

United Nations  Nations Unies

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17 September 2019

Excellencies,

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

In its resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), the General Assembly and the Security Council called for a further comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding during the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

In this context, in its advisory role to the General Assembly and the Security Council and building on the practice established in preparation for the 2015 Review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission decided to contribute to the early preparations for the 2020 Review by submitting a proposal to the General Assembly and the Security Council, for their respective consideration, with the suggested scope, terms of reference and modalities for conducting the upcoming comprehensive review.

His Excellency  
Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande  
President of the General Assembly  
New York

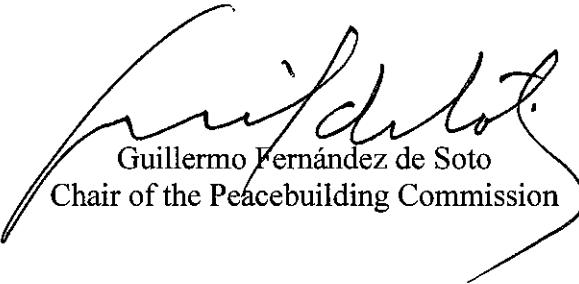
His Excellency  
Mr. Vassily A. Nebenzia  
President of the Security Council  
New York

This proposal is included in the attached document, which reflects the outcome of an extensive consultative intergovernmental process which involved the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, the former co-facilitators of the previous reviews of the peacebuilding architecture, and the countries that have engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its attachment to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

I stand ready to work with the Presidencies of the General Assembly and the Security Council towards the formal launch of the review.

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



Guillermo Fernández de Soto  
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

## **2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture**

### **Proposal for suggested Terms of Reference**

#### **Introduction**

1. Resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture call for a “comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding” to be conducted during the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.
2. Resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) request the Secretary-General to submit to the GA, at its 74th session, “a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture, focusing on continued implementation of resolution 70/262, and progress in the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.”

#### **Objective**

3. The review should take stock of the work done by the United Nations on peacebuilding in implementation of resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645 (2005), A/RES/65/7 and S/RES/1947 (2010), A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018)) and take into account the 2018 Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), his 2019 interim report (A/73/890–S/2019/448) and the report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace due at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. The review should also be forward looking, aiming at further improving the work of the UN on peacebuilding, with appropriate emphasis on implementation at the field level as well as on the need to continue strengthening the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, taking into account the context of the ongoing reforms of the United Nations.

#### **Suggested modality**

4. In accordance with resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the review should be informed by the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace due at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. Discussions convened by Member States, experts, and civil society organizations, including at the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Peacebuilding Commission at the regional or country level could also inform the review as appropriate.

5. The review should:
  - i. Be guided by the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture, including resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) in which Member States agreed to invite the relevant United Nations bodies and organs, including the Peacebuilding Commission, to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the 2018 report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), in accordance with the established procedures.
  - ii. Adhere to the conditions set out in paragraph 31 of A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), paragraph 5 of A/RES/65/7 and S/RES/1947 (2010) and paragraph 27 of A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645 (2005), as an inclusive intergovernmental process in the General Assembly and the Security Council;
  - iii. Integrate the views of regions and countries, particularly those that have engaged with the PBC, in building and sustaining peace;
  - iv. Integrate the views of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in building and sustaining peace;
  - v. Integrate the views and perspectives of relevant regional and sub-regional organizations;
  - vi. Integrate the views of key partners within and outside the UN system including Agencies Funds and Programmes, the World Bank and other international financial institutions; and
  - vii. Engage relevant expertise within and outside the UN, including that of governments, civil society, the private sector, and research organizations, including on specific countries and specific thematic expertise.

### ***Structure and process***

6. Based on the above, a two-stage process is proposed whereby:

- i. Stage 1: Informal process<sup>1</sup>**

- a. The Peacebuilding Commission**

In its advisory capacity to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Commission will convene meetings, open to all Member States of the United Nations, relevant parts of the UN System, civil society representatives, and independent experts as agreed to by PBC Members, to:

- i. Consider progress on the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture, with particular focus in the field in the specific context of different countries and regions, including those that have engaged with the Commission.
- ii. Further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the 2018 report of the Secretary-

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<sup>1</sup> The informal process should start during the fourth quarter of 2019 up to the end of the second quarter of 2020 and feed into the Submission of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018). The timeline for the submission of this report could be set for early July 2020

General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), in accordance with the established procedures.

- iii. Consider opportunities for and challenges facing the contribution of the ongoing reforms of the United Nations to meeting the objectives of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture; and
- iv. Consider the views and analysis of civil society organizations, research organizations and other relevant partners on UN peacebuilding in light of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture and the recommendations of the 2018 and 2019 reports of the Secretary-General.

A Chair's summary will be circulated after each meeting. At the conclusion of this phase of the review, the PBC Chair will transmit the main findings of the meetings to the Secretary-General as an input to the latter's comprehensive report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), as well as to the General Assembly and the Security Council, in its advisory capacity, for their further consideration during the formal stage of the review process.

#### **b. Participation of independent eminent persons**

Within existing budgetary resources, the Secretary-General will ask 2-3 eminent persons, selected from relevant current and former members of Senior Advisory Boards and Groups of the Secretary-General, to submit a letter to the Secretary-General and Member States containing their reflections on the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture. In preparing his comprehensive report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the Secretary-General is encouraged to consider these findings. These eminent persons could also be invited to join PBC meetings and brief on their findings, and could be invited to join regional and thematic consultations.

#### **c. Thematic and regional consultations**

Member States and UN entities are encouraged to engage with relevant think tanks, policy and academic institutions and regional organizations to organize inclusive thematic and regional consultations to review the progress on the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture and produce an outcome to be shared with relevant stakeholders. In preparing his comprehensive report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the Secretary-General is encouraged to consider these outcomes.

These three tracks will provide evidence to assess the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture and the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. They will also inform consultations to be conducted during the formal part of the review.

**ii. Stage 2: Formal process<sup>2</sup>**

7. Drawing upon the comprehensive report by the Secretary-General mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the main findings of the PBC meetings transmitted by the PBC Chair, inputs from experts and thematic and regional consultations, as well as relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council will initiate an open, inclusive and consultative intergovernmental process to review the findings and recommendations from these inputs. The General Assembly and the Security Council could also organize informal interactive dialogues with the Peacebuilding Commission to support the process in generating agreed recommendations for consideration and decision by the Assembly and the Council. The General Assembly and the Security Council will decide on the modalities for facilitating this process based on the suggestions contained in these Terms of Reference.

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<sup>2</sup> The General Assembly and the Security Council are requested to set a timeline for the completion of the formal process, in accordance with their respective calendars and following receipt of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018).