

9 November 2015

Excellencies,

With reference to our letter dated 2 October 2015, we would like to express our deep gratitude for your support in organizing the informal meeting on 6 October launching the intergovernmental phase of the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. The meeting provided an important opportunity for us, as co-facilitators, to consult with Member States on the Advisory Group of Experts report (AGE report), as well as on our proposed timeframe and approach to the intergovernmental process. The high level of attendance at the meeting, the strong support for the AGE report, and the broad agreement to our proposed roadmap, has been encouraging as we seek to carry out and conclude a successful, inclusive and transparent process.

Since the 6 October meeting, we have continued to informally engage with a wide range of delegations and regional groups to gain a deeper understanding of their views on the AGE Report, and their vision for the future of the UN's peacebuilding architecture. These constructive discussions have enabled us to gain a better understanding of delegations' perspectives, and to collaboratively unpack the recommendations of the report. We plan to continue these consultations throughout the month of November.

His Excellency
Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly
New York

His Excellency
Mr. Matthew Rycroft
President of the Security Council
New York

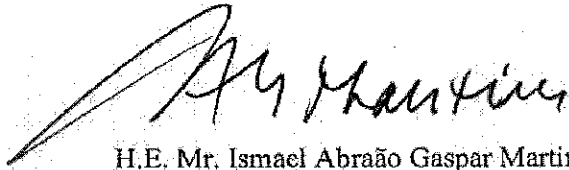
Based on our proposed timeline, the next step is for us to convene an open informal meeting to provide Member States with the opportunity to share with us their considered views on the findings of the AGE Report, and on how to translate its recommendations into a practical and meaningful outcome that strengthens the UN's ability to sustain peace. These inputs will help guide our efforts to prepare a zero draft text for the identical UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, building on the common expectations and ambitions of the UN membership.

In this respect, we have the pleasure, as co-facilitators, to convene an informal meeting on 13 November 2015, at 10 am – 6 pm, in the ECOSOC Chamber. Attached is a concept note to help guide discussion at the meeting.

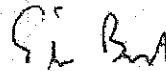
We would be grateful if this letter and attachment could be circulated to the membership of the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council respectively.

We look forward to your active participation in, and support to, this process.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



H.E. Mr. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Angola



H.E. Ms. Gillian Bird
Permanent Representative of
Australia

CONCEPT NOTE

Informal Meeting on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture 13 November 2015, 10.00 – 18.00 ECOSOC Chamber

The Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental phase of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, will convene an open informal meeting of the UN membership on 13 November, 10.00 – 18.00.

Background

In accordance with its Terms of Reference¹, the intergovernmental phase is the second stage of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The Review was called for by the General Assembly and Security Council in 2014, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the UN's peacebuilding architecture.²

The review consists of two stages. During the first stage, a seven-member Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the peacebuilding efforts of the UN, anchored in five case studies and based on broad consultations.

The analysis culminated in the report entitled "The Challenge of Sustaining Peace".³ Based on a recognition of the changing nature of global violent conflict, the centerpiece of the report is its conclusion that 'sustaining peace' is a core function of the UN as set out under its Charter, and that addressing this challenge must flow through all of the UN's engagements. The report finds that peacebuilding has too often been left as an afterthought: under-prioritized and under-resourced, and that where system-wide responses have been needed, these have too often been impeded by institutional and intergovernmental fragmentation. The report calls for a fundamental shift in how peacebuilding is conceived by the UN, spanning the arc from conflict prevention through to peacemaking and post-conflict recovery.

The AGE report draws a series of overarching conclusions and interconnected recommendations regarding the operations, resourcing, and working methods of the UN

¹ The Terms of Reference of the review are defined through the joint letter from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 15 December 2014 (A/69/674 – S/2014/911).

² The scope and terms of reference of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture were outlined in the joint letter from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 15 December 2014 (A/69/674 – S/2014/911).

³ The report was officially issued in the six UN languages on 31 July 2015 under the symbol 'A/69/968 – S/2015/490'.

system in its effort to sustain peace. The recommendations are divided into seven key areas:

1) promoting coherence at the intergovernmental level; 2) realizing the full potential of the Peacebuilding Commission; 3) improving the peacebuilding capacity of the UN system; 4) partnering for sustaining peace; 5) securing more predictable peacebuilding financing; 6) improving leadership and broadening inclusion; and 7) redefining peacebuilding and implementing the recommendations.

2015 saw the conclusion of a number of key reviews and processes, including the AGE Report, the 2015 Report of the High-Level Independent Panel of Peace Operations and the Secretary-General's report on its implementation; the Global Study and the Secretary-General's report on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (on Women, Peace and Security), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The complementary nature of many of the recommendations of these reports provides us with a critical opportunity to reconsider and revitalize the conceptual and operational approach of the United Nations to peacebuilding, particularly by emphasizing the primacy of political solutions and the importance of conflict prevention.

For the second stage, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia were appointed by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council in July 2015 to co-facilitate an inclusive inter-governmental process to review the findings and consider the recommendations of the report of the AGE. The outcome of the intergovernmental process is intended to be two identical resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. These resolutions will guide the future of the UN's peacebuilding efforts.

Objective

The open informal meeting will provide an opportunity for Member States to reflect on the analysis and findings of the AGE Report and to provide their views on how to translate its recommendations into a practical and meaningful outcome that ultimately strengthens the UN's ability to sustain peace.

This meeting and the inputs provided will help to guide the co-facilitators in their preparations of an initial zero draft text for the identical resolutions, building on the common expectations and ambitions of the UN membership. The support and active participation of Member States will be critical to this process.

Format

The co-facilitators of the intergovernmental phase will chair the day-long informal meeting. Participation by Permanent Representatives and peacebuilding experts is welcome.

Member States will be invited to deliver statements (4 minutes) on their views of the AGE report's analysis and recommendations on how best the Review process can be used to

strengthen the UN's approach to peacebuilding, and on their visions for the identical resolutions.

To assist delegations, attached is a set of the recommendations of the report (document number A/69/968 – S/2015/490).

Member States are invited to supplement their oral statements by providing written positions papers to the co-facilitators and the secretariat of the Review.

A co-facilitators' summary of the discussion will be produced following the meeting, which will be circulated to all Member States and uploaded to the website of the Peacebuilding Review at <http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/2015review>. Additional documents related to the Review can be found on this webpage.

B. Recommendations

130. The following are interconnected recommendations relating to the functioning, resources and modes of United Nations efforts to sustain peace. It is urged that they be taken up together and that the Secretary-General be asked by Member States to monitor and report regularly on progress in implementation.

Promoting coherence at the intergovernmental level

131. Within the United Nations, sustaining peace is the business of all intergovernmental entities and should not be relegated to consideration only by the Peacebuilding Commission, which is not a principal organ under the Charter. Paradoxically, what some would argue is an inherent weakness of the Commission — being limited to an advisory role — can become one of its main and unappreciated strengths, by offering the relevant principal organs a bridge between them, helping to ensure a United Nations approach to sustaining peace that is coherent, integrated and holistic.

132. To strengthen its role as a primary peacebuilding body, the Security Council should consider regularly requesting and drawing upon the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to assist in ensuring that the mandates, benchmarks and reviews of peace operations, however short-term in scope, reflect the longer view required for sustaining peace. The Council should further ensure that the mandates for peacebuilding missions emphasize the imperative for an integrated mission that draws upon the strengths of the entire United Nations system.

133. Where the decision is taken by the Security Council to establish a peace operation, it should build on existing United Nations and other capabilities and integrate existing United Nations country team activities into enhanced peacebuilding efforts during the mission period. The country teams must therefore be appropriately resourced. In approving the leadership structures of missions, the Council should underline integration and accountability.

134. The Security Council, the Secretary-General (through mission leadership on the ground) and the national authorities in conflict-affected countries should together agree upon peacebuilding compacts that would govern decisions on the appropriate timing of mission transitions, keeping in mind the need to adapt to the changing dynamics of the conflict. In that connection, the Council should consider systematically assessing benchmarking in mandates relating to sustaining peace and specifically in the timing of mission transitions. Where such compacts or benchmarks have been agreed upon with a host Government to condition such a transition's timing, every effort should be made to ensure that that agreement is adhered to, again keeping in mind the need to adapt to the changing dynamics of the conflict.

135. The Security Council should consider passing to the Peacebuilding Commission's responsibility continued accompaniment of countries on the Council's agenda where and when peace consolidation has progressed to the point that it is deemed that they no longer constitute a threat to international peace and security. The Commission should then keep the Council briefed on further progress in peace consolidation on at least a yearly basis.

136. Building on its past experience with African countries emerging from conflict, as well as the activities of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the Economic and Social Council should consider developing criteria for a special category of conflict-affected countries —

perhaps drawing on the guidelines that the Group of Seven Plus has agreed upon for its membership — to which the international community would be encouraged to devote special attention and funding, not only for peace operations but also for governance, human rights and development activities. The Council and the Peacebuilding Commission should pursue closer cooperation, especially in the broader effort of promoting coherence between the development and the peace and security pillars.

137. In its next and subsequent quadrennial comprehensive policy reviews, the General Assembly should include a specific focus on sustaining peace, examining the success of the United Nations system in bringing together development, humanitarian and peace and security actions.

138. The Human Rights Council should consider dedicating a day each year to reviewing the human rights dimensions of the challenge of sustaining peace, with a focus on specific countries and with the participation of national human rights institutions, relevant civil society actors and, as appropriate, United Nations missions, United Nations country teams, including in particular field offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and United Nations gender advisers and other appropriate entities of the United Nations system.

139. The Human Rights Council should also, when turning its attention to conflict-affected countries in its universal periodic review process, consider including a specific discussion on sustaining peace and the role of the international community therein.

Peacebuilding Commission

140. The main functions of the Peacebuilding Commission should continue to be engaging in advocacy, providing assistance in marshalling resources, providing assistance in improving coordination within and outside the United Nations, engaging in strategic thinking and formulating policy recommendations and offering a meeting place for interested parties. The manner in which those functions would be carried out should change qualitatively, however, by emphasizing an advisory and bridging relationship with the three principal intergovernmental organs.

141. To strengthen the Commission's bridging role, members of the Commission, in addition to representing their national interests, should understand themselves as accountable to the organs that elected or designated them and should brief those entities regularly on their work.

142. The Commission should maximize the work — including country-specific and region-specific discussions and engagement — that it undertakes in the full format of its Organizational Committee, taking advantage of its membership's designation by all the key United Nations organs and constituencies.

143. The Commission should actively seek opportunities where it can help to bring needed attention to early conflict prevention priorities at the regional, subregional and country levels, including by convening discussions with key stakeholders.

144. The Commission should diversify its working methods, including by moving away from the strictures of a formal agenda, to enable it to consider with flexibility a larger and

more diverse array of countries and regions, with a greater emphasis on conflict prevention. In particular, country-specific configurations should represent only one model for Commission engagement. Where configurations are formed in the future, they should have a smaller and more directly engaged membership, along the lines of the "group of friends" model, with a primarily advocacy role.

145. The Commission should make its advice and support available to the Security Council in the formulation of peace operation mandates containing a strong peacebuilding aspect. In doing so, the Commission should use its convening power to bring together all relevant actors, including peace operations, United Nations country teams, government actors, Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, civil society and international financial institutions. The Commission should analyse their input practically and present the Council with concise, realistic and context-specific recommendations in a timely way. Likewise, it should offer to support the Council's formulation of benchmarks for progress in consolidating peace that, in turn, can help to condition the timing of changes in the form of United Nations operational engagement.

146. Following the designation by the Secretary-General of a country's eligibility for financing from the Peacebuilding Fund, the Commission should, in consultation with the permanent representative of the country in question, consider convening discussions within the format of the full Organizational Committee on the country's goals for and approach to sustaining peace.

147. The Commission should regularize and structure consultation with global and other civil society peacebuilding platforms, including in the format of an annual consultation on sustaining peace. It should take additional steps to become more transparent in scheduling and publishing its forward work programme so that civil society can more easily engage with it.

Improving the peacebuilding capability of the United Nations system

148. To promote unity of United Nations action, the Secretary-General should strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to conduct strategic planning throughout the United Nations system for engagement in conflict-prone and conflict-affected contexts. The Peacebuilding Support Office should provide advice to the Secretary-General on encouraging system-wide action in supporting efforts to sustain peace. To support that, the Office should be strengthened to become a centre of excellence in the areas of analysis, policy prescription and programme advice, as well as tracking developments in the field.

149. The General Assembly should consider taking the steps necessary to ensure a reinforced Peacebuilding Support Office, sufficiently financed from the regular budget and with an enhanced number of Secretariat posts permanently assigned to it.

150. The Secretary-General should consider integrating objectives on sustaining peace into the performance compacts signed with the heads of all relevant departments in the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations entities.

151. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination should consider dedicating one of its two sessions each year to discussing the challenge of sustaining peace,

including ways in which the system can work better together. Those discussions should also be mirrored within the United Nations Development Group.

152. The Secretary-General should ensure continuity in senior leadership and personnel through the various phases of engagement, from preventive action to peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, in order to minimize the disruption around transitions in forms of engagement.

153. The Secretary-General should select special representatives for their capacities and leadership qualities and hold them accountable for bringing the United Nations system together in-country around a common strategy for sustaining peace. Where peace operations are deployed and led by special representatives, they should be fully empowered to direct programme planning towards sustaining peace by the United Nations country team. Where circumstances dictate, the Secretary-General should consider using the model of an executive representative of the Secretary-General to lead peacebuilding missions, combining the functions of representative of the Secretary-General with resident coordinator of the United Nations system and resident representative of UNDP.

154. When the mandate of a peace operation contains a substantial peacebuilding dimension, the special representative or head of mission should lead the United Nations system to develop a common peacebuilding support strategy that integrates the United Nations country team's strategic planning instruments, such as the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, with conventional mission planning and funding instruments. That would provide for continuity of focus and funding for programmes when the country team continues its work after the mission's mandate ends.

155. To ensure appropriate support for the strengthening of resident coordinator and United Nations country team operations, the Secretary-General should consider calling for an independent review of the current capacity and potential for enhancement of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to aid in sustaining peace before, during and after conflicts in both United Nations mission and non mission settings.

156. In peacebuilding contexts where United Nations engagement is led by resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, the Secretary-General should ensure that resident coordinators and the Secretariat systematize stronger and more effective two-way engagement.

157. Where a peace operation with a substantial peacebuilding mandate is drawing down, the reforms currently under way to strengthen the resident coordinator with formal authority over the United Nations country team should be accelerated and the offices of resident coordinators should be appropriately strengthened to absorb the relevant political and peacebuilding capacity of the departing mission. In appointing resident coordinators in such contexts, the Secretary-General should pay particular attention to ensuring that candidates have strategic, diplomatic and political skills and familiarity with and sensitivity to conflict or post-conflict settings and that they and their country teams are afforded appropriate levels of political support on the ground and from Headquarters.

158. The relevant United Nations entities should ensure that all resident coordinator offices are reinforced with standardized expertise in human rights, peace and conflict analysis,

strategic planning and public information. The UNDP-Department of Political Affairs Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, within which the deployment of peace and development advisers falls, should be fully and sustainably funded and expanded to all countries in need.

159. To promote better delivery of gender-sensitive peacebuilding, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (together with other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes) and the lead departments responsible for peace operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, should actively explore enhanced ways to work in partnership.

Partnering for sustaining peace

160. The Security Council should consider including in all mandates with peacebuilding dimensions an explicit reference to the need for consultation and collaboration between the United Nations and the international financial institutions in planning and prioritization at the country level.

161. Especially concerning conflict-affected countries, the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank should consider taking urgent steps to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank Group, including, in particular, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. Conflict-affected countries are those where synergies can best arise from the comparative advantages of both multilateral institutions. Invigorating the partnership requires systematic upstream consultation, alignment of country strategies and detailed technical engagement in priority sectors. The strategic results framework agreed upon by the United Nations and the Bank should be renewed and emphasized as a formal criterion for determining peacebuilding allocations and operations.

162. The Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank should particularly ensure deepened cooperation between the United Nations and the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency to assist post-conflict countries to create an enabling environment for private sector development. Together with the Corporation and other partners, the United Nations should pay dedicated attention to efforts to promote employment and livelihoods, in particular among young people and in reintegrating former combatants, through, but not limited to, skills and entrepreneurship development and microfinance.

163. The Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank Group should hold an annual high-level working session to discuss and assess joint United Nations-Group approaches to sustaining peace and propose new initiatives.

164. The Peacebuilding Commission should hold an annual exchange of views with those regional and subregional organizations engaged in efforts to promote sustainable peace. In particular, regular desk-to-desk exchanges and joint initiatives between the Peacebuilding Support Office and the equivalent structures within the African Union and other relevant subregional organizations should be considered. They could contribute, with appropriate engagement from other parts of the United Nations system, to the development of a partnership on peacebuilding with the Union.

165. The Peacebuilding Support Office, with other relevant United Nations entities, should engage in a regular policy dialogue with the International Monetary Fund and partners on the fiscal and macroeconomic dimensions of peacebuilding.

166. Consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and to ensure credible and effective regional partners with which to collaborate in situations requiring the establishment, consolidation and sustainment of peace, Member States should consider encouraging regional and subregional organizations around the world to consider progressively incorporating responsibilities relating to peace and conflict prevention into their charters and foundational documents.

167. The Secretary-General should direct relevant United Nations entities to deepen the Organization's partnership with the regional development banks through the strengthening of specific frameworks for strategic cooperation around efforts to sustain peace. Similar cooperation frameworks should also be sought with emerging multilateral institutions, such as the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

More predictable peacebuilding financing, including the Peacebuilding Fund

168. To promote the rebalancing of global priorities in assistance and to enhance resource mobilization, the Peacebuilding Support Office, together with relevant entities within the United Nations and among the international financial institutions, should initiate a process of preparing more detailed and accurate country-by-country estimates of the overall funding needs for sustaining peace over the longer term. Such estimates will help the United Nations and partners to better understand their investments, better discuss compacts with national Governments about national contributions, identify prevailing gaps and justify global fundraising. Informed by those improved analytics from the overall costing exercise, and in consultation with its Advisory Group, an appropriate target should then be set for the level to which the Peacebuilding Fund should be scaled up.

169. Where a peace operation mandate implies a central United Nations role in programme assistance to core peacebuilding sectors appropriate to a specific country situation, the General Assembly, in close cooperation with the Security Council, should consider steps to ensure that mandate implementation is accompanied by an appropriate apportionment from assessed United Nations budgets for programme support. Such support should continue to be provided to United Nations country teams for a transitional period after mission drawdown.

170. To improve the delivery of peacebuilding mandates specifically where a special political mission is deployed, the General Assembly should urgently consider the recommendations made in 2011 by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions (A/66/7/Add.21) in response to the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/66/340).

171. To maximize the potential and predictability of the Peacebuilding Fund, the General Assembly should consider steps to ensure that core funding representing \$100 million or an approximate and symbolic 1 per cent of the value (whichever is higher) of the total United Nations budgets for peace operations (peacekeeping and special political missions together) be provided to it annually from assessed contributions under the United Nations budget. The assessed contributions should be provided in a way that ensures necessary oversight without

undermining the Fund's comparative advantage as a fast, unearmarked, flexible and pre-positioned pooled fund working under terms of reference approved by the Assembly. The Fund should then leverage such funding to catalyse additional voluntary contributions.

172. A scaled-up Peacebuilding Fund should accord priority to funding activities that play to its comparative advantage as a rapid, impactful, procedurally light, risk-taking investor of first resort in efforts to sustain peace. By doing so, it will help to catalyse the support of larger players, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks, regional and subregional organizations and bilateral donors. This will demand that the Peacebuilding Fund maximally streamline its administrative procedures, build its staff's surge capacity to support rapid programme elaboration by partners on the ground and especially emphasize its Immediate Response Facility.

173. The Peacebuilding Fund should consider ways to use its leverage to encourage the United Nations system to empower and include civil society, local civil society in conflict-affected countries in particular, in all activities relating to sustaining peace and that civil society receive significant capacity-building support. The Fund should consider providing direct funding support to non-United Nations entities as a means of achieving that goal.

174. The Peacebuilding Fund should also consider developing a new funding area around efforts to strengthen the peacebuilding capacity of regional and subregional organizations.

175. In specific national peacebuilding contexts, the United Nations and the World Bank should collaborate to create enlarged funding platforms, bringing together the World Bank Group, bilateral donors and regional actors to pool resources, share and mitigate risk and maximize impact for sustaining peace. They should include a window for direct national implementation to promote national capacity and accountability.

176. Similarly, United Nations leaders in peacebuilding contexts should consider establishing pooled funds, with the possibility of catalytic support from the Peacebuilding Fund, to mitigate and share risk among funding partners, and to drive integration of United Nations programming around a central and politically informed strategy for sustaining peace.

177. The limited funds dedicated by international partners to peacebuilding are not always well prioritized or structured to support sustaining peace. As it transforms itself to work more effectively by taking a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace and involving all organizations in the system, the United Nations system should also set norms and standards to enable other partners to adhere to the same principles.

178. Governments of Member States should commit themselves to ensuring transparency and accountability in national revenues, including from natural resources, including by implementing the approaches and recommendations of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the Kimberley Process and the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. The United Nations system should work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks and other regional and international partners to combat corruption and improve national revenue generation in the aftermath of conflict, paying attention to private sector development, the role of remittances, strengthening national tax administration, natural resource management and addressing illicit financial flows.

Improving leadership and broadening inclusion

179. The United Nations, with its partners, should consider laying new emphasis on building national leadership as an integral part of a reconciliation and nation-building agenda, working to shift the focus away from the personal ambitions of protagonists to engaging in a common vision for the country.

180. United Nations mediators and facilitators should strive to support the crafting of peace agreements that reflect the broad aspirations of all stakeholders in conflict-affected societies and that integrate an agreed framework for sustaining peace. Where this is not possible, peace agreements should ensure that dialogue mechanisms are established that will progressively ensure the broadening of narrow peace deals into inclusive processes implicating wider groups of national actors, communities and civil society, including women's and youth organizations. Non United Nations mediation efforts should also be encouraged to align their actions with such principles.

181. The United Nations system should take a clear stance against the culture of impunity in post-conflict settings and support Governments and civil society to tackle that obstacle to sustainable peacebuilding through political engagement and national and international processes of justice. The United Nations should equally set a high bar for its personnel and affiliates to abide by, with set integrity and accountability standards, allowing no vacuum in investigating and reprimanding wrongdoing and criminal acts. Immunity privileges cannot be allowed to compromise the integrity and global mission of the Organization.

182. The Secretary-General should direct the United Nations system to accelerate efforts to attain and then surpass his target of ensuring that at least 15 per cent of United Nations-managed funds in support of peacebuilding are dedicated to projects whose principal objective is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women. Its achievement should be written into the performance compacts signed with senior United Nations leaders on the ground, in mission and non-mission settings, and backed up with an enhanced system for monitoring and tracking achievement. To further ensure adequate financing in that area, the Peacebuilding Fund should regularize its Gender Promotion Initiative as an ongoing, priority instrument.

183. The Peacebuilding Commission should play a particular role in advocating that national leaders commit themselves to according priority to gender equality and women's empowerment as part of national peacebuilding priorities. To underpin this, the Commission should urgently develop the strategy to strengthen the gender perspective in country-specific engagement that it foresaw in its report on its eighth session (A/69/818-S/2015/174). In support of that, the Peacebuilding Support Office, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Commission, should work closely with other pertinent parts of the United Nations system to ensure that gender expertise is available for the Commission's integration of gender into its country-specific and region-specific engagement.

184. The Peacebuilding Commission should play a similar role in advocating that national leaders commit themselves to including and empowering young people in national peacebuilding priorities and actions.

185. Where the Peacebuilding Commission elaborates strategic frameworks for sustaining peace with countries or regions affected by violent conflict, it should ensure the fullest

possible participation by a broad array of actors, including, in particular, civil society and women's organizations, in both design and implementation.

Redefining peacebuilding and implementing the recommendations

186. It is reiterated that peacebuilding should no longer be defined as merely a post-conflict activity within the United Nations or beyond. Understood as the challenge of sustaining peace, it must be the strong thread that runs through the complete cycle of United Nations engagement, from preventive action through deployment and subsequent drawdown of peace operations and beyond to post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

187. Implementing that reconfigured conceptual framework requires, among other aspects, a change in mindset among Member States. A number of the recommendations contained herein require legislation, either from the General Assembly or the Security Council or both. The Assembly and Council should therefore consider adopting parallel resolutions that respond to the recommendations made herein and set out principles for their implementation.

188. Following from the previous recommendation, the General Assembly should consider adopting a subsequent resolution setting norms and standards for national and international activities in sustaining peace, drawing on key existing instruments and reports, and taking into account the relevant elements of the present report, the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446), the forthcoming high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the forthcoming results of the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, with particular attention to goals and targets that relate to peaceful societies.

189. Equally, the Security Council should consider adopting a subsequent resolution on sustaining peace, which sets norms and standards for engagement in peacebuilding by peace operations and which reflects on the reciprocal obligations of Member States, also drawing on the aforementioned elements.

190. The Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively, should ensure that all those resolutions include a strong gender dimension, recognizing the importance of gendered approaches to protection, prevention and participation for successful peacebuilding, drawing on core documents such as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the six subsequent resolutions on the subject, general recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations and the seven-point action plan of the Secretary-General on gender-responsive peacebuilding.

191. Lastly, the United Nations membership should ensure that the spirit of proposed sustainable development goal 16 — promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels — forms the basis against which to assess global and country progress towards sustaining peace. National reports should be prepared for each conflict-affected country on progress towards those goals and targets. The reports, just as the predecessor national Millennium Development Goal reports, should provide an analysis of root causes and of the challenges along the continuum of sustaining peace. Elements of proposed goal 16 and the implications of sustaining peace for all the sustainable development

goals should also be addressed in national monitoring and reporting by all countries — both those affected by conflict and those that seek to support the building of peace.