

**Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission**  
***The importance of the SDGs in linking peace and development on the ground***  
29 June 2023, ECOSOC Chamber

**Opening Remarks**  
**by**  
**H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Together with Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, we are pleased to welcome you to the joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Denmark, Ambassador Martin Bille Hermann, for his instrumental role, as the informal PBC-ECOSOC coordinator, in conceptualizing this meeting.

Today's joint meeting builds on our last joint meeting in December 2022, which focused on *"Peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development: Towards coherence and impact on the ground."* Last December, the joint meeting provided an opportunity for the UN agencies, funds and programmes to brief us on how they are responding, including jointly, to multidimensional challenges, and their contributions to peacebuilding, sustaining peace and promoting long-term development in conflict affected contexts.

We heard the need for a coordinated system-wide response by the United Nations to address the interlinked crises, such as increasing poverty and inequalities, food insecurity and climate change, guided by national ownership and priorities. We heard the importance of active

engagement of civil society actors, in particular local women and youth. The need for sustained, predictable and flexible financing for prevention was also highlighted in our meeting. And the UN system emphasized the importance of unearmarked funding for prevention.

Excellencies,

We gather here today to deepen our discussions and focus on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in linking peace and development action on the ground. This is an opportune moment, with the upcoming 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC which is starting in 10 days and the SDG Summit in September this year. It is also our hope that today's discussions will inspire new thinking for the New Agenda for Peace, proposed by the Secretary-General in his "Our Common Agenda" report, in the lead up to the Ministerial Meeting in September 2023 to prepare for the 2024 Summit of the Future.

As we approach the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda, we need transformative actions to accelerate progress on the SDGs to achieve inclusive, peaceful and prosperous societies. These transformative actions must address the root causes of conflict and crises and respond to development and humanitarian needs on the ground to fulfil the 2030 Agenda's promise of leaving no one behind.

To this end, we must promote comprehensive, integrated solutions and actions across the peace, security, humanitarian and development pillars of the organization. And we can achieve this through closer relationships among the various intergovernmental bodies, by harnessing our unique mandates and platforms to advance more integrated, coherent and coordinated UN response.

We must explore ways to foster a deeper and more meaningful engagement between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission, building on our joint meetings. We would welcome your views and innovative ideas on options that we can pursue. We could explore: (i) convening regular meetings among the heads of the Principal Organs and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission; (ii) sharing work programmes to identify opportunities for collaboration; or (iii) consider a more structured way to identify and present issues around which both bodies can add value.

We could share lessons learned and explore ways to further develop policy guidance on operating in conflict-affected contexts, which would be of relevance to the QCPR. We could also explore how the voluntary national review process during the high-level political forum on sustainable development, could provide a platform for countries in conflict contexts to share good practices, lessons learned and policy advice.

Excellencies,

We must leverage the work of ECOSOC and the PBC to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. Today, we will explore how to operationalize the linkages between peace and development on the ground, to promote coherence and impact for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts. In this context, we will also focus on the role of the UN system, as well as ECOSOC and the PBC. We look forward to your views and ideas for innovative approaches, good practices and effective tools to link development and peace efforts on the ground.

Thank you.