



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, during its presidency of the Security Council in November 2021, Mexico will convene an open debate on the theme “Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”, to be held on Tuesday, 16 November, at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Mexico has prepared a concept note (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) Juan Ramón **de la Fuente**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico



Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”, to be held on 16 November 2021, at 10 a.m.

Participation

1. The meeting will include briefings by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the International Court of Justice and the Secretary-General, followed by a debate with all Council members and with participation open to all States Members of the United Nations.

Objective

2. The Charter of the United Nations establishes that the purposes of the Organization are the maintenance of international peace and security; the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights; and to be a “centre for harmonizing the actions” of nations in the attainment of these common ends. To do so, the United Nations system relies on the Organization’s principal organs, namely the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the support of the Secretary-General.

3. This means that the purposes of the United Nations established in the Charter will only be achieved through a real harmonization, cooperation and mutually reinforcing collaboration among those organs and, through them, with the rest of the system. In this sense, the maintenance of international peace and security through preventive diplomacy is an issue at the heart of the work of all the principal organs, within their respective mandates. Likewise, peace and security will only be ensured through the harmonious realization of the other purposes, which, in turn, also have to be taken into consideration by the Security Council. In sum, their relationship is symbiotic in the attainment of their respective goals.

4. In the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, unanimously adopted on 24 September 2012, Member States already recognized the positive contribution of all the principal organs of the United Nations to strengthening the rule of law. The declaration highlights the positive contribution of the General Assembly through policymaking and standard-setting, and through the progressive development of international law and its codification; of the Economic and Social Council in pursuing the eradication of poverty and furthering the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; and of the International Court of Justice in adjudicating disputes among States. All of these are essential components for the prevention of conflicts and, therefore, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

5. Moreover, these connections are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the recent report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, which, as defined by the Secretary-General himself, reflects “an

agenda of action designed to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals”. It is further indicated that “the United Nations system needs to be able to address the cross-cutting issues of security, climate change, health, development, gender equality and human rights from a prevention perspective with greater effectiveness and accountability”.

6. In this context, while the Security Council is the competent organ to address threats to international peace and security, the United Nations system as a whole has a direct or indirect impact on the maintenance of peace. The interlinkages with sustainable development and the rule of law cannot be questioned. This open debate offers an opportunity to explore how to strengthen those interlinkages through concrete actions.

7. The success of the Security Council in fulfilling its responsibility in accordance with its mandate relies, to a great degree, on the success of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice in the fulfilment of their own mandates, together with the efforts of the Secretary-General, in particular with respect to creating the social and economic conditions that foster a truly sustainable peace.

8. The objective of this meeting is therefore to facilitate a dialogue between the principal organs of the United Nations and the members of the Security Council in order to identify concrete actions through which cooperation can be improved or strengthened, in a way that is institutional and systemic, towards conflict prevention.

9. This should be done in a coordinated and horizontal manner, in full adherence to their respective mandates, thus allowing the United Nations to respond as an integrated unit to the challenges that are currently threatening international peace and security.

10. It will also contribute to strengthening the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its role as an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries, and is a key addition to the capacity of the international community in the broad peace agenda.

Expected result

11. A presidential statement is expected.

Guiding questions

12. The following questions will serve to guide the debate:

(a) In what concrete ways can the communication and coordination of the principal organs of the United Nations be strengthened or improved for the purposes of maintaining and sustaining international peace and security, while taking into account their respective mandates?

(b) How can this interaction become institutionalized as an integral part of cooperation among those organs?

(c) How can this coordination permeate through the rest of the United Nations system, including its subsidiary bodies, specialized agencies and funds and programmes?

(d) How could an expansion of the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, as suggested by the Secretary-General, contribute to the articulation of these coordination efforts?

(e) In which ways could the efforts of the Secretary-General in supporting the work of the principal bodies of the United Nations be strengthened or improved towards the common goal of sustainable peace?

(f) What can be done to increase the visibility of the interaction and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations, thereby making it more transparent and fostering the accountability of the United Nations system as a whole?
