistic notion, the quality of inclusion matters.

• Attention needs to be given to meaningful involvement of women and youth led groups.

• Civil society actors often play key role in conflict-affected societies, and particularly in situations of transition, conflict or fragility, they are the primary peacebuilding agents.

• The crucial role of civil society must be recognized as a central part of the fabric that builds societal resilience and sustains peace, and their work, and the space that allows for it, must be upheld and supported.

• Civil society are “eyes and ears” on the ground and play a key role in identifying, recording and responding to first instances of conflicts flaring up.

• Civil society however faces diverse resource and political challenges curtailing their engagement. A partnership with the UN for peace can support the reversal of the continuing trend of civil space restrictions.

• I call upon the UN and Member States to work to create and protect civil society space to ensure and safeguard meaningful and ongoing inclusion.

Thirdly, on Partnerships

• Functioning partnerships are not easily established. Trust, honesty, presence, the sharing of values and learning together are essential elements for inclusive partnerships. Partnerships have to grow over time.

• Partnerships, based on international policy agendas, need to be sustainable: Only then can partnerships open-up new channels for dialogue and facilitate political, social or economic processes — however, changing agendas and priorities often disrupt these processes.

• There is a growing disconnect between the international recognition of “partnerships” as crucial for sustaining peace and a loss of space for engagement and dialogue of international actors with local partners due to changing aid policies and modalities (growing aid budgets, shrinking staff numbers, risk management and “remote control” in conflict situations).

• In this context, civil society organizations are often perceived as “implementers” or “service providers”, failing to take advantage of their contextual and technical knowledge. This becomes even more acute in conflict situations where short-term approaches often dominate and time and space for mutual learning and trust building are lacking.

• When engaging with diverse civil society actors, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings, UN and Member State representatives must undertake conflict sensitive outreach.

• Fragile contexts are dynamic triggering ever-changing positioning and roles of political actors. Strong focus should be on how to use existing partnerships and foster new ones in fragile contexts, ensuring that responsive policies and actions do not further undermine any previous or on-going peace efforts.

• In building and operationalizing partnerships UN and Member States should ensure regular and meaningful interaction with civil society at local, country, regional and international levels to ensure their expertise is incorporated, and to ensure that the needs of grassroots community are addressed.

Two concrete suggestions:

• The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) could be more systematic in including civil society in its activities and should adapt working methods to better allow local expertise and civil society actors from the field to be included in its deliberations. The PBC should provide optimal transparency to its work by providing more notice of PBC meeting dates and making preparatory documents available to civil society.

• UN missions should establish CSO liaison mechanisms.
There is always an asymmetry between partners, in terms of power and capacities. The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) is a tripartite partnership that has proven track record of working as a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to be utilized in a partnership approach to build and sustain peace.

Having governments, donors and civil society actors partner on a levelled playing field, the IDPS is a platform where these stakeholders dialogue to identify drivers of conflict, tackle fragility, identify pathway to build resilient and peaceful societies.

In conclusion: inclusivity and partnerships are critical to sustaining peace. The sustaining peace agenda reaffirms the centrality of inclusivity and the necessity for operational and structural multi-stakeholder partnerships in building peace.

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) stands ready to partner and work with the UN to build and sustain peace — and to make a difference in the lives of the people.

Thank you.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Peacebuilding, sustaining peace, gender equality and development are strongly linked. For peace to be sustainable, women must be consistently engaged in everything from peace processes, politics and governance, to institution building, rule of law, security, and economic recovery. This is even more vital right now. Amidst protected crisis and recurring stop conflict cycles and yet too often women, especially young women are not represented. Their contribution is undervalued, and their roles are downgraded. The UN, along with other key partners plays a vital role in addressing this.

First, we need to ensure that women are equal and strategic across very areas and levels. Second, there is a strong need for increased financing. I commend the Peacebuilding Fund for allocating 36 percent last year for projects supporting women’s peacebuilding work. It is time to bring the rest of the UN System up to this level and reinforce the commitment of donors with similar funding targets.

Third, we need more and better data to inform decision making, the 20th anniversary review of the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security brought telling data and evidence and that data and related gender analysis continues to help us make the case for how to change the status quo for women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping. We are encouraged that this report is now being used in leading academic circles, but we need more.

UN Women stands ready to work with Member States, the UN System, civil society, and other partners to ensure effective implementation on the Women, Peace and Security agenda and their respective accountability frameworks. Together we must work with women to make sure they shape and sustain the peace agenda and lead on building lasting peace around the world.

Thank you.
In fragile contexts around the world we are facing a protection crisis: its roots lie in the grave, ongoing failure of the international community to protect ordinary men, women and children caught up in conflicts and the inability to fundamentally change the behaviors of belligerents.

The ICRC is a daily witness to the devastating impact of war and violence and we welcome the increased focus on conflict prevention and peace-building. It comes at a critical time:

• In the absence of political solutions in too many contexts;
• As conflicts are increasingly protracted, resulting not only in immediate devastation, but long-term erosion of infrastructure and social systems; and
• With expanding areas of fragility, where sporadic violence can spiral into the conflicts of tomorrow.

Frontline humanitarian action is a vital stabilizing factor in fragmented environments and a building-block for peace. As too is the promotion of international humanitarian law. Without the stabilizing effect of both during armed conflict, there is little chance for sustainable peace or for preventing armed conflict.

Indeed, humanitarian assistance is not an objective in itself but can pave the way for peace. Our principle of humanity, which guides the work of the entire Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, is to ‘promote mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples’.

Today the ICRC is fulfilling varying requests to act as a neutral intermediary in conflict. We are called on to prevent relations from deteriorating, prevent conflicts from escalating, or to find mutual trust-building measures that would help advance peace. Our mode of working is distinct, drawing on our humanitarian experience and relying on the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality.

Dear colleagues,

It is clear that Sustainable Development will not be achieved if it does not reach those left furthest behind. Principled humanitarian action serves to protect against development reversals caused by the effects of war - destruction, displacement, exclusion, disease and impoverishment. It will be vital that the UN’s integrated approach allows the space for principled humanitarian action to continue.

Every day in conflict zones the ICRC shields vulnerable communities by supporting the structures they rely on. Humanitarian action bolsters health systems, shores up electricity and water supplies, supports livelihoods and cash grants for small businesses. Millions of people survive and can go back to previously stable lives because of sustained and long-term humanitarian support of water and waste systems, health systems or investments in community building and livelihood support.

But we cannot stop at mitigating the impact of violence; we must also focus on how wars are conducted and the limits that must be placed on armed actors and their conduct in order to reduce the needs of people. For me the equation is clear - to end the cycles of violence and inhumanity we must end the free-for-all on the battlefield.

As a neutral humanitarian actor, we can talk to all parties, states, non-state armed groups, partners and allies, and all who can influence. When there is humanity in war and respect for IHL there is a better chance for peace.

International humanitarian law has positive and multiplying impacts when it is respected. For example, when the principles of proportionality and distinction are applied, lives are saved, hospitals and schools remain open and markets can function. These are factors that all contribute to stability and to pave the way for development and future peace.

In this discussion we cannot ignore all that stems from the supply and use of weapons. Widespread and poorly controlled availability of arms due to irresponsible transfers to irresponsible actors are a major cause of suffering. Therefore, I would like to highlight that:

• Arms transfers must ensure, weapons do not end up being used to commit serious violations of IHL;
• Legal weapons must always be used in accordance with IHL;
• Illegal weapons — like chemical and biological weapons — must never be used; and
• Nuclear weapons, because of their devastating humanitarian effect, deserve greater attention and efforts with a
view to prohibit and eliminate them. We urge all States to
join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as
a crucial means to strengthen the norms against use and
proliferation of these horrific weapons and to negotiate in
good faith - and following through on past commitments -
bilaterally and in the context of the NPT.

Dear colleagues,

In implementing this agenda, we urge that the UN ensure:

• There is increased commitment from all States for neu-
  tral, impartial humanitarian action and for this stabilizing
  role to remain distinctive;

• That frontline action is supported by greater engage-
  ment and investment by development actors;

• The agenda is pursued with a 'do no harm' approach,
  without creating new grievances or exacerbating existing
  ones;

• That the voices of the furthest away, the hardest to
  reach are incorporated. True integration cannot be done
  from New York or Geneva, but close to people affected.

Thank you.

Thank you, Adriana Abdenur and thank you for the oppor-

Susan McDade
Assistant Administrator, Director, Bureau of
Management, United Nations Development
Programme

Thank you very much and thank you for the invitation for
UNDP to be present in this panel. I would like to very much
try to bring the country level or field perspectives to this
discussion, in which one of the challenges of the UN system
is to make sure that we work together. In situations of

conflict or in situations of just deteriorating civil ease, the
host country very rarely sees the distinct UN agencies funds
and programmes as differently as we see ourselves.

One of the main challenges of the UN is to remember that
around the world at the country level we are all “blue”
together, and I say that not to be trite, but this really is at
the heart of many of the reform efforts right now.

Around the world we know very much the UNDP perspec-
tive is that one of the worst forms of violence is poverty,
one of the main causes of civil instability are young peo-
ple without a perspective on a future, and that inequality
causes a societal deterioration around the world.

In the UN system, the mechanism that is meant to drive us
together on the development front is the UN development
assistance framework, but increasingly we are being called
to work across the development and humanitarian axes
and this is one of the main things that the UN is challenged
to do, to make sure that we don’t so much as our own
bureaucracy as dividing us, as seen our own common inter-
est in human welfare, Justice, integrity, and human rights is
what unites us as the UN system.

Around the world the UN Resident Coordinators, which is
currently a function embedded in UNDP, is meant to lead
the dialogue amongst country team members and host
country authorities, but increasingly to draw on members
of civil society, parliamentarians, groups with different
opinions to really have a more comprehensive view than
just the UN perspective on what is happening at the coun-
try level.

UNDP does not work alone in the UN system so aside from
the resident coordinator function, which is a systemwide
function and not a UNDP specific function, UNDP works
very closely with lead agencies and on this I want to spe-
cifically talk about UNDPA and we have the UN Assistant
Secretary General here on this panel. Around the world
many resident coordinators depend on the good services
of peace and development advisers, which is a joint pro-
gram between UNDP and DPA to help do better analysis at
the country level to provide better early warning on issues
that are happening to promote different ways of dialogue
with non state actors and to enable country teams to work
in a more decisive way and I am sure we will hear more
about that from my colleague DPA. Currently, there are 40
of these DPAs around the world and I’m a former resident
coordinator and I can absolutely say that from the chair of
a resident coordinator, a peace and development advisor
is one of the main assets of the UN system to help improve
our ability to engage on the ground.

We also work very closely with DPKO, especially when we
are transitioning from mission settings to non mission set-
tings. This is very often when there is the greatest gap in the
UN’s ability to be relevant, to be decisive and to act as one. There have been hard lessons learned on this around the world and one of the areas where I think we are benefiting from some of the hard lessons learned is in Haiti, where the mission draws down in the rule of law work, we were trying to have a smooth transition from the mission side of the UN system to the development system, but this doesn’t happen without a conscious design, effort and commitment of all parties.

We also work very closely in the development pillar on issues related to bringing women into the table in peace negotiations and local government for the stability and follow up, and also in assisting women to have more active political lives including as parliamentarians. This is the work we do around the world with UN Women and I want to note with gratitude that the Peacebuilding Fund which is very often referred to in these discussions is one of the main source of financing that UNDP works together with UN Women, not to help ourselves, but to work on development outcomes involving women as peacemakers, peace-builders, and peace sustainers.

And finally, I would like to say that the area that we also work with DPA and DPKO together, the first two partnerships that I mentioned on agency to agency: the third one is a triad and this is on the issue of transitions and to avoid relapse into conflict. Very often we think, working at the field level, that once the accord is agreed, was the resolution is approved, once we have all signed a piece of paper and once we have all taken a photo, that the hard work is done. What we know is that the hard work is really what comes after and the follow up with communities, local leaders, economic empowerment, rule of law, and monitoring that processes continue in a common direction, and this is an area where UNDP works very closely with a DPKO and DPA.

Maybe I can go into country examples, but I wanted to emphasize the importance of the UN system working in a joint up way and this is the spirit behind the new way of working that you have heard about from the Secretary General and others.

Thank you.
This is also the spirit that underlines the recent United Nations World Bank joint study on prevention entitled “Pathways to peace” — a recognition that international investment in development can and should be conflict sensitive, context-driven and nationally-owned. To move forward with this partnership on prevention with the World Bank, I will be leading a team of staff from DPA to Washington, D.C., to initiate our first desk to desk dialogue on these issues.

Second, sustaining peace calls goes from greater emphasis on regional strategies, approaches, and engagement. To that end, the Secretary General has prioritized strengthening systematic partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations in sustaining peace.

We see the United Nations regional political offices as integral to these objectives, particularly as preventing violent conflict, using preventive diplomacy, mediation, and other tools in our peace and security toolbox. It represents an important component of sustaining peace.

As the high level panel on peace operations recognized the regional political offices (UNRCCA, UNOWA, UNOCA) in Central Asia, West Africa and Central Africa respectively, have been particular platforms for preventive diplomacy and mediation. They remain among our most relevant instruments for early warning in the respective regions. We saw this in the context of crisis in The Gambia, Gabon and Burkina Faso, and in 2010, in my own experience in Kyrgyzstan. I am proud that today in this room with us, is the former President of Kyrgyzstan who led the country in those critical times.

More quietly, regional offices work building what I would like to call a “network of preventive relationships” with national and regional players. A network that is ready to mobilize to prevent and respond to crisis. They have also undertaken efforts to strengthen the prevention, early warning, and mediation capacities of regional and sub-regional organizations.

DPA has also built its relations with regional organizations through liaison presence, such as our partnerships with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with ASEAN and with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. We are also working to have a presence with the League of Arab States.

And finally, I want to point out that sustaining peace is ultimately about building national capacities to manage potential conflicts, prevent crisis from break out or escalating.

Here too, the joint program works with national stakeholders to develop infrastructures for peace and to cultivate the capacities for local and national mediation. This is the case in Malawi where the joint program is supporting the work for the national forum for women in peacebuilding, which is working to mobilize a critical mass of women in Malawi to actively engage on peace, security and humanitarian issues in the country.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, these are tangible aspects that I wanted to highlight for you from the DPA perspective in how our work links to sustaining peace.

Thank you.

Andrew Gilmour
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Thank you very much indeed, Adriana.

I find there is a growing recognition despite some push-back that human rights are a necessary foundation, indeed a prerequisite for peace. They are not to be treated as some luxury. They are not ideals that can only be there when conflict has ended or when development has been achieved.

Rights, after all are the drivers of development and the drivers of peace and conversely, by the same token, violations of these rights are the drivers of poverty and the drivers of conflict. Virtually every internal conflict in the world has at its root some form of denial or violations of rights. And so, since violations are major part of the problem, they clearly need to be part of the solution as well, right protection.

Last year, the Secretary General declared that perhaps the best prevention tool we have is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the treaties that derive from it. This year being the 70th anniversary of this extraordinary document, it is good to recall it, especially at a time when we find that many governments are challenging the universality
and validity of this declaration and the rights that are entrenched in it. And indeed, they are trying to roll back the progress achieved in recent decades.

They are doing that not only by their actions on the ground such as shrinking the space for civil society and many other forms of restrictions on individuals and populations, but also in this very building as they try to cut the effectiveness and indeed the funding of human rights.

But for development and peace efforts to be successful, they do need to address the core grievances and to remove any inequalities, discrimination and persecution.

In Myanmar, for example, the exclusive focus on GDP growth did not take into consideration that massive and systematic discrimination against ethnic groups, as it did not promote a credible economic and social development, and nor did the positive economic statistics that came out of Tunisia a decade ago reflect the extraordinary sense of injustice and exclusion that exploded into the Arab spring.

But the best preventative work is done when conflict isn’t yet on the horizon. And there are reviews of human rights situations that are undertaken by the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, as well as the OHCHR monitoring work and our technical operation with many states around the world, they provide a well-tested and accepted framework to assess which areas require attention to reduce the long-term risk of conflicts and to allow peaceful development.

Human rights mechanisms and peace and security bodies often deal with the same kind country situations and issues, and thus there is a need to build even stronger cooperation between them.

Sri Lanka is a good example of that: issues of transitional justice and reconciliation had been identified by the Human Rights Council have been incorporated into the UN development assistance framework and funded through the Peacebuilding Fund. So, if it is true to say that the inclusive rights, sustainable development is the best defense against the risk of conflict, then strengthening the human rights capacities of resident coordinators and UN country teams become all the more essential.

We, by the way, are very grateful for this support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund, although more is required. But despite being a core component of the mechanisms and safeguards to prevent conflicts, human rights and the attempts to promote rights are presented in some countries as a threat to national sovereignty and security.

A worrying trend that we find is that some governments while fighting terrorism in such a blunt way that they actually create more terrorists than there were before, now accuse those people who point out the basic fact and trying to reduce violence of being supporters of terrorism, although in every case the opposite is true.

On the other hand, the double standards that some governments rather brazenly adopt has led to the growing perception that human rights are basically politicized, and this is, quite frankly, hurts the UN credibility, overall credibility. Double standards and selectivity when it comes to human rights are a gift to those countries that try to deny the validity of the entire of human rights agenda.

I do hope we can use this very important opportunity of this meeting this week to see if we can reaffirm our commitment, not only with words, but actually in practice, to the powerful framework that is actually represented by and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in this 70th anniversary.

Thank you very much.

Purna Sen
Director of Policy, Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, UN Women

Thank you very much, Adriana, and apologies from our executive director, but at least we had her virtually in the room and I am pleased to have her overarching comments. Thank you for that.

I want to fully endorse the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that we have heard from our colleagues across the different parts of the UN system and I think we are very keen as UN Women to ensure that it builds much further as we progress the work on sustaining peace, the role of women in those processes, the need for strong gender analysis and understanding why conflicts break out and persist — and they persist much more effectively than the
peace we are talking about sustaining. That is essential to ensuring that we get lasting community based effective efforts at building peace and sustaining peace.

We want to say that we see the need for ensuring human rights are fully fulfilled is absolutely core to that effort to address issues of discrimination and inequalities, as Andrew mentioned, but also of justice more broadly. For women we know that, when you ask women what they understand to be the end of conflict and peace, they talk about not only ending violence on the streets and in the world, but ending violence in their homes and also have control over their lives. Conflict is the exacerbation of the denial of that control and dignity.

So, what we want to do is ensure that those efforts on the realization of rights become integral to all work we do not only to prevent conflict, but to end it in an effective and sustainable way. That mirrors one of the fundamental principles of Agenda 2030, which commits to Human Rights as informing all work that is undertaken during this period.

Not only women are essential to those efforts but and their contributions to creating lasting peace has been shown and confirmed in evidence and research, but also the role of young people in shaping the settlements that are made in the ways in which peace is constructed and maintained after conflict.

But to give both of those groups, women and young people a legitimate place in the naming and shaping of peace involves some difficult conversations, it involves giving a voice of authority and the power to make decisions to groups who don’t traditionally have them. It involves having some difficult conversations about ourselves about the need to talk about and address issues of disarmament.

It also means that those voices that have been poorly at the table, and Agenda 2030 also commits to leaving nobody behind, putting them at the table is giving a legitimacy and not seen simply as vulnerable groups, but as full and active participants and players in shaping the world in which they live.

Just one point on the funding issue. We very much welcome the call to increase the funding for this area of work that the SG has made and the increase in the proportion that is bounded for our work on gender and women.

That sort of effort, if it succeeds and if we see a larger pool from which to draw, will allow those efforts that have been made to ensure, for example, that women’s peace hubs in Liberia, and other initiatives like that, are actually brought to scale and that the gender analysis work that has been done with other UN system agencies can also be brought in terms of operationalizing the impact we know from gender analysis that women involvement, full involvement, not simply sitting at the table, but being active decision makers and legitimate voices of authority — can be put into practice.

Unless we do that, we are not convinced as UN Women that peace will sustain, it will last, and it will have meaning to all of those who live in a society, not just those who make and end wars.

Thank you.

Nestor Popolizio
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru

In line with the resolutions adopted both by the General Assembly as well as the Security Council in 2016. The Member States have asked for a greater cooperation and coordination among the three pillars of the UN system, peace and security, development of human rights and in order to offer a coherent response to the international efforts, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this respect, we welcome the leadership and efforts made by the Secretary General to reform with the organization. However, in order to overcome inertia and silos, we need to establish appropriate incentives and we need to improve the existing capacities.

As we heard in the previous panel, obtaining concrete results is essential and a priority if we want to show the benefits of peace and above all, through preventative diplomacy and through early warning.

Incentives are related to the financing of the operational activities of the system, and in a world of scarce resources, they must be allocated to the agencies, funds and programs, which are ready to work together in planning as well as the development and implementation, which multidimensional integrated response is called for on the basis
of the needs, circumstances, and priorities of the nation concerned, fighting against poverty which often brings violence is truly fundamental.

The multiannual framework of United Nations for development must be negotiated by all of the members of the country teams of United Nations as well as the relevant ministries at the beginning of a process and not the end.

Identifying objectives as well as priorities to be achieved in a coordinated, integrated fashion during the government mandate. I do agree that the resident coordinator is a peace and development advisor and as head of the country team, he must favor the function of coordination and, therefore, must be neutral when it comes to the mandates of a specific agency.

Of course, UNDP will continue to be the first among equals, but we feel it is useful to strengthen the independence of the resident coordinator. They must be accountable to the respected Member States to comply with the commitments that have been taken on within the framework.

And we understand that the capabilities and the importance of the Regional Economic Commissions are not necessarily uniform throughout the regions.

In our region, in Latin America, which is a region of peace, CEPAL can play an important role as a think tank, identifying strengths, opportunities, challenges, as well as regional trends. And this with a view to guiding a coordinated and consistent action within the system and support of national efforts, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and also to sustain peace.

A very important aspect of Agenda 2030 is seeing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon. Poverty eradication in all of its forms and dimensions is defined as the general objective as well as a prerequisite in a crucial for the sustainable development. Therefore, we must develop appropriate indicators to measure progress and create more incentives of the UN system can break with those bureaucratic silos.

We have also spoken here about women, about young people, and we believe it is very important to include the participation of women and young people because they provide perspectives that support the possibility of a shared common vision for the future.

Perhaps we should raise a few ideas. We would like to see more countries who contribute with female staff to UN peacekeeping operations. Peru is working on deploying female police officers and you know that my country has a very long tradition of taking part in peacekeeping operations and we already have been in Haiti and now we are in the Central African Republic.

Humanitarian personnel must also recruit more women. And this is effective in order to prevent cases of sexual blackmail as we have seen in the distribution of food aid. We also support a greater participation of women in policies in every one of our country’s. We are making efforts to be able to empower women and to ensure their participation in parliaments and national executives.

We also support policies of the Secretary-General to achieve a gender parity within the UN system and we welcome the fact that this has already been achieved. We would also like to see more young people working in the system. We need to focus on decent jobs for young people, understanding that this is also important to prevent violent extremism that leads to terrorism.

Another aspect, which was talked about with the panel has to do with an aspect, which is very crucial and that is the sustainable development and the promotion of human rights, which are essential and order to prevent conflict, attacking its root causes.

I do agree with Andrew Gilmour when he says that this is not a luxury. This is a necessity, a priority. We must understand that the allocation of resources to these areas is immensely efficient investments in line with Agenda 2030, focusing on people and not human dignity and is intrinsically linked to the very existence of human rights and that is why it is a method for its own promotion.

Thank you very much.
As someone who was born and raised into war in South Sudan, I ardently believe in what the UN stands for: a more secure and peaceful world! Unfortunately, my hopes for such a world have dwindled over the years due to lack of credible progress in achieving sustainable peace. The world seems to be fixated on addressing the symptoms of war and not its root causes.

It is important to note that there is no peace without development and no development without peace. But most importantly, I believe no development and peace without water. Water, a basic element of our existence is currently undergoing a lot of pressures from climate change and unsustainable water management practices. Empirical reports show that, close to a billion people live without access to safe drinking water, and one-third of the world’s population now lives in water-stressed areas. Even the most advanced nations on earth are affected by this. 12 most populated cities in the world including London and Miami are projected to run out of drinking water. Droughts and sporadic rains have led to increased hunger, poverty and wars.

It is clear that the next waves of wars that will be fought, will be over water. In this crisis, underdeveloped countries such as South Sudan where 90% of the population depend on rain-fed agriculture, are increasingly affected and conflicts are getting prolonged by this crisis. My organization, Rainmaker Enterprise, is creating a solar-powered water infrastructure in remote parts of South Sudan for sustainable agriculture and human consumption.

We are doing this because we believe it is imperative that we adopt regenerative and climate-adaptive measures to not only restore hope and dignity to people but also to sustain peace and our planet. My key recommendation is that the International Community must now shift its focus, from only engaging political elites and warlords to supporting locally led solutions. This is the path to durable peace!

Farahnaz Ghodsinia
Children of Mindanao

Good afternoon,

I’m Farah Ali Ghodsinia, and I come from an ethnic-religious minority group in the Philippines called the Maranaos. Recently, a war happened in my region — and today, our city — Marawi — is in ruins. The devastation of Marawi is one of the worst that has happened in my country. And now, our government is working hard in rebuilding.

Today, what I’m wearing is called a Malong. It’s handwoven by the women of my Maranao community. Like the presence of UN Women today — we see the importance of integrating women in our peace process. The effects of conflict tend to have a greater adverse effect on girls and women. Thus, let’s create a more gender-sensitive approach on peace, conflict prevention and rehabilitation.

Now, as a young person, I also join the call towards greater integration of youth. Today, more than 1.8 billion people are between the ages of 10 and 24, and many of them live in developing countries. Let’s highlight the positive work many youth are doing, and instill mechanisms to protect them from violent radicalization.

In this Malong, you can see different threads and colors woven together to create a beautiful and strong piece of fabric. It’s like our dialogue earlier — on the UN’s approach to peace. It’s through “INTEGRATION” or the “WEAVING TOGETHER” of various stakeholders and factors that we can best attain and sustain peace.