



Security Council

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Letter dated 18 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Switzerland, the Security Council is planning to hold an open debate at the ministerial level on the theme “Futureproofing trust for sustaining peace” under the agenda item “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. The open debate will take place on Wednesday, 3 May at 10 a.m.

Please find attached a concept note to guide discussions on the topic of the debate (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pascale **Baeriswyl**
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on the theme “Futureproofing trust for sustaining peace”, to be held on 3 May 2023

Background

The world is facing multiple and intersecting crises that are having an impact on international peace and security. The multilateral system and the United Nations have proved effective in many ways in the past to respond to threats and to prevent escalation. However, the current situation calls for a renewal of relations of trust and a review of existing tools to face these challenges.

It was stressed in landmark resolutions [2282 \(2016\)](#) of the Security Council and [70/262](#) of the General Assembly that, while Governments have primary responsibility for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the international community, including the United Nations system, can do more to build peaceful and resilient societies. This encompasses the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes (resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)), as well as activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict in ending hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. Trust is a necessary ingredient in building sustainable peace.

In past debates, the Security Council addressed current and emerging threats and risk multipliers and their implications for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Council has considered specific risk multipliers, including climate change (see [S/2022/737](#), [S/2021/988](#) and [S/2021/782](#)), the impact or use of digital technologies, the misuse of information and new domains such as cyberspace (see [S/2021/540](#) and [S/2021/681](#)). The Council also recognized that these threats and risk multipliers can have a particular impact on women and girls (see [S/2023/146](#)).

It is timely that the Security Council reflect on its responsibility, potential and tools to shore up trust. At the core, trust is about expectations and predictability. The recognition of growing interdependence supports the call for inclusive approaches to build sustaining peace. Such approaches are based on norms and, thus, are further strengthened through reliability and predictability. They are supported by sharing evidence and knowledge of existing and emerging threats in a transparent manner.

The United Nations membership is expected to engage in deliberations on the Secretary-General’s proposal for a New Agenda for Peace soon, which will build on the principles of trust, universality and solidarity. It is therefore an opportune moment for the Security Council to identify and discuss relevant issues and proposals that can feed into this process.

Objectives

The debate is intended to take stock of, review and strengthen the approaches of the Security Council towards building trust to foster sustainable peace in the light of current and emerging threats.

Building trust shall be considered from three perspectives:

- **Inclusion.** The debate is aimed at considering how the Security Council can better enhance inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and how to engage the wider peacebuilding architecture, including regional and subregional organizations, more effectively in this regard. Full, equal and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, including women and youth, at all stages of peacebuilding are essential to generate trust in peacebuilding processes and, in turn, ensure their long-term sustainability. Such efforts benefit from a long-term perspective, information-sharing and transparency, as well as the inclusion and empowerment of local and regional actors in order to be effective. The Council can substantially guide such efforts.
- **Normative frameworks.** The debate is aimed at examining the role of international normative frameworks, including international human rights law, that enable accountability but also embody predictability, which are conducive to building trust. In its open debate held on 12 January 2023, the Security Council examined how promotion of the rule of law was key to securing a peaceful international order. To sustain peaceful and resilient societies, as well as mutual trust, the rule of law, a social contract between Governments and their people anchored in human rights, and the elimination of inequalities are also important. The Council can creatively use its toolbox and channels, as well as its unique global voice, to ensure that global normative frameworks remain effective for sustaining peace in the light of current and emerging threats to peace and security.
- **Facts.** The debate should reflect on how sound, scientifically driven and evidence-based insights and high-quality data can inform the Security Council's deliberations more effectively to foster transparency and build trust. While being mindful of risks associated with the emergence of new technologies, the Council can and should draw on their potential in order to address complex challenges more effectively through enhanced transparency, gender-sensitive analysis and anticipation.

Guiding questions

- How can the Security Council contribute to sustaining peace more effectively by strengthening trust in peacebuilding processes and fostering inclusion and participation?
- How can the Security Council promote trust and predictability through normative frameworks, including human rights, in the light of current and emerging threats to peace and security?
- How can the Security Council harness more effectively the potential of data, scientific knowledge and technological advancements to foster better transparency, analysis and anticipation in its efforts to sustain peace? What tools and partnerships enable the Council to meet these challenges, including from a gender-responsive perspective?
- What elements of confidence and trust-building measures can be included in a New Agenda for Peace?

Participation and format

The open debate will be chaired by the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis. The high-level debate will be held in person in the Security Council chamber on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, at 10 a.m.

Member States wishing to participate in-person should register 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., requesting 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. Registration for said meeting will open on 28 April 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.

Briefers

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk
 - The Youth Ambassador for Peace for Southern Africa, Cynthia Chigwenya
 - Vice-President and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development, King's College, London, 'Funmi Olonisakin
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