



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 July 2018

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 12 January 2018, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/243, which 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.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 12 July 2018 from 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, the co-facilitators for the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, sharing for consideration of Member States the second draft political declaration which will be considered on Monday, 16 July 2018, at 11am in conference Room 1.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', written in a cursive style.

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**

12 July 2018

Excellencies,

We are pleased to share with you, for your consideration, the Rev. 2 of the political declaration to be adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit.

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

We wish to inform that our next informal consultation will be held on Monday, 16 July, at 11 am in Conference Room 1.

We are looking forward to continued engagement 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**

Rev.2 of the Nelson Mandela Political Declaration

1. We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, meet at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2018, at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit to reflect on global peace, in honour of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela. We salute his qualities of humility, forgiveness and compassion, his values and his dedication to the service of humanity, as a humanitarian, in the fields of conflict resolution, disarmament, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities. We acknowledge his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of the culture of peace throughout the world.
2. We commit to redouble our efforts to build a just, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and fair world, and revive the values for which Nelson Mandela stood by placing human dignity at the centre of our actions. We commit to demonstrating mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and reconciliation in our relations.
3. We recognize that the world has changed significantly since the founding of the United Nations, and acknowledge that global peace eludes us to this day. We, the leaders of the world today, assume a special responsibility for our words and actions in shaping a world free of fear and want. Conflict is born out of the minds of humanity, and we are the people who can find sustainable solutions to bring a lasting peace, today and for future generations.
4. We reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that serve as our common and universal vision. As we observe the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we recall its foundational principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
5. We recognize that the United Nations is built on the three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of peace and security, development and human rights which are the foundations for our collective security and well-being, and emphasize that there can be no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development without peace and without full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and passing on a safe world to future generations.
6. We recognise that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. We declare that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance represent the very opposite of the noble purposes of the United Nations. We recognise that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversities are essential for lasting peace, understanding

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and friendship among peoples, nations, cultures and individuals. We all constitute one human family. We therefore commit to not let our differences limit our common purpose and universal vision, to build on what unites us and explore creative ways to bridge what divides us.

7. We resolve to move beyond words in the promotion of peaceful, just, inclusive and non-discriminatory societies, stressing the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women and youth in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and redouble our efforts to ensure that women and youth are free from all forms of violence, fear, discrimination and abuse.
8. We recognise the contribution of women to the advancement of societies, and their contribution to the prevention and resolution of conflicts at different levels. We are committed to the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights of all women and girls, working to ensure full gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls as well as empowering them to realize their full potential.
9. We resolve to do everything in our power to ensure the protection, rights and well-being of children, especially in conflict situations, so they can realise their dreams and grow up without fear, discrimination and exclusion. Protecting children is key to preventing future conflict.
10. We will mobilise our collective wisdom, capabilities and political will to encourage and help states to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and to promote friendly relations among and between peoples and nations worldwide. We need to strengthen our early warning capacities, and acknowledge that early warning is only effective if there is a focus on prompt and effective action to prevent, contain or end conflicts, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
11. It is an incontrovertible truth that conflict is in all ways more costly than preventative diplomacy. No effort should be spared to settle conflicts through peaceful means. We therefore declare our full support for the work of the United Nation across the peace continuum, according to its mandates, and strive to commit adequate resources where necessary to support peace processes, conflict resolution efforts, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.
12. We encourage parties to conflict to take immediate, concrete measures to end cycles of conflict and prevent relapse. We recognise the role of multiple actors in conflict, including non-state actors, and urge those with influence over parties to conflict to remind parties of their obligations to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law. We declare our good offices available to those who need them.

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13. We recognise that there is no single template for peace, but there is a long and varied history of successful and unsuccessful resolution of conflicts that can serve as best practice for the negotiated settlement and peaceful resolution of conflicts. We commit to avail our best practice to those who seek different models for peace. It is clear that dialogue may not be the easy or popular option and thus requires the continued and sustained support of the international community to build trust and gain momentum. We therefore declare our full support to good faith negotiations.
14. In this regard, we note that the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organisations have a multitude of tools and mechanisms to support the peace continuum, and express our desire to continue to review the effectiveness of the tools at our disposal to the conflicts at hand. We commit to ensuring lines of communication are maintained between parties during conflict resolution efforts to prevent unnecessary escalation and loss of trust. We commit to finding credible interlocutors to engage with all the parties to the conflict to ensure a just and lasting peace.
15. We acknowledge that civil society plays an important role in preventing conflicts, contributing to peacebuilding and advancing efforts to sustain peace. We recognise further that a wide range of good offices exist that can play an important role across the peace continuum depending on the nature of the conflict, including current and former Heads of State and Government, mediation groups such as the Elders and the African Union's Panel of the Wise, traditional leaders, religious leaders, cultural leaders, community leaders, business leaders, women's and youth representatives, academics, sports personalities, and celebrities. Sports and the arts, in particular, have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, to break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict.
16. We emphasise the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace requires us to address the root causes of conflict, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity, to confront oppression, end foreign occupation, promote good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and to improve intercultural understanding on the basis of respect.
17. It is clear that lasting peace is not realized just by the absence of conflict, but is achieved through a continuing positive, dynamic, inclusive, participatory process of dialogue that resolves all outstanding issues in a spirit of mutual understanding, cooperation and long-term vision. We recognize that to prevent the recurrence of crises, to ensure social cohesion, nation-building, ownership and inclusiveness at the national and local levels, ending impunity and ensuring accountability, transitional justice and reconciliation are key to post-conflict nation building and development.

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18. We recognise that sustaining peace requires significant post-conflict support for moving towards recovery, reconstruction, peacebuilding and development. The cycle of conflict should not be allowed to continue by the unintended consequences of the premature withdrawal of support and international attention. Sustainable peace requires sustained attention and investment.
19. We welcome the example set by South Africa in dismantling its nuclear weapon programme, recognise that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are essential parts of conflict prevention and paramount to the achievement of sustainable peace, recall the firm plea by Nelson Mandela in favour of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and underscore our commitment towards that goal.

Our common humanity demands that we must make the impossible possible. We seek the conversion of heart and mind that can make a difference. We therefore,

20. Decide to recognize the period 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace and calls on all Member States to redouble efforts to pursue peace, development and human rights internationally;
21. Welcome the establishment of the High Level Advisory Board on Mediation and encourages its further efforts in the pursuit and maintenance of international peace and security, and prevention of conflicts, including through the use of its good offices;
22. Recommend the alignment of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize and the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights, in order to strengthen the United Nation's recognition and celebration of its values, purposes and principles, while respecting their individual mandates;
23. In the spirit of Nelson Mandela's legacy and recognizing the intergenerational pledge of dignity and security which underpins the United Nations Charter, recommend that the United Nations explore means to systematically consider the necessity to balance the needs of present and future generations within its decision making processes;

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, fair and inclusive 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 new life into the values and principles of the United Nations.