

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 14 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of India, Kenya will host an Arria-formula meeting on the theme “Transitioning from protracted conflict and fragility into peace through sustainable development”. The meeting, which is co-sponsored by Brazil, China, Ecuador, Ireland and Sierra Leone, is scheduled to be held on 20 December 2022, starting at 3 p.m. New York time (EST).

To guide the discussion on the subject, please find the attached concept note for the benefit of members participating in the meeting (see annex).

I would be grateful to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Martin **Kimani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Arria-formula meeting on the theme “Transitioning from protracted conflict and fragility into peace through sustainable development”, to be held on 20 December 2022

Rationale

Most peace support operations occur in environments dominated by persistent threats to civilians and significant social and economic disparities. Due to political demands placed on United Nations peace operations, reconfigurations and drawdowns have often occurred amid incomplete implementation of agreements and political settlements. As a result, peacebuilding and sustainable peace have remained elusive, with United Nations missions deployed in protracted situations that sometimes last for decades. This situation is stretching scarce resources, exposing peacekeepers to sustained risks and leading, in some cases, to the reputation of the United Nations among local communities being tarnished. The Security Council’s implementation of its mandate will benefit from a fresh appraisal of how sustainable development, peace and security interact in ways that can be deployed in its decisions, resolutions and actions.

The Security Council frequently advocates for the root causes of conflict to be addressed if peace and security are to be secured and a relapse into civil or military warfare prevented. For countries emerging from conflict, their willingness to pursue the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be critical to securing sustainable peace. The holistic nature of the Goals, their clear targets and their ability to rally global support for fragile States, make them an important framework for addressing the major drivers of instability and conflict.

The importance of development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to overcoming conflict have been recognized as core imperatives for a stable and secure global community of States and peoples by the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. For the past three decades, the United Nations has been clear that to assist countries emerging from conflict, and set them on the path to sustainable development, a comprehensive and coordinated approach between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council is necessary. On this basis, the ad hoc advisory groups of the Economic and Social Council were established to help define long-term programmes of support for countries emerging from conflict.

In its resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council emphasized coherence, sustained engagement and coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council as prerequisites for sustaining peace. It addressed gaps arising from fragmentation in the United Nations system’s support to Member States, lack of sustained and adequate financing, as well as risk aversion among donors. It further stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including through enhanced dialogue, to promote complementarity between the United Nations peace and security efforts and its development work.

In addition, in resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security, the Security Council recognized the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the

maintenance and promotion of peace and security, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in contributing to justice and reconciliation.

The current state of combative multipolar geopolitics and shifting investment priorities are risking international support for development. The demands on national budgets contending with energy and economic crises, the ongoing recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the tying of aid to national security aims are leading to a tightening of the development purse. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes delivering development support are reporting a growing tendency among formerly ambitious partners to cut budgets. Yet even as bilateral developmental support is decreasing, there is an increasing need for multilateral support for peace processes that require the accompaniment of development. The demands for peacebuilding support now dwarf the annual peacebuilding fund target of \$500 million.

The bulk of investment in peace transitions and development happens at the national level, by Governments, local authorities and civil society. However, many States transitioning from conflict often suffer from a deterioration in their competence and financial resources. They need international investment that is catalytic and risk-tolerant.

These resolutions, frameworks and funding envelopes are being tested on the ground. For conflict-affected communities, transitioning to peace means addressing the impact of conflict on their lives and livelihoods and the assurance of sustained peace and development. In a letter addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council in April 2018, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission noted that contemporary conflict demanded urgent action, particularly because it hampered the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In this regard, addressing the root causes becomes a critical factor in engaging conflict-affected communities marginalized from development and services. This is necessary in order to shift the negative incentives that may enable conflicts to be protracted and replace them with legitimized, accessible and resilient governance institutions and with efforts to improve livelihoods.

In order for adequate resources to be made available for this work, there must be greater linkage between peacebuilding, including the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, accompanied by active Security Council support, and the broader United Nations development system. The aim is not to blend mandates but rather to go beyond recognizing strategic complementarity and building mindsets, processes, competencies, skills and incentives, in order to operationalize strategic complementarity within the United Nations and at the regional, national and local levels.

The Arria-formula meeting will allow delegations, United Nations experts and researchers to discuss the complexities of this important linkage and to identify opportunities to leverage and challenges to overcome in addressing the root causes of conflict through sustainable development.

Objectives

The meeting will focus on the following main objectives:

- (a) To highlight the existing gaps in the United Nations system's linking of development to national peacebuilding efforts and how they can be addressed;
- (b) To identify any missing links between peacebuilding norms and practice and United Nations-assisted development work;

(c) To discuss how peacebuilding programmes can consciously incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals as targets, including through adequate financing;

(d) To examine how the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes can better support States transitioning from conflict to coherently address security and development needs;

(e) To encourage closer coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Fund for the achievement of peace through sustainable development.

Questions that may be helpful in guiding participation include:

(a) Where are the gaps between peacebuilding and United Nations support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and how can they be addressed?

(b) Is peacebuilding presently supported by the United Nations in accordance with development work in countries emerging from conflict? What needs to change to improve effectiveness?

(c) How can existing peacebuilding and peacekeeping transition programmes be better supported by the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and how can the United Nations and States ensure reliable and adequate financing?

(d) What needs to change in Security Council practice to address root causes, particularly those linked to livelihoods, development and sustainability?

(e) What skills, competencies and models are needed by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to help them to be more effective in supporting States transitioning from conflict?

(f) What should be done to encourage closer coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission for the achievement of peace through sustainable development?

Briefers

The briefers will be:

- Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Paula Narvaez
- Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Muhammad Abdul Muhith
- President of the World Bank or representative (TBC)
- Representative of the African Union (TBC) (to speak on the African Union Centre for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development)
- Representative of the United Nations Development Programme
- Executive Director, Security Council Report, Karin Landgren (TBC)
- Representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (TBC)
- Representatives of countries in different phases of the peace transition continuum (TBC)

Format

All States Members of the United Nations, Permanent Observers and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend. There will be speaking opportunities for members of the Security Council and United Nations delegations.

Participants are encouraged to limit their interventions to five minutes to allow for the participation of as many as possible.

A compilation document will be prepared containing the interventions of the briefers and speakers. Member States and briefers are encouraged to submit their statements no later than the day of the meeting at 11 a.m. Subject to availability, and other Security Council commitments permitting, translation in all the six United Nations languages will be provided. However, it is humbly requested that speakers do their best to deliver their statements in English.

The meeting will be conducted in person and broadcast on United Nations Web TV.

To register please contact the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations kenyasc@kenyaun.org.
