



Peacebuilding

Sustaining Peace

The Peacebuilding Brief, Issue 3, June 2016

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Sustaining Peace is a Shared Task and Responsibility

By Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted the most comprehensive resolutions on peacebuilding in the history of the United Nations.

The resolutions reflect the far-reaching content of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. They emphasize that any response that fails to address the root causes of conflict will not break the vicious cycle of conflict and response. At a time when the international community faces multiple crises

and the capabilities of the United Nations are being stretched to their limits, the resolutions point the way toward more effective action.

What Member States have confirmed in adopting the resolutions is that we must collectively focus much greater attention on prevention. A similar appeal emerged from the 2015 review of peace operations and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, and is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Peacebuilding should no longer

be thought of solely as a set of post-conflict activities and tasks. Rather, it is a thread running through the entire conflict cycle and across mandates, pillars, sectors and

"What Member States have confirmed in adopting the resolutions is that we must collectively focus much greater attention on prevention."



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. UN Photo/Mark Garten

Join the conversation!



For inquiries, please contact Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief, Policy, Planning and Application Branch, Peacebuilding Support Office

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institutional silos. This idea is encapsulated in the concept of “sustaining peace” contained in the resolutions.

The resolutions outline a number of challenges ahead, including strengthening operational and policy coherence within the United Nations system; improving internal United Nations leadership, capability and accountability (at UN Headquarters and in the field); and ensuring adequate funding for peacebuilding activities. We must improve partnerships, especially with regional and sub-regional organizations and with the World Bank and other international financial

institutions.

And we need to better utilize the Peacebuilding Commission, including by having it consider a wider set of countries as well as cross-cutting issues, and by enhancing cooperation with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council. The PBC has already embarked on a number of new and innovative ways to address some of these issues. The ECOSOC and PBC will also launch a dialogue to discuss how humanitarian, peacebuilding and development efforts can work together better.

The Member States have sent a strong and unified message through these groundbreaking resolutions. I congratulate the Member States on this achievement. The United Nations system is strongly committed to supporting Member States in implementing the resolutions. I will do my part to make sure that sustaining peace is put squarely in the middle of our efforts across the world. As I prepare to conclude my term at the end of 2016, it is clear that my successor will have important new momentum and tools with which to take forward the work of sustaining peace. ●

Sustaining Peace: A Goal and a Process

*By the co-facilitators of the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture –
H.E. Mr. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola and
H.E. Ms. Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia*



L-R, H. E. Ms. Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly, and H.E. Mr. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola. Photo courtesy of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

Recognizing that the scale and nature of global threats required urgent and coordinated attention, UN Member States came together at the 2005 World Summit and established the UN’s Peacebuilding Architecture.

Built into the foundation of the Architecture, however, was a conceptual understanding of peacebuilding as being a post-conflict activity, aimed at preventing countries relapsing into conflict.

Ten years later, the 2015 Review of the UN’s Peacebuilding Architecture found that the UN’s Peacebuilding Architecture had not lived up to its potential, and that a “gaping hole” existed in the UN’s institutional machinery for building peace.

On 27 April, following an extended review process and months of intergovernmental negotiations, the UN General Assembly and Security Council adopted parallel resolutions (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)).

These resolutions lay out a detailed, cross-cutting roadmap of how the UN’s peace and security, human rights and development activities can and should work in a coordinated and interrelated way, as part of the UN’s overall efforts to sustain peace, and “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” as the Charter implores.

Underlying Member States’ vision for UN peacebuilding were two key elements: first, that peacebuilding should not merely be seen as a function of the Peacebuilding Architecture, but as a shared responsibility of the entire UN system; and second, that peacebuilding needed to be released from its post-conflict structures, and seen through the more comprehensive lens of “sustaining peace.”

“The concept of sustaining peace..effectively pivots the UN’s peace and security responses away from linear, reactive activities, to a more comprehensive and strategic approach aimed at preventing conflict...”



The Security Council, on 27 April 2016, unanimously adopts resolution 2282 (2016) on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. The General Assembly also adopted a substantively identical resolution on the same day, with the two resolutions providing renewed momentum for the focus on “sustaining peace” within the UN system. UN Photo/Manuel Elias

“...it is vital that our collective attention now turns to the effective implementation of the resolutions.”

resolutions. This includes Member States’ detailed vision for the UN strengthening its operational and policy coherence, improving joint analysis and strategic planning, ensuring continuity of peacebuilding programmes through mission transitions, strengthening leadership and accountability for sustaining peace, and supporting the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding.

The peacebuilding resolutions have the potential to reset the UN’s peace and security engagement, through the new paradigm of sustaining peace and conflict prevention. It is now up to us all to turn this normative vision into a reality that brings sustainable peace to the world. ●

The concept of sustaining peace – embedded for the first time in these resolutions – effectively pivots the UN’s peace and security responses away from linear, reactive activities, to a more comprehensive and strategic approach aimed at preventing conflict, avoiding relapses, and assisting countries to recover effectively.

The resolutions also emphasized the need for closer strategic and operational partnerships between the UN and key stakeholders, including regional and sub-regional organizations and international financial institutions, especially the World Bank.

The potential of the Peacebuilding Commission to contribute to sustaining peace was articulated as well, particularly in bringing sustained international attention to countries affected by conflict, and in bridging the UN’s work – including across the peacebuilding, development and humanitarian divides. The need for predictable and sustained financing to underpin these efforts was also acknowledged, with a call for a detailed follow-up report from the Secretary-General advising on the progress to implement the resolutions, to strengthen operational coherence and coordination, and to provide a range of innovative options for providing sustained financing for these strategic and coordinated efforts.

Among other key innovations were the acknowledgements that for peace to be sustainable, it must be inclusive and capture the needs of all segments of society – a vision conceptually aligned with the people-centered approach of the 2030 Agenda. A particular emphasis was also included on the need for the contributions of women, civil society, and youth to be harnessed.

Having harnessed the UN membership’s support for the sustaining peace agenda, it is vital that our collective attention now turns to the effective implementation of the

“...for peace to be sustainable, it must be inclusive and capture the needs of all segments of society...”

Invest in Sustaining Peace

Pledging Conference for the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund

21 September 2016
3 PM - 6 PM

United Nations
New York

Co-Hosted by the Governments of Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom

More information at www.pbfpledgingconference.org

Strengthening PBC's Commitment to Sustaining Peace

By H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



H. E. Mr. Macharia Kamau (left), Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, addresses the Security Council debate on “Post-conflict peacebuilding: review of the peacebuilding architecture”. At his side is H. E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

Article 1 of the United Nations Charter clearly indicates that the main purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and prevent any threats to security, suppress aggression, develop friendly relations and promote cooperation. In the 70 years of the United Nations’ existence, there has been remarkable progress. Yet, peace is still imperiled.

There have been too many threats to peace and security ranging from terrorism and civil conflicts to virulent diseases and climate change. These are indicators that there is urgent need to rethink the way we do business. These are pointers that we live in an increasingly interdependent world where we must build peace, and eradicate poverty, disease, underdevelopment and terrorism.

Radicalization and violent extremism are globally disquieting trends that must be urgently addressed. In this regard, there is a need to change our mindset as an overriding requirement. We must invest more in prevention of conflict particularly through early warning, dialogue, mediation and

accompaniment.

In its ambition, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to leave no one behind and aspires to transform the world in which we live. Among other important messages, it advocates for an inclusive process and equal participation of all, particularly women, youth, the private sector and civil society, in all efforts aimed at building and sustaining peace. It is critical that women and youth are involved at all levels in all peacebuilding initiatives, recognizing that for sustainable outcomes, conversations surrounding peaceful co-existence must never stop.

Investing in the whole continuum of the conflict cycle in all the spheres of governance, security and development, and in an integrated manner, is imperative. This approach should include addressing the root causes of conflict, escalation, continuation or recurrence of conflict and pursue preventative methods. It should also identify existing and potential conflict areas where peacebuilding engagements could be applied

to lower and possibly reverse the threat of conflict, combat violence while promoting and protecting human rights and further good governance and democracy.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) continues to create lasting partnerships, advancing mutual respect and understanding among and within regions, headquarters and institutions. Its success will depend on its ability to forge partnerships with UN and non-UN actors with a view to offer comprehensive advice to the principal organs (ECOSOC, General Assembly and Security Council). As an intergovernmental advisory body, it is important that the PBC continue to work closely through high-level working meetings with the Secretary-General, World Bank, other international financial institutions, as well as regional organizations to marshal financial support and policy and programmatic collaboration.

At the moment, operationalizing resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) on the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture is a priority for the PBC. The resolutions afford

“The resolutions empower and give the PBC greater relevance, ambition, flexibility and innovative capacity to effectively and fully utilize its convening power of various actors.”

the PBC not only to start thinking about its role and contribution in sustaining peace, but also to start identifying practical ways of implementing such a role.

The resolutions empower and give the PBC greater relevance, ambition, flexibility and innovative capacity to effectively and fully utilize its convening power of various actors for advocacy, sustained political attention and resource mobilization.

The Peacebuilding Commission will remain true to the vision of the UN Charter in pursuit of sustainable peace. ●

Strengthening Trust between Communities and Authorities in Kyrgyzstan through the Peacebuilding Fund

By PBSO

“For the first time, I feel relaxed in my house,” declared Mrs. Abdillaev, an ethnic Uzbek woman from the restive border area of Bakten Province in Kyrgyzstan, to a delegation from the Secretary-General’s Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund. During their visit in April 2016, Advisory Group members heard how the PBF-funded project helped Mrs. Abdillaev and 27 of her neighbours secure tenure to their homes and land. This happy end to their decades-long legal battles, supported by UNHCR, followed frustrating legal processes that undermined ethnic minorities’ faith in the rule of law and their relationship with Kyrgyz authorities. On the issue of trust building, Mr. Abdislam Abdraimov, a representative of the Local Self-Government Authorities in Batken province noted appreciatively, “We can see the tangible results with our own eyes. First of all, the inter-ethnic relations are strengthened. Secondly, relationships between the communities and the local authorities are strengthened. The trust towards Local Self Governments is growing. The initiatives supported by the PBF mobilized our communities and they have become more active.”



Mrs. Abdillaev secures tenure to her home and land, ending a decades-long legal battle. PBSO photo/Risa Fujimura

The UNHCR project is one of 14 being implemented in Kyrgyzstan through funds provided by the Peacebuilding Fund. Since

2014, the UN Country Team and its partners have been implementing a US\$ 15.1 million grant to support local authorities as catalysts for resolving tensions among communities, and ensure that state policies and laws promote the rule of law and that educational and cultural institutions roll out those laws and policies to promote an inclusive, civic identity and respect for diversity.

Representatives from the Fund’s Advisory Group made the trip to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to witness how the Fund’s investments are making a difference on the ground. Advisory Group members met with national, regional and local officials in the two countries, as well as a range of beneficiaries — from teachers, parents and pupils to marginalized groups and villagers like Mrs. Abdillaev who obtained legal deeds to their homes for the first time in their lives. As important as meetings with high-level national authorities were, it was the on-site visits to villages, schools, youth groups and local water points that brought home the importance of peacebuilding in action. Recognizing how the lack of access to basic services may serve as a trigger point for resentment or marginalization, Advisory Group members visited, for example, a PBF-funded medical clinic constructed as a cooperative effort between the local government in Osh and members of the ethnic Lyuli community, a historically marginalized group. The clinic, serving more than 4,000 community members, has contributed to a greater sense of confidence in local authorities among the Lyuli, including through an office set up within the clinic, which serves as an important meeting point between community members and local authorities. Initiatives such as this underscore how small but strategic investments could have large, positive and tangible repercussions.

By the close of their trip, Advisory Group members’ overriding impression of the future of peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan was one embodied by the country’s youth: University students at Batken State University undertaking specialized training in new pedagogical methods that promote inter-ethnic understanding. Impressively

articulate primary school students explained why they value their participation in an initiative called “My Safe and Peaceful School.” Young male students at a local madrasa were learning the ways in which the Koran encourages empowerment of women and peace.

The Advisory Group noted that “members were most impressed with how active, confident and articulate young people, particularly the girls, were in explaining the issues they are addressing,” and commended the UN organizations and their local partners for developing an approach that gives the primary role to local actors. The steps these young people are taking to collectively foster cross-ethnic understanding and contribute to sustainable peace left mission members with



PBF Advisory Group member, Ms. Torunn L. Tryggestad, talks with students on the Group’s visit to Central Asia. PBSO photo/Risa Fujimura

a lasting sense of hope for the future of peaceful relations in this corner of Central Asia. In addition, Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring Tajikistan launched in early 2016 the PBF’s first-ever cross-border project. The lack of clear boundary lines, intertwining of social and living conditions, and on-going controversy between communities regarding access to scarce natural resources have over time led to increased tensions across the borders. The US\$3 million project (US\$1.6 million for Tajikistan and US\$1.4 million for Kyrgyzstan) aims to help ethnic communities living in the border area reduce tensions and increase cooperation and trust between the communities.

We at PBSO will be watching eagerly in the coming years to see how these initial steps translate into durable and just peace. ●

Joint UN Visit Underscores Need for Cross-Border Peacebuilding in West Africa

By PBSO

To follow up on the Peacebuilding Fund's investments and explore opportunities to support countries' efforts to tackle their growing transnational and cross-border peacebuilding challenges, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Peacebuilding Support, Mr. Oscar Fernández-Taranco, travelled to Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal from 8 to 18 March 2016. He was joined by Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye (Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP) in Mali and Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa) in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. "West Africa is facing a number of cross-border challenges that call for a coherent approach," the ASG said. "This visit provided the opportunity to meet and talk with stakeholders in the affected countries, as well as with UN and others representatives tackling those challenges, and find out how the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can help them."



Mr. Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, talks with H.E. Mr. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire. Photo courtesy of PBF Secretariat, Côte d'Ivoire

"Efforts should go beyond military and security responses and focus on affected communities, particularly in border areas..."

In Mali, the delegation attended a G5 Conference on "Border Management and Border Communities." The Conference featured government officials from the region and representatives of the UN, African Union (AU), European Union (EU), ECOWAS, G5 Sahel, the diplomatic community and civil society. Participants called for a multi-dimensional approach to the many challenges facing the Sahel, including terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, illicit trafficking and other transnational crimes, migration and displacement of populations.

Efforts should go beyond military and security responses and focus on affected communities, particularly in border areas, as well as enhance cooperation among the various national, regional and international actors.

The delegation held bilateral meetings with Malian government officials, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Reconciliation. The Ministers welcomed the crucial PBF support for the implementation of the peace agreement, through US\$ 11 million in projects, including reintegration and reconciliation activities in

Gao and Timbuktu. They emphasized the need for additional PBF support for the implementation of the peace agreement, including the establishment of interim local administration in Northern Mali and for the effective redeployment of state authority, especially in the newly created regions of Taoudenni and Menaka.



Mr. Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, sits at the head of the table at a Meeting with the PBF Steering Committee and PBF project beneficiaries in Mali. To his right sits H.E. Mr. N'Tji Laico Traoré of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mali. Photo courtesy of MINUSMA

The delegation discussed ongoing PBF projects as well as emerging priorities with the UN Country Team, representatives of the donor community and international financial institutions based in Bamako. He also met with beneficiaries of PBF projects in Timbuktu and Gao, particularly children, youth and women, who told him about the improved social cohesion in their communities.

In Senegal, the delegation and government, UN and civil society representatives discussed the need to further strengthen coordination and strategic and operational coherence of UN interventions in support of peacebuilding efforts in the region, focusing mostly on cross-border threats.

The planned drawdown of both UN peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia marked the delegation's visit to Côte d'Ivoire. They discussed opportunities to extend PBF support to address the challenges of sustaining peace in the border areas, with particular attention to women and youth issues.

Together with SRSB Chambas, the ASG participated in a high-level seminar hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in fragile situations. Participants explored concrete actions to strengthen the partnership between the UN, AU and AfDB to implement SDG 16, with a special emphasis on West Africa. The ASG briefed on PBSO's efforts to step up its partnership and cooperation with the AfDB, AU and other relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.

“The visit drove home the urgent need to focus on cross-border and regional political, security, human rights and development challenges in the region.”

As a follow-up to the early-March visit by the Secretary-General to Burkina Faso, the ASG and SRSB Chambas travelled together to Ouagadougou to explore specific UN support to the country's peacebuilding priorities. The visit was also a follow-up on the PBC meeting on Burkina Faso on 16 September 2015, organized at the request of the country's transitional authorities. At their meeting with President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, the

President requested UN support for national reconciliation, strengthening the rule of law, restructuring the security sector and dealing with cross-border peacebuilding challenges.

The ASG and SRSB also met with members of the newly established *Haut Conseil pour la Réconciliation et l'Unité Nationale* (High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity) to discuss UN support for this Institution, which will lead the country's national reconciliation efforts once it becomes operational. “The visit drove home the urgent need to focus on cross-border and regional political, security, human rights and development challenges in the region,” the ASG said.

“There is a clear need to focus our responses on affected communities in the region, with a view to preventing violent extremism and radicalization based on the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel as well as UNDP Regional Strategy on ‘Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach’.” ●

PBC Chair's Visit to Explore Sub-Regional Peacebuilding Opportunities in West Africa: The Road to Recovery after the Ebola Outbreak

9 to 17 June 2016

The Chair of the PBC (Kenya) -- together with the Vice-Chair of the PBC (Republic of Korea) and Sierra Leone Configuration Chair (Canada), representatives of Guinea, Luxembourg, Sierra Leone, Sweden and the United Nations (Department of Political Affairs, PBSO and UNDP) – visited Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone from 9 to 17 June to explore how the PBC can best support the ongoing post-Ebola recovery process in the affected countries and long-term peacebuilding priorities from a national and regional perspective.

The mission aimed to 1) highlight national and regional recovery efforts, focusing on the political and socio-economic situation in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and identify remaining challenges; 2) discuss and identify opportunities with the relevant authorities and stakeholders for further constructive engagement of the PBC and international community; and 3) sustain attention to sub-regional peacebuilding efforts in West Africa on the road to recovery after the Ebola outbreak, including institutional strengthening, policy implementation, state-society relations as well as effective allocation and use of resources.

Against the backdrop of the recently adopted peacebuilding resolutions, the Chair will present recommendations to the PBC and other UN principal organs on how best to ensure that all the efforts and investments made by the national actors, the UN and other global actors are coherent, mutually reinforcing and targeting peacebuilding priorities. ●

The Peace Promise launched at World Humanitarian Summit side event: “Reducing Humanitarian Needs: Peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflicts”

By PBSO

The Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson launched *The Peace Promise* at a side event at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23 May 2016. The Peace Promise has been coordinated by PBSO and is a set of common commitments of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors to simultaneously deliver humanitarian assistance, ensure conflict-sensitivity and synergies in programmes and address the drivers of conflict. It has been endorsed by about 30 UN entities and non-governmental organizations.

The side event was organized by PBSO, International Alert and other partners and moderated by Femi Oke of Al Jazeera and featured a lively and interactive discussion among the panelists, including the Deputy Secretary-General and Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. It highlighted how complementarity between development assistance, humanitarian action and peacebuilding can be strengthened, drawing upon examples, and how critical that is in order to address the drivers of violent conflicts, sustain peace and reduce humanitarian needs.

The Deputy Secretary-General gave three overarching messages. First, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development, and no human rights without development or peace. Complex challenges cannot be divided into silos. The problems are connected – the solutions must be, too. Second, we need to put people at the centre. The UN Charter starts with “We the peoples of the United Nations.” The 2030 Agenda promises to leave no one behind, a call which is reinforced in the “Agenda for Humanity” for this Summit. Third, we must prioritize prevention – prevention of violent conflict, of disasters and addressing the root causes of human suffering. But too often, prevention and peacebuilding are underfunded, initiated too late, or not sufficiently sustained.

He emphasized that we need to work *in* conflicts and *on* conflicts at the same time – that



Moderator, Ms. Femi Oke (far left), opens the event and briefly introduces the panel members (l-r) Ms. Virginie Lefèvre, Program and Partnerships Coordinator, International Amel Association; Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict, Violence and Forced Displacement, World Bank Group; Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General; Ms. Andrea Koppel, Vice President of Global Engagement and Policy, Mercy Corps; Mr. Mark Goldring, Chief Executive of Oxfam Great Britain; and Mr. Fadi Hallisso, Co-Founder and CEO, Basmeh and Zeitouneh. PBSO photo/Jian Pak

is, address immediate humanitarian needs and build sustainable peace over the longer term, which would help reduce human suffering. And there was a need to link development, humanitarian and

peacebuilding actors in a horizontal manner. This is what the Peace Promise pledges, which is fully in line with the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity.●

“The Peace Promise ... is a set of common commitments of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors to simultaneously deliver humanitarian assistance, ensure conflict-sensitivity and synergies in programmes and address the drivers of conflict.”

The Five Commitments of the Peace Promise are:

1. Focus on the alignment and coherence of collective short-, medium- and long-term objectives simultaneously, which include addressing humanitarian needs, addressing the drivers of violent conflict and developing institutions, resilience and capacities simultaneously in a complementary and synergetic manner based on comparative advantages.
2. Conduct context, risk or conflict analysis regularly to understand the environment and the interconnected risks of conflict, disasters and climate change.
3. Develop capacities, tools and partnerships, ensure institutional learning and innovation and share information and translate analysis into conflict-sensitive programmes, prioritizing national and local actors.
4. Do no harm and ensure conflict-sensitive programming, and where possible leverage opportunities to Do More Good (DMG), by developing capacities and institutions, enhancing social cohesion and trust, strengthening resilience and reducing the risk of violence, while engaging local stakeholders.
5. Provide adequate, sustained and risk tolerant financing of collective outcomes on peace, humanitarian needs and development.

The following organizations support the above-listed commitments and commit to create the synergies and complementarities among peace, humanitarian and development actions that are required to reduce humanitarian needs, guided by the Agenda for Humanity.

Alliance for Peacebuilding
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
CARE
Catholic Relief Services
CDA Collaborative Learning Projects
Conciliation Resources
Cord
Human Appeal
Initiatives of Change International
International Alert
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Interpeace
MercyCorps
Peace Direct
Saferworld
Search for Common Ground
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
UNESCO
UNICEF
United Nations Department of Political Affairs
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UN Women
Women for Women International
World Bank
World Food Programme
World Vision International

THE PEACE PROMISE

COMMITMENTS TO MORE EFFECTIVE SYNERGIES
AMONG PEACE, HUMANITARIAN AND
DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS IN COMPLEX
HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS

The international community has in recent years been in a state of crisis management, reacting to events rather than proactively addressing root causes and supporting the long-term capacities and institutions that are required for sustainable peace and development. Several recent reports, agreements and resolutions¹ have emphasized the need to focus on preventing crises and addressing the drivers of conflict and subsequent human suffering. Prevention and peacebuilding is generally underfunded, initiated too late, not prioritized, or insufficiently sustained. The international community has a responsibility to address the root causes of violent conflict and implement measures aimed at peacebuilding and strengthening resilience, which can also support a shift from providing humanitarian assistance to those in need to reduce those needs sustainably.

The nature and scale of humanitarian crises has changed, displaying increasingly complex interactions among social, economic, environmental, geographical, human rights, political and security drivers and consequences. Currently, 125 million people require humanitarian assistance – most of them affected by violent conflict – and displacement has reached record levels. One in ten children lives in areas affected by armed conflict and violence. Between 2002 and 2013, 86 per cent of resources requested through United Nations humanitarian appeals were destined to humanitarian action in conflict situations. Such complex humanitarian emergencies have been intractable and protracted with an average length of displacement due to war and persecution of 17 years. Moreover, the funding requirements of inter-agency humanitarian appeals have increased six-fold from \$3.4 billion in 2004 to \$19.5 billion in 2015. This is not sustainable.

Humanitarian action cannot prevent violent conflict, nor can it end humanitarian needs in the absence of political solutions to conflict. Humanitarian assistance can have both positive and negative impacts on conflict dynamics. Where not carefully calibrated, whether in the targeting of beneficiaries, procurement, distribution of resources or service delivery, or (re-)settlement of displaced people, it can have negative impact. The provision of assistance can have a positive impact by reducing tensions and prevent competition over resources. Awareness of the context into which humanitarian assistance is delivered is therefore at the heart of the principle of "do no harm." While humanitarian action can contribute to a reduction in the risk of violence and to sustaining peace, its purpose remains to address life-saving needs and alleviate suffering. Improved context-specific coordination and coherence among peacebuilding, development and humanitarian action presents opportunities for mitigating the risks and fostering more sustainable outcomes. At the same time, humanitarian organizations must ensure, and others must respect, that humanitarian action remains guided by the principles of humanity and impartiality; that humanitarian priorities are defined on the basis of needs and that assistance and protection is given as a matter of priority to the most vulnerable.

In short, the international community has a responsibility to work together across silos and at the peace-humanitarian-development nexus in addressing the drivers of violent conflict, delivering humanitarian assistance and developing institutions, resilience and capacities simultaneously in a complementary and synergetic way in order to end humanitarian needs, in a context-specific manner that safeguards humanitarian principles.

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Pledging Conference for the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

21 September 2016

United Nations
New York

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More information at www.pbfpledgingconference.org

The General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282)

The comprehensive resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture adopted simultaneously on 27 April by the General Assembly and the Security Council send a powerful signal: A change in strategy and mind-set is required to address all stages of conflict in a comprehensive and coherent way. Focus must not only be given to preventing the recurrence of violent conflict, but to preventing conflict from breaking out in the first place. Increased investments in sustaining peace are a crucial contribution to this.

The resolutions stress that prevention and peacebuilding efforts are underfunded and under-prioritized, and that funding for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and for prevention and peacebuilding in general, is the best way to reduce suffering and lower overall costs, and therefore needs to be more sustained, adequate and predictable.

Background

The PBF was established in 2006, through General Assembly Resolution A/60/180 and Security Council Resolution S/RES/1645 (2005). As evidenced by a series of Reviews¹, PBF funding enables the UN to seize political opportunities it would likely otherwise miss. Importantly, it enables partners to pool risk and respond coherently by providing initial or bridge financing for UN preventive and peacebuilding programmes.

Despite positive assessments of the performance and impact of the PBF and calls for strengthening its role, the Fund is in danger of seeing its critical position weakened by lack of adequate funding. Already in 2015, the PBF was unable to meet its programming target because of funding gaps. Just in the first quarter of 2016, the PBF faced unprecedented demand of over US\$120 million for investments in sustaining peace.

The High-level Pledging Conference

The High-level Pledging Conference seeks to recapitalize the Fund by increasing contributions, the number of donors and the predictability of PBF's funding, to allow the PBF to continue to excel at its task to deliver fast, flexible and risk-tolerant support to sustaining peace. The Pledging Conference, immediately following the UN Summit on Refugees and Migration, will focus on mobilizing funding for the PBF to invest in the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of crises, which are at the root of today's unprecedented - and unsustainable - refugee flows. The conference furthermore seeks to build political momentum for addressing systemic and structural challenges relating to predictable and sustainable financing for sustaining peace.

Objective:

Expand the donor base supporting the Fund and increase the volume of resources available through multi-year contributions

Mobilization target:

US\$ 300 million for 2017-2019

Venue:

Conference Room 2,
United Nations
Secretariat

Date/Time:

21 September 2016,
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Participation:

Ministerial Level

Speakers:

Remarks by the Secretary-General and the Co-hosts; interventions from the floor by Member States that confirmed their pledges in advance.

¹The 2014 Independent Review of the PBF; the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations; the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325; and the Secretary-General's report for the World Humanitarian Summit emphasized the PBF's distinct risk tolerance and responsive funding processes. Independent evaluations and the DFID Multilateral Aid Review demonstrate a strong record of delivery and impact, and the PBF's unique role in driving UN coherence.