



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 May 2018

Excellency,

The General Assembly in resolution 72/243 decided to hold a High level plenary meeting of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018, a day before the start of the general debate, in honour of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela.

In this regard, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 28 May 2018 from the co-facilitators for the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, H.E Mr. Jerry Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and H.E Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, transmitting the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit. The next informal consultation to hear comments from Member States on the political declaration will be held on Tuesday, 29 May, at 3 pm in Conference Room 8, and on Wednesday, 6 June, at 3 pm in Conference Room F.

I encourage the active participation of your delegation, and I trust that you will continue extend your full cooperation and support to the co-facilitators for the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit

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



Miroslav Lajčák

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



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**Buan-Ionad na hÉireann  
chun na Náisiún Aontaithe**

**Permanent Mission of Ireland  
to the United Nations**

28 May 2018

Excellencies,

We are pleased to share with you, for your consideration, a zero draft political declaration to be adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit.

The zero draft builds on the consultations held on 17 and 24 May. We found your comments and insights extremely useful during our meetings and are grateful to you for your continued engagement.

We wish to inform you that we are convening the third informal consultations on the political declaration on Tuesday, 29 May, at 3 pm in Conference Room 8. At the meeting on 29 May, we intend to present the zero draft and hear some initial comments.

We propose to convene a follow-up meeting on Wednesday, 6 June, at 3 pm in Conference Room F. During this meeting, we propose to hear general comments and specific guidance on its contents.

We are looking forward to engaging with you on this important subject.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration

**Jerry M Matjila**  
Co-facilitator  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of South Africa  
to the United Nations

**Geraldine Byrne Nason**  
Co-facilitator  
Permanent Representative  
of Ireland  
to the United Nations

**To: All Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations  
New York**

## Zero Draft Political Declaration of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit

We, the People of the United Nations,

Built the United Nations out of the ashes of the destruction of World War II,

Developed the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to serve as our common and universal vision of the United Nations,

Have walked a long and extraordinary path together with the United Nations in the face of evolving challenges and emerging threats to international peace and security,

Remain determined to not only save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, but are determined to give succeeding generations a peace worth living,

*Recognize* the current grave threats to international peace and security including global instability, terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty and inequality, mass displacement, weapons of mass destruction, and *recognize* the central role of the United Nations in addressing emerging threats to global peace and security, including challenges to the primacy of multilateralism,

*Recognise* that Nelson Mandela, and many great men and women before him, embodied qualities of humility, forgiveness and compassion, and placed human dignity at the core of his actions, and acknowledge that Nelson Mandela cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all person live together in harmony and with equal opportunities,

*Acknowledge* that the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela is an opportunity for reflection, renewal and rebuilding of the United Nations, its mandates, institutions and mechanisms,

*Recognise* that declarations, outcomes and resolutions have no life unless we give them life, and inspire common ownership by all our people, and recommit to upholding multilateralism and international law,

*We therefore resolve to,*

*Redouble* our efforts to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and fair world,

*Reaffirm* the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Reaffirm* our commitment to the achievement of sustainable development, *recognize* that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and *emphasize* that there can be no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development without peace,

*Promote* a culture of peace and non-violence, *commit* to the pacific settlement of disputes, and *use* intensive, sustained and inclusive dialogue as a first resort in resolving differences and conflicts, *promote* reconciliation amongst our people and between our nations, and *acknowledge* civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace,

*Commit* to sustained attention and support for activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national, regional and global reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development,

*Recognise* that there is no template for peace, and that we and the United Nations must be responsive to situations on the ground, and *acknowledge* the important role played by regional organizations,

*Resolve* to not let our differences limit our common purpose and vision, to build on what unites us and explore creative ways to bridge what divides us, and to demonstrate mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and reconciliation in the spirit of ubuntu,

*Declare* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance represent the very opposite of all the noble purposes for which we established the United Nations,

*Recognise* that a diversity of cultures, religions, races, ethnicities and opinions are a source of strength for forging global consensus in our global family of nations, and essential for peace, understanding and friendship among peoples, countries, cultures and individuals,

*Resolve* to move beyond words in the promotion of just, inclusive and non-discriminatory societies with greater participation of women and youth in peace and security, and redouble our efforts to ensure that women and children are free from discrimination and harassment in our lifetime,

Draw inspiration from the proverb “any child is my child” and renew our commitment to protect all children, including in conflict situations, from fear, discrimination and abuse,

Our common humanity demands that we must make the impossible possible,

*We therefore decide to,*

*Recognize* the period 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace in order to place greater attention on the need to redouble efforts to pursue peace, development and human rights internationally,

*Recommend* the Secretary-General consider establishing a Council of Eminent Persons to act in an advisory role to the United Nations on peace and security related matters consisting of high-level influential international personalities that have made significant contributions to the pursuit and maintenance of international peace and security,

*Recommend* the merging of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize with the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in recognition of the interrelatedness of human rights, development, and peace and security,

*Request* the Secretary-General to consolidate the varying approaches, reports and studies on the reform of the United Nations with the singular purpose of maximizing the potential for reaching the central mandate of the United Nations of the pursuit and maintenance of international peace and security bearing in mind the principles and dedication to humanity espoused by Nelson Mandela,

As we rise from the General Assembly Chamber here today, we collectively hold ourselves accountable to the values and principles of this Declaration, to strive for a just, peaceful, prosperous, democratic and fair world, and call on our people to celebrate the richness of our diversity, the collective creativity and wisdom of our elders, the wellbeing and survival of mother earth, and call on our youth, artists, sports personalities, musicians and poets to breathe life into the values and principles of the United Nations.