



# Geneva Thematic Consultations for the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture

## Background Note

In resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), the General Assembly and the Security Council called for a “comprehensive review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (UNPBA) to be conducted during the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly”. UN Member States, under the auspices of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), elaborated Terms of Reference for the review. They agreed that the review should take stock of the work done by the United Nations on peacebuilding and called for a forward-looking review, aimed at further improving the capacity of the architecture to effectively support efforts to build and sustain peace.

The resolutions emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to “sustaining peace”, wherein “respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms” are an integral component and reaffirm that “development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing”. The UN Secretary-General was tasked by the General Assembly to submit a detailed report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in connection with the review. This report, which will be the main input to the review, is expected in mid-2020.

To feed into the UNPBA review process, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, in partnership with Switzerland will facilitate a consultative process among relevant stakeholders in Geneva. The consultations aim to gather the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations of stakeholders that operate primarily out of International Geneva. Representatives of Member States, Geneva-based International Organizations, International Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and Academia are invited to participate.

The consultative process is composed of three elements: An opening session for all stakeholders, a technical session for experts from International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Academia, as well as a closing session for all stakeholders and the interested public.

The Geneva thematic consultations will focus specifically on concrete examples of policy and operational coherence linking peace and security, development and human rights, as well as partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In addition to plenary discussions in the opening and technical sessions, five specific break-out groups will shed light on the role of human rights in sustaining peace, meaningful women participation, governance-driven approaches to security, peace-responsive programming to operationalize sustaining peace across the system, as well as the role of integrated analysis to enable coherent action on humanitarian, development, peace and security challenges.



## Technical Sessions

### Coherence and Partnerships for Peacebuilding

#### Part I

Tuesday, 18 February 2020 | Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 5-6

13.30 – 14.00 Registration

14.00 – 15.30 **Thematic Session I: Operational and Policy Coherence and the Cross-Pillar Approach**

This session will discuss how coherence between the development, peace and security and human rights pillars can further strengthen the United Nation's efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It will take a broad perspective on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace to include consideration of connections with the humanitarian and disarmament/arms control fields. The participants will be invited to provide concrete examples of successful coherence and how a more holistic approach has helped to consolidate peace and development gains.

Framing Remarks: "Peacebuilding in a Geopolitical Era. Connecting the Dots"  
Annika Söder, *Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture*

Introductory Statements:

Silja Halle, *Programme Officer, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)*

Representative, *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* (tbc)

Himayu Shiotani, *Head of Conventional Arms Programme, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research*

Yvette Stevens, *Executive-in-Residence, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). Chair/Rapporteur, Human Rights Council Resolution on Prevention of Human Rights Violations.*

Moderation:

Maja Messmer, *Head of Section Humanitarian Policy, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*



**Thematic Session I Guiding Questions:**

1. What concrete examples exist for holistic approaches to peacebuilding and sustaining peace that successfully bring together peace and security, development and human rights efforts?
2. How can the UN System leverage the potential of development and human rights approaches, tools and mechanisms in a coherent and complementary manner, to effectively support conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace?
3. Which thematic areas and stakeholders have additional or underutilized potential that the UN System could use more strongly as part of a holistic approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace?
4. How does the Peacebuilding Architecture mitigate potentially contradicting policy objectives between the pillars, including humanitarian action?
5. How has the Peacebuilding Architecture so far made use of the potential of Geneva-based actors and how could this be improved in the future?

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 17.30 Thematic Session II: Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**

This session will discuss partnerships and how civil society, local actors and the private sector can contribute efficiently to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace. The participants will be invited to share concrete examples of peacebuilding partnerships and the factors that sustain them. The session will also explore the current challenges to effective partnerships, and what additional partnerships may be needed to address future conflict prevention and peacebuilding challenges.

Framing Remarks: “Peacebuilding through Collective Responsibility and Partnerships”  
Liberata Mulamula, *Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture*

Introductory Statements:

Catriona Gourlay, *Executive Director, Peace Nexus*

Mara Tignino, *Lead Legal Specialist, Geneva Water Hub, University of Geneva*

Daniel Hyslop, *Director of Policy, Learning and IPAT, Interpeace*

Najat Rochdi, *Team Leader & Director, Peer2Peer Support, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Moderation:

Thomas Guerber, *Director, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)*



**Thematic Session II Guiding Questions:**

1. How can the system-wide engagement with civil society for sustaining peace be mainstreamed and developed further?
2. How can peacebuilding partnerships be protected despite a shrinking space for civil society that characterizes many contexts that are affected by, or at the risk of conflict?
3. What innovative partnerships have proven successful in building and sustaining peace, and what lessons can be learned from them?
4. What progress has been made in developing partnerships with the private sector, strengthening the peacebuilding impact of companies, as well as developing and implementing conflict-sensitive investment guidelines?
5. How has the Peacebuilding Architecture so far made use of the potential of Geneva-based actors and how could this be improved in the future?

**17.30 – 18.00 Summary Discussion and Formation of Thematic Focus Groups**

Participants are invited to join one of the five breakout groups, following a short overview of topics and guiding questions.

Moderation:

Achim Wennmann, *Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*



## *Technical Sessions*

### *Coherence and Partnerships for Peacebuilding*

#### Part II

Wednesday, 19 February 2020 | Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 5-6

09.00 – 09.30 Coffee

09.30 – 11.30 Breakout Groups (in parallel)

The participants are invited to join *one* of the following break-out groups:

#### **Breakout Group 1: Integrating Human Rights and Sustaining Peace through the Peacebuilding Architecture**

Lead:

Florence Foster, *Representative for Peace and Disarmament, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)*

Summary:

Recognizing Human Rights' role throughout the peace-conflict continuum from conflict prevention to post conflict peacebuilding and the importance of the international human rights framework as a "critical foundation for peace", this breakout group will assess the achievements and remaining gaps in the Peacebuilding Architecture's institutional and "in country" collaboration and coherence with regards to the human rights pillar. We will address: How can knowledge and information be transmitted adequately across the three pillars - Development, Peace and Security and Human Rights? What enabling approaches can better be leveraged to enhance coherence and collaboration with the Human Rights pillar? Which reporting mechanisms are best suited to highlight the interrelated nature of Human Rights and Peacebuilding? And how can Human Rights Mechanisms be better used for early warning, prevention and conflict non-recurrence?

Venue:

Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 5, C1



## Breakout Group 2: Enabling Women's Meaningful Participation in Peacebuilding

### Lead:

Yvette Stevens, *Executive-in-Residence, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). Chair/Rapporteur, Human Rights Council Resolution on Prevention of Human Rights Violations.*

### Summary:

This session will discuss how enabling women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding can make a real difference and accelerate the sustaining peace agenda. The participants will be invited to share concrete examples of 1) how the UNPBA have or can successfully leverage women, their expertise and experiences, to make tangible progress on the sustaining peace agenda and 2) to identify the most critical areas of the UNPBA which require renewed attention and initiative to move the work forward.

### Venue:

Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 6, C2

## Breakout Group 3: Integrated Analysis and the Triple Nexus

### Lead:

Oliver Jütersonke, *Head of Research, Centre on Conflict Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP)*

### Summary:

Echoing the UN Secretary General's call for greater operational and policy coherence in support of sustaining peace, this breakout session seeks to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of promoting integrated analysis across the humanitarian, development, and peace and security fields. How can shared understandings of operational dynamics be used as a vehicle to further strategic alignment and collaboration along the "triple nexus"? The session will be facilitated by staff members from the CCDP and UNOCHA, who have been working jointly on the role of conflict analysis tools in the on-going reforms of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system.

### Venue:

Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 6, C3



#### Breakout Group 4: Unpacking Prevention through a Governance-driven Approach to Security

Lead:

Heiner Hänggi, *Deputy Director and Head of Policy and Research Department, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)*

Summary:

Security Sector Reform (SSR) plays a vital role in sustaining peace. In 2018, the President of the General Assembly recognised that security and justice actors “hold the tools which can pull societies back from the brink of conflict – or push them over the edge”. For the security sector to be a building block of sustaining peace – addressing root causes of violent conflict, maintaining legitimate stability throughout periods of tension and protecting people from violence – a clearer conceptualization of security sector governance through a prevention lens is required. This roundtable discussion will attempt to identify concrete avenues for SSR to effectively contribute towards the sustaining peace resolutions, drawing on ongoing research and operational field experience from DCAF and other actors.

Venue:

DCAF Meeting Room, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 5, 9<sup>th</sup> floor.

#### Breakout Group 5: Peace Responsiveness: How Sustaining Peace can Operationalize a Whole-of-System Approach to Peace

Lead:

Daniel Hyslop, *Director of Policy, Learning and IPAT, Interpeace*

Summary:

Sustaining peace has re-shaped the way we understand the endeavor of building peace. It calls upon the whole international system to work toward peace, not only organizations and agencies dedicated to peace, emphasizing the role of humanitarian and development actors and socio-economic interventions in contributing to peace. The Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA) has helped strengthen and leverage these contributions. This breakout session will discuss how humanitarian and development contributions to peace can be further enhanced through peace-responsive programming, what role the PBA can continue to play in this regard, and how local leadership can be ensured.

Venue:

Interpeace Meeting Room, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 5, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.



**11.30 – 12.30 What does Sustaining Peace Require? Reporting back from Breakout Groups and Discussion**

What recommendations and messages can be distilled from the breakout groups to inform the PBA Review? Reporting-back from breakout groups and concluding plenary discussion.

Moderator:

Achim Wennmann, *Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

Venue:

Meeting Centre, Maison de la Paix, Pétale 6, C1

**12.30 – 13.30 Closing Lunch Reception**