



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Japan, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate on 26 January 2023 on the theme “Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”, in connection with the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”.

In this regard, Japan has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ishikane Kimihiro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”, 26 January 2023

It has been 30 years since the concept of peacebuilding was first put on the table in “An agenda for peace”.¹ It is worth noting, especially for Security Council members, that it was the Council itself which initiated the process by inviting the then Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to produce the report.² Three decades later, Member States have before them the proposal for “A new agenda for peace” by Secretary-General António Guterres, which should include investing in conflict prevention and peacebuilding as one of its core subjects.³

Security Council members, together with non-Council members, have a historic opportunity to review the Council’s work on peacebuilding and discuss how best to evolve and strengthen it, taking into account contemporary threats and challenges to the maintenance of international peace and security, with a view to the “Summit of the Future” to be held in 2024.

Background

The Security Council carries primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. While the Council has contributed to resolving certain armed conflicts or at least preventing their escalation over many years, we still face serious armed conflicts, violence and instability in many parts of the world. All deserve equal attention and action from the Council. Through various United Nations reviews, there has been a growing understanding that the maintenance of international peace and security requires coherently covering a diverse range of concerns including socioeconomic development, human rights and humanitarian issues.

The importance of peacebuilding is greater than ever, reflecting today’s complex risk multipliers, which include food insecurity, pandemic diseases and the adverse effects of climate change, to name a few. Such challenges hinder us from eliminating the root causes of conflict and increase the likelihood of the outbreak, escalation, continuation or recurrence of conflict. In this context, the Security Council today is increasingly expected not only to pursue peaceful settlements of disputes based on the rule of law but also to address the complex challenges of our contemporary moment in order to build and sustain peace on the ground.

As Sustainable Development Goal 16 makes clear, resilient institutions are a key bulwark against these challenges and a critical element of any peacebuilding effort. Institutions will prove most resilient when the responsibility for sustaining peace is shared by all national stakeholders with the understanding of inclusive ownership. This is why the Council has been promoting the “women and peace and security” and “youth, peace and security” agendas. Investment in people is another essential element for fortifying institution-building. “Investment” includes

¹ A/47/277-S/24111.

² See S/23500: “They invite the Secretary-General to prepare, for circulation to the Members of the United Nations by 1 July 1992, his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening and making more efficient within the framework and provisions of the Charter the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, for peacemaking and for peace-keeping.”

³ See “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982, para. 89).

addressing people's need for socioeconomic development, protecting their human rights and human security and empowering them to be agents of change. Such investments will strengthen people's trust in their Governments and make institutions more resilient and effective.

The Security Council can and should benefit from enhanced interaction with non-Council members and other United Nations bodies, taking into consideration the broad nature of risk multipliers, which do not recognize national borders. The Peacebuilding Commission, as an advisory body to the Council, is expected to utilize its convening power to bring together different groups and facilitate dialogue, thereby promoting the nexus between peace and security, development and humanitarian action. In 2022, the Commission provided advice to the Council 16 times. Greater interaction among Member States and United Nations bodies can make the entire United Nations system stronger and help to restore the credibility that it deserves.

Guiding questions for debate

Participant countries are invited to consider the following guiding questions:

- (a) How can the Security Council better address emerging threats and risk multipliers in order to realize peacebuilding and sustaining peace (e.g. which areas of concern should be considered, whose voices shall be heard and how can constructive synergies be created among various stakeholders)?
- (b) What is necessary to build resilient and effective institutions, invest in people, including women and girls, and ensure societal inclusivity?
- (c) How can the Security Council make better use of the convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission and incorporate the Commission's advice into decisions such as mandate renewals for peace operations in a more cohesive manner? How can the Council interact more effectively with non-Council members and other United Nations bodies to build and sustain peace?
- (d) What elements can be included in "A new agenda for peace" in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace?

Format

The meeting will be held on 26 January 2023, at 10 a.m., in an open debate format, in order to allow the wider membership to participate. The following speakers are invited to brief the Council:

- The Deputy Secretary-General
- The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
- A civil society representative

Member States wishing to participate in person should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., containing a request to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. Inscription for said meeting will open on 23 January 2023, at 9.30 a.m.

The presidency encourages the participation of as many Member States as possible. Statements or interventions should, however, not exceed three minutes.