



## **Joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting**

### **Peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development: Towards coherence and impact on the ground**

**2 December (10:00-13:00)**

#### *Background*

Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) are a critical UN interface to national and local governments and local communities in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected countries. The 2016 joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace” underscored that peacebuilding was critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that, in turn, the realization of the 2030 Agenda is essential to build and sustain peace.

In recent years, the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment have underscored the need to better connect actions in development, humanitarian assistance and peace. The General Assembly, in resolution 75/290 A transformed the informal ECOSOC event on transition from relief to development into a one-day meeting addressing development and humanitarian activities along with activities to promote peaceful societies. Furthermore, the ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development in June 2022 highlighted the increasing demand by Member States to strengthen collaboration and complementarity between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors to address multidimensional challenges. Similarly, the PBC has continued to promote an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that peace and security, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The PBC has welcomed synergies and greater coordination across the UN system in recognition of the importance of coherent support in conflict-affected settings. Through its convening role, the PBC has provided a space where Member States, UN entities, international financial institutions and civil society organizations have come together to discuss ways to support national peacebuilding priorities of conflict-affected countries.

Ongoing multidimensional crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, food insecurity, increasing debt levels and the deteriorating humanitarian situation, are jeopardizing progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and pose risk to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. With the 2023 SDG Summit fast approaching and the discussions on the New Agenda for Peace, proposed by the Secretary-General in “Our Common

Agenda” report, continue, the ECOSOC-PBC joint meeting would be an opportune moment to discuss how the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building and sustaining peace can be further leveraged for accelerated action in conflict-affected contexts. Given those interlinkages, it would be important to build on the synergies among the entities of the UN system, including the international financial institutions, in view of the catalytic role of financing and international financial institutions to mobilize resources to help conflict affected countries, with limited fiscal space, to build and sustain peace and promote sustainable development.

### *Objective of the meeting*

In response to calls of Member States to continue enhancing UN coherence and foster greater impact on the ground, as well as strengthen the link between ECOSOC and the PBC and improve their joint meeting (GA resolution 75/290 A), the ECOSOC-PBC joint meeting represents an opportunity for the Heads of Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) to brief on how they are responding, including jointly, to multidimensional challenges and are contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and promoting long term development in conflict-affected contexts. Building on the work of the agencies, funds and programme in the area of peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development, the joint ECOSOC and PBC meeting aims to advance sustainable development goals in conflict affected countries through UN coherence guided by national ownership and priorities. Strengthening cooperation and coordination among the UN system entities in conflict affected countries would be instrumental to fulfil the promise to leave no one behind envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting is also expected to result in a greater awareness among Member States on how AFPs, which undertake most of the activities financed from the Peacebuilding Fund, contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected contexts in order to ensure timely, relevant and adequate political and financial support to the AFPs operating in these contexts. An increased level of awareness among Member States, and of cooperation with intergovernmental bodies, including the governing bodies of AFPs, can translate into greater coherence and a stronger impact on the ground. It will also give the opportunity to Member States to reflect how the UN System Chief’s Executive Board’s [Statement of Commitment on Bringing the UN system together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) is progressing.

The meeting will seek to discuss the following topics:

- How AFPs integrate conflict and fragility analysis in their strategic plans, programs and operations in contexts affected by conflict to prevent escalation or help build and sustain peace?
- What lessons learnt can be shared with ECOSOC and PBC members from operating in conflict-affected contexts, including integrating preventive measures in the work of the AFPs?

- How AFPs include young people in AFP programming in conflict-affected contexts in line with the UN's Youth, Peace and Security agenda?
- How AFPs contribute to women's full, equal and meaningful participation in planning, implementation and reporting of peacebuilding and sustaining peace?
- How AFPs are working together to break down the silo approaches to build and sustain peace and promote sustainable development? Are there further opportunities for collaboration among AFPs to promote coherence and stronger impact in order to accelerate Member States' efforts for sustainable development and peacebuilding and sustaining peace?
- How can ECOSOC, with its oversight of the AFPs and the UN Resident Coordinator system, contribute to developing targeted and tailored interventions to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected countries?