

The 2015 Review of the U.N. Peacebuilding Architecture
Informal meeting on setting the stage
6 October 2015

Co-Facilitators' Summary

I. Introduction:

The Permanent Representatives of Australia and Angola, in their capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on the 2015 Review of the U.N. Peacebuilding Architecture, convened an open informal meeting on 6 October 2015 with the purpose of discussing procedural issues related to the consultations process, in a transparent and inclusive manner.

The President of the General Assembly delivered opening remarks, followed by the presentation by the co-facilitators of the proposed programme of work and desired outcome for the intergovernmental process. Member States gave their support to the proposed programme of work, called for a strong and serious engagement by the full Membership and expressed their expectations for the outcome of the process.

II. The proposed programme and timelines for the process:

The Permanent Representative of Angola underlined the importance the co-facilitators attach to conducting an open, transparent, inclusive and constructive process, also drawing upon the continued support of the Review Secretariat throughout the process. He went on to summarize the policy and institutional analysis undertaken by the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE), highlighting five key conclusions of the AGE in its report: a) 'sustaining peace' as a shared Charter responsibility and the imperative for coordinated and coherent action; b) peacebuilding seen as a thread running through the life cycle of conflicts, including long-term prevention and short-term crisis response; c) the importance of a revitalized Peacebuilding Commission; d) the proven record of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing catalytic support to kick-start critical peacebuilding interventions; and e) the importance of inclusive national ownership.

The Permanent Representative of Australia explained the purpose of the intergovernmental phase as transforming the analysis and recommendations of the first phase into concrete, practical, realistic and effective benchmarks, ideally through identical General Assembly/ Security Council resolutions. She summarized their proposed roadmap as a) informal discussions on key recommendations of the AGE Report (October), followed by the PBC Retreat (30-31 October); b) open informal consultations in order to gather initial inputs, preparation and dissemination of the 'zero draft' (November); and c) informal, working-level discussions on the revised draft around the main areas of the report, followed by formal discussions towards the desired outcome(December).

The Membership welcomed the desired outcome (identical General Assembly and Security Council resolutions), proposed programme of work and timelines for the intergovernmental consultations and indicated strong support for inclusive, transparent and result-oriented negotiations. Some delegations highlighted the importance of holding comprehensive discussions in order to ensure identical resolutions that help advance action on key recommendations from the report. In this connection, several members proposed that the co-facilitators consider a possible “plan B” for the consultations calendar, thus enabling the process to continue past the end of December, 2015.

Several delegations welcomed the ‘important, timely, insightful and practical’ recommendations of the AGE Report. They commended the AGE’s definition of ‘sustaining peace’ as a core Charter responsibility and peacebuilding as a continuum running through different forms of UN response. They emphasized the imperative for revitalizing the advisory and coordinating role of the PBC, as well as its bridging role bringing coherence among principal organs, between headquarters and field and between different peacebuilding actors. Delegations underlined the importance of the role that the PBF played as a fast, catalytic and flexible funding instrument for peacebuilding mandates and objectives. In this connection, delegations underscored the need for predictable funding, as well as the imperative to establish better partnerships particularly with Bretton Woods institutions. Inclusive national ownership emerged as another key theme of the AGE Report – one that delegations stressed that it merits special attention and in-depth discussion.

Several delegations also underscored the need for the UN system to consider the recommendations of the AGE report together with those of other reviews, inputs and processes undertaken in 2015, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16.

III. Next Steps:

The co-facilitators will continue engaging informally with member states in an inclusive and transparent manner throughout the month of October. The co-facilitators will convene an open informal session in early November, with the purpose of collecting inputs towards a ‘zero draft’ of eventual identical resolutions. In order to ensure sufficient and inclusive consultations leading to a solid and widely owned outcome, the proposed timelines could be reevaluated in November, as needed.