



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 6 March 2019 regarding the informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, to be held on Tuesday, 26 March 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

In that regard, kindly find attached the concept note for the event. The programme will be provided in due course.

For further information on this event, you may contact my Adviser on Peacebuilding, Ms. Khalilah Hackman ([khalilah.hackman@un.org](mailto:khalilah.hackman@un.org)) or Mr. Paolo Fontana, Political Affairs Officer at the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs ([fontana@un.org](mailto:fontana@un.org)).

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

  
María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



**Informal Interactive Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace  
convened by the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding  
Commission**

26 March 2019, The Trusteeship Council Chamber  
UN Headquarters, New York

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

A General Assembly engagement on the Interim Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace requested by A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018)

**I. Background**

The 2016 twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) endorsed a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace that aims at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. The resolutions called for more coherent support to Member States in their efforts to build and sustain peace. In turn, the Report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) underscored the need for a more integrated, comprehensive, strategic and coherent approach among both UN system entities and Member States, across the three pillars and across the peace continuum, guided by national ownership and people-centred approaches. The reforms of the Secretary-General ensure that the UN is more fit for purpose and support the implementation of sustaining peace.

A High-level Meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace was convened on 24 and 25 April 2018 by the President of the General Assembly (PGA) that brought together a large number of Member States, confirming the political support for the implementation of sustaining peace. The event concluded with new twin resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018)), in which the General Assembly:

1. welcomed the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General, took note with appreciation of the recommendations and options it contains, and decided to discuss them further;
2. invited 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;
3. requested the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, during its 73<sup>rd</sup> session, an interim report further elaborating on his recommendations and options, including those on financing for United Nations peacebuilding activities; and

4. requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, during its 74<sup>th</sup> session, a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture.

In 2018, the PBC, convened a series of meetings on the content and recommendations of the report. Building on these discussions and to ensure an inclusive exchange of views and strengthen coordination, the PGA will convene the first interactive informal dialogue between the General Assembly and the PBC. This will provide the opportunity for Member States to further advance, explore and consider the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the Report of Secretary-General.

The dialogue will lead up to a formal plenary of the General Assembly for the presentation of the Interim Report of the Secretary-General to Member States in accordance with A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) in June 2019 at UN Headquarters, New York.

## **II. Format**

One full-day meeting consisting of an opening, closing and two substantive sessions:

### **A. Opening Session (10:00-10:30)**

### **B. Session I (10:30-13:00): Operational and Policy Coherence, Leadership, Accountability and Capacity in Supporting Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**

The session will explore ways in which the UN is advancing intergovernmental coherence in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, such as through informal interactive dialogues between intergovernmental bodies, and through the role of the PBC. It will also look at how the UN system is enhancing operational and policy coherence, including through the reforms of the Secretary-General, initiatives of cross-pillar cooperation such as the Global Focal Point for police, justice and corrections, or Peace and Development Advisors and strengthened joint analysis, planning and programming. The session will examine how UN leadership and capacities, especially in the field, are being strengthened in support of nationally-owned initiatives and through more coherent approaches across the pillars of peace and security, development and human rights. Finally, it will provide a first opportunity to assess the impact of the Secretary-General's reforms on the organization's capacity to prevent conflicts and sustain peace.

#### Guiding questions:

- a. *What progress is being made on operational and policy coherence, and strengthening leadership and capacities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace?*
- b. *What is the progress in fostering a cross-pillar approach and using sustainable development and human rights for conflict prevention and sustaining peace?*
- c. *What role can UN intergovernmental bodies play in further enhancing intergovernmental coherence, both at headquarters and in the field? What are some good practices and lessons learned?*
- d. *How does the UN reforms contribute to improved capacity, leadership and accountability for sustaining peace?*

**C. Session 2 (15:00-17:30): Financing and Partnerships in support of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**

The second session will look at how the options provided in the Report of the Secretary-General on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding for peacebuilding activities can contribute to more efficient, effective and sustained delivery of support in the field, including during transitions from one type of UN engagement to another. It will also explore how the UN is strengthening system-wide engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations, World Bank and other International Financial Institutions (IFIs), civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations and the private sector on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Guiding questions:

- a. *What are the challenges impeding adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding? How can they be addressed? What are good practices?*
- b. *How is the UN strengthening its partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs, private sector and civil society in order to strengthen its performance on conflict prevention and sustaining peace?*
- c. *How can the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies support this engagement?*

**D. Closing (17:30-18:00)**

**III. Expected Outcome**

PBC-GA joint chairs' summary resulting from the Informal Interactive Dialogue.

**Note:** To foster an interactive exchange, there will be no list of established speakers. Member States are encouraged to take the floor to make interventions and recommendations or to ask questions.