



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

27 April 2016

UN System Chief Executives Board Statement of Commitment: Bringing the UN system together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. We, the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, salute the ambition and the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly the universal nature of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, which apply equally to all societies everywhere, with a vital pledge to leave no one behind.
2. We note the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the interlinkages between the aims of achieving sustainable development, respecting human rights and the pursuit of peace and stability. The 2030 Agenda states that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.” The 2030 Agenda therefore underscores the need for the United Nations system to work collectively to provide coherent support to Member States’ efforts to meet the ambitious targets they have set for themselves.
3. At the same time as this far-reaching commitment to achieve sustainable development has been made, we recognize with deep regret the enormous humanitarian crises afflicting the world, the recent spike in the number of displaced peoples, the disturbing increase in armed and violent conflict around the world and the erosion of respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. Many of the poorest countries with the greatest development challenges are those who continue to suffer protracted conflict or relapse. We acknowledge the need to address the drivers of these crises, to focus on preventing violent conflict, crime, and terrorism, on upholding international humanitarian and human rights law and humanitarian principles, and on building and sustaining peace, as the opening words of the United Nations Charter, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” call on us to do.
4. We welcome the reviews of the United Nations’ peace and security work — of UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and progress in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. Collectively, these reviews put prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of the United Nations’ efforts. The importance of the search for political solutions and helping parties to arrive at an inclusive and sustainable political settlement that addresses drivers of conflict, reinforced by concurrent efforts to advance sustainable development and reduce humanitarian need, is also underscored in the peace and security reviews. The peacebuilding review put forth a holistic vision of “sustaining peace” and posited it as a key shared responsibility across the system, focusing on preventing conflict as well as relapse into conflict. At the Secretary-General’s request, the capacities across the UN system to support these efforts to sustain peace are being reviewed, and we commit to accelerate this review.
5. We further welcome the Secretary-General’s Report for the World Humanitarian Summit *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility*, as we note that the humanitarian impact of shocks will not end until we succeed in achieving long-term, sustainable, equitable and resilient development, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Humanitarian Summit consultations pointed to a clear need for the UN system to transcend traditional silos and to move towards articulation and achievement of shared outcomes in support of the 2030 Agenda. They also highlighted the close linkages between humanitarian needs and the Sustainable Development Goals, noting, in this regard, the importance of conflict-sensitive humanitarian assistance and leveraging

opportunities to foster social cohesion at community level. Equitable and inclusive delivery of critical public services, such as healthcare and education, to the most vulnerable, also makes an important contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Reducing humanitarian needs, preventing conflict and peacebuilding, thus, remain core tasks for all.

6. This emphasis on the interconnectedness between prevention, sustaining peace and development is also evident in Security Council Resolutions 2242 (2015) addressing women, peace and security, and 2250 (2015), the first resolution of that body to focus on the role of young men and women in preventing conflict and peacebuilding, as well as in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding ([A/65/354-S/2010/466](#)) encouraged each UN entity to *"initiate a process, in line with its specific institutional mandate and governance arrangements, for laying ground work and investing in systems to track gender post-conflict financing, and to work toward a goal of ensuring that at least 15 percent of UN-managed funds in support of peacebuilding is dedicated to projects whose principal objective (consistent with existing mandates) is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women."* Guided by this, we commit ourselves to accelerate integrated programming that addresses women's specific needs, advances gender equality, empowers women, and genuinely reinforces the gender aspects in all conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives.

7. The 2030 Agenda elevates this interconnectedness further. First, it seeks to address the various factors — such as economic, social, environmental, gender and political inequalities, discrimination, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, lack of jobs, poor natural resource management, climate change, organized crime, terrorism, corruption, and absence of rule of law and weak institutions — that drive or are associated with conflict in many contexts around the world. Second, many Sustainable Development Goals — from ending hunger and ensuring healthy lives, to providing universal primary and secondary education — will simply not be achieved by the target date of 2030 in those settings afflicted by violent conflict, unless they are on the path to sustainable peace. With its plea to reach the "furthest behind first," the 2030 Agenda explicitly also reminds us of the imperative of focusing support on those roughly 100 million affected by complex humanitarian emergencies. In all these ways, we see lasting peace as a key objective of, as well as a vital prerequisite for, the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

8. Given the universal, comprehensive and interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda, it is more important than ever to build on the synergies among the actors of the UN system in the areas of peace and security, human rights, humanitarian action and development. One way in which this can be done is supporting Member States' deliberations on the 2030 Agenda through the upcoming 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. We must work towards shared outcomes and encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences with a view to pursuing coherent and coordinated whole-of-system responses to complex situations. This will be the best and perhaps only way for the UN to help countries to arrive at, maintain, and consolidate the foundations for durable peace and sustainable development.

9. We underscore that we can no longer afford to think and work in silos. We echo the Secretary-General in his report addressing the recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, where he noted that *"[t]he adoption of the [Sustainable Development Goals], [and the commitment to] ... peaceful and inclusive societies, offers a tremendous opportunity to strengthen collaboration between development and peace and security actors"*, and pledged to engage CEB leaders to bring the United Nations system together to strengthen preventive and peacebuilding work.

10. We also echo the language of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, which recognizes "the peacebuilding financing gap" and commits Member States to *"step up ... efforts to assist countries in accessing financing for peacebuilding and development in the post-conflict context"* and recognizes *"the need for aid to be delivered effectively through simplified mechanisms"*. This will require us to work together, including with the international financial institutions, to identify appropriate solutions on financing in all settings, in support of our commitment to strengthening collaboration and breaking down silos. A common UN approach to providing coherent and integrated support to Member States at the country level is vital, and, in this regard, the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support initiative, in the context of each UN Country Team's Development Assistance Framework, will be critical, as will maximizing our ability, across the UN organizations, to engage in common analysis and planning. Pooled funding arrangements also have an important enabling role to play in promoting such integration and alignment.

11. In recognition of the above, we affirm our commitment to:

- a. Lead our respective organizations to redouble the efforts to work collaboratively and strategically across the system in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the overarching, comprehensive, and integrated framework for global action on a vast range of critical issues for the next 15 years.
- b. Pursue opportunities, at global, regional and country level, to intensify cooperation and collaboration among actors across peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development areas of UN efforts, including international financial institutions and the private sector. This intensified cooperation and collaboration will be pursued with the aim of preventing and addressing the root causes of violent conflicts, promoting human rights and the rule of law, promoting education and a culture for peace, building resilience, and sustaining peace. These efforts should, while recognizing and building on existing mandates, mechanisms and partnerships across the system, and ensuring full respect for humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, seek opportunities to advance complementarities and reduce duplication within our efforts.
- c. Strengthen the capacities of our respective organizations for identifying risks and drivers of conflict, detect early signs of deterioration, and work with partners to develop and implement appropriate early responses.
- d. Work towards shared outcomes, in particular at country level, through joint analysis, planning, programming, and monitoring, including by leveraging the power of new technologies, as well as through collaborative efforts to secure predictable and adequate resources for conflict prevention and sustaining peace, by pursuing an integrated system-wide approach across the political, social, economic, environmental, human rights and humanitarian dimensions, while safeguarding the impartiality of humanitarian space.
- e. Empower UN leadership and enhance and build UN capacity at the country-level to achieve the shared objectives in a coordinated and coherent manner and to improve ways to connect existing UN expertise when it is needed but lacking on the ground.
- f. Promote, in line with the United Nations' commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, women's meaningful participation as beneficiaries and stakeholders in conflict prevention, humanitarian, recovery and peacebuilding efforts, in recognition of their crucial role in prevention and peacebuilding, and intensify support to this critical area in the spirit of the Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding. As part of these efforts and to underscore their importance, we will continue our efforts to improve gender balance, especially at senior management levels, across all our entities.
- g. Stand ready to provide effective, coordinated and whole-of-system assistance to Member States in integrating perspectives of conflict prevention and sustaining peace in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, based on a robust multi-dimensional analysis of drivers of conflicts, risks and their dynamics.
- h. Stand ready to support Member States' deliberations on the 2030 Agenda at various inter-governmental forums by promoting and contributing our shared perspectives on the need to promote and sustain actions that bring together different parts of the United Nations system beyond the UN development pillar.
