

10 July 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, the attached letter from the Secretary-General and its two annexes regarding the on-going review of the United Nations Peacebuilding architecture.

The annexes consist of two letters from the group of Independent Eminent Persons selected by the Secretary-General to carry out consultations and provide their independent perspectives on the implementation of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions (A/RES/70/262, S/RES/2282, A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413) on the Peacebuilding architecture.

The two letters in which the Independent Eminent Persons share their reflections and recommendations in support of the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture are forwarded for your attention.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

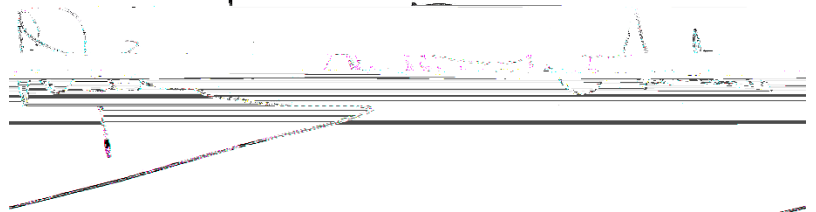
Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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6 July 2020

Dear Mr. President

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 31 October 2019, co-signed by  
the then President of the Security Council, concerning EMC\* n B.02 Tm 0 g .9 589.Q q l2r to



13 April 2020

Dear Mr. SecretaryGeneral,

We have the honour to refer to your letter dated 8 February 2020, which asked us, the undersigned, to provide our independent perspectives on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Architecture. We gladly accepted the challenge, and, in our independent

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H.E. Mr. António Guterres  
SecretaryGeneral  
United Nations  
New York



23 June 2020

Dear Secretary General,

With full appreciation for your commitment and actions to strengthen the effectiveness of peacebuilding and sustaining peace across the UN system, in response to your letter dated 31 January 2020 (A/74/680 S/2020/91), we are pleased to submit to you our collective reflections on the implementation of the 2016 and 2018 twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Drawing on our diverse backgrounds, experiences, and as part of the first phase of the 2020 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, we explored the perspectives of different interlocutors engaged in regional and thematic consultations, and reviewed academic and civil society documents. We hope that these reflections will help inform the design of peacebuilding activities to include the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the urgent challenge of climate change and other threats to the well-being of all peoples and our planet. We are grateful to the many interlocutors, including Member States and UN staff members, who shared their insights with us.

In our interim letter to you on 13 April 2020, we offered our early reflections on how COVID-19 might transform the peacebuilding terrain. This crisis has already created multiple ripple effects, impacting countries and peoples in every corner of the world, as well as the role of multilateralism and the future of the UN. Countries affected by conflict are particularly vulnerable, especially as responses to the pandemic and their consequences are exacerbating longstanding root causes. It has also led many to instinctively turn inward and away from international cooperation. We believe that the UN has a key role

synergies this has already created, including the use of the climate security mechanism. We recommend the strategic coherence brought by the joint regional structure, which DPPA and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) jointly oversee. We believe that the reform of the development system and the Resident Coordinator mechanism has created a more strategic and coherent framework for the UN to deliver in an integrated manner in the field. Due in large part to the progressive introduction of your reforms, which favor a more holistic, field-focused approach, we also perceive better links between the 8 1 ¶ V U H J L R Q D O e v d a b v i t i e s x o w l a s between political strategy and programmatic responses in the field. These are all important steps in the right direction. The next step should be ensuring the systematic implementation of these frameworks.

We also welcome the Peacebuilding Architecture ¶ shift from a relatively self-contained and distinct realm to an essential tool of the United Nations 7 K H 3 % & ¶ V D G R S W L R Q R I P R U H I O H [ L E C enabled it to expand the number of countries, regions and thematic issues under its consideration discuss issues of strategic importance. Countries across the conflict continuum are willing to come to the PBC to build consensus on their peacebuilding plans and galvanize support for the challenges they face. In return, they are finding an animated audience composed of a diverse range of stakeholders from the UN system, regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. We are glad to hear that stronger links between the PBC and the Security Council have helped ensure better prioritization of the peacebuilding components of peace operation mandates.

As with the PBC, we note that in the past five years the PBF has consolidated its progress. It has enabled the countries and regions it engages with support work in cross-border settings, invest during key transitions, and systematically facilitate

now been built on a solid base however, it must be continuously refurbished factoring in the constantly evolving international environment and the new challenges and risks faced by the UN and the multilateral system. As nations and their peoples confront the interconnected risks posed by rising inequality, exclusion and discrimination, exacerbated by the challenges of climate change and the consequences of COVID-19, there is growing urgency to build durable peace and prevent new conflicts from flaring up.







prevention and achieve strategic integration across the peace and security, development, humanitarian and human rights work of the UN. We urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure appropriate attention to peacebuilding is maintained. We encourage that peace and conflict perspectives are adequately taken into integration of the needs and priorities of people affected by conflict, low human development, climate change, refugee flows, internal displacement and humanitarian spillovers of conflict to peace processes and peacebuilding efforts, to ensure moving toward durable solutions for all.

6) Improve leadership and peacebuilding capacity across the United Nations system. Good leadership – both from headquarters to the field and from UN leaders in the field – is critical to ensuring peacebuilding results in the field. We believe that Resident Coordinators have a particularly important role to play, both by bringing together the complementary peacebuilding work carried out by Country Teams under strategic objectives and by ensuring complementarity with the work of peace operations when relevant. But they need to be capacitated and empowered to do so. We recommend that you and Member States ensure that the configuration of the authorities, capacities and resources of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs meets identified needs and gaps, especially during transitions. We believe that the identification of candidates with appropriate competencies and experience for senior leadership and other key posts in conflict-affected settings and during transitions is essential, supported by adequate preparation and training, and underpinned by accountability processes. Building on the positive examples of various UN agencies, funds and programmes, we encourage you to reinforce the structures and mechanisms that support RCs and UNCTs to carry out peacebuilding-related programming in the field. The expansion of the number of Peace and Development Advisers and the addition of regional specialists is already helping close a critical gap.

7) Invest in better transitions: We believe that transition planning and the design of exit strategies should start from the formation of a mission mandate and continue throughout its life cycle. We recommend that transition planning at Headquarters and in the field takes conflict dynamics fully into account and considers peacebuilding as an integral component of unified responses, including through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. O D X G W K H 3 % ) ↑ V F R P P L W P H Q W V

relationship with the World Bank and other IFIs, instruments and strategies that would enable energetic interventions and the sequencing of activities.

9) Enhance partnerships with regional and subregional organizations: To enhance partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, we recommend greater attention to harmonization of UN peacebuilding efforts with regional and subregional frameworks such as the AU Peace and Security Architecture with the aim of joint action in areas such as prevention, political dialogue, national reconciliation, democratic governance and human rights. Partnerships should aim to strengthen cooperation between the offices that deal with peacebuilding and prevention issues and move toward joint analysis and deeper engagement between inter-governmental bodies and funding mechanisms.

10) Ensure adequate and predictable long-term peacebuilding financing: We encourage you to continue to explore ways to ensure improved peacebuilding financing with Member States. This includes encouraging donors to maintain an appropriate focus on long and strategic peacebuilding priorities even in times of crisis to prevent the risk of conflict in the longer run. First, we call upon Member States to consider spending an increased and dedicated share of their development assistance on peacebuilding priorities. Second, we call upon peacebuilding donors to seek greater synergies across the different funding instruments they each contribute to. Peacebuilding donors should also seek to interact more strategically with international financial institutions to ensure that their respective support in crisis contexts is mutually reinforcing and has a long-term perspective. Third, we believe that all donors should avoid the proliferation of new funding instruments and prioritize contributions to existing pooled funding mechanisms. In this respect, we call upon donors to reduce earmarking and prioritize multi-year funding to existing funding tools and to continue to pursue initiatives on good peacebuilding donors. We also believe that ensuring complementarity, instead of competition, among funding mechanisms that are relevant to peacebuilding is a critical aspect of ensuring strategic and effective action. We are of the opinion that convening the UN system, its Member States and donors to discuss ways to ensure this complementarity under your able leadership can help chart the way forward.

In our opinion, dependence on voluntary contributions from a limited number of donor states continues to underscore the financial precariousness of the Peacebuilding Fund and must be addressed. Predictable funding would allow the PBF, but also other critical funding mechanisms such as the CERF, the SDG Fund and the new COVID Fund, to better harness resources to address long-term

To conclude, it seems clear that for the United Nations to help and sustain peace and make a tangible difference on the ground, it must marshal all of its capacities, resources, and especially in the light of the multi-dimensional challenges the world faces today. The UN system has a long way toward realizing the vision behind the establishment of the peacebuilding architecture.