



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

High-level Dialogue

**Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
and Sustaining Peace**

Remarks at the Opening Segment

**H.E Ambassador Frederick Makamure Shava
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Tuesday, 24 January 2017, 09:00 –10:00

Trusteeship Council Chamber

Your Excellency President of the General Assembly,
Your Excellency Secretary-General,
Your Excellency President of the Security Council,
Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to join you at this very timely High-Level Dialogue on *Building Sustainable Peace for All*. I would like to commend the President of the General Assembly for his ongoing efforts to strengthen momentum around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture all respond to our fast changing environment and pave the way for a better, more inclusive and sustainable world. Implementation of these requires scale, speed and synergies.

Given the interlinkages of these commitments and the comprehensive nature of the universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we need a coordinated and coherent approach at all levels for the effective and integrated implementation.

Sustaining peace needs to be an integral part of this coordinated and coherent approach if we want to make the SDGs a reality for all. Today's intrastate wars and complex conflicts are intractable. We have often seen how violent conflict and unrest can reverse gains made in development. We know that progress on the SDGs will be most difficult in conflict-affected countries.

Sustaining peace requires an integrated approach to addressing the drivers of conflict, such as economic and social inequalities, lack of economic opportunities, poor natural resource management and other deficits in governance. Strengthening institutions to become more transparent, accountable and effective must also be a priority.

A preventive approach with the full involvement of people is essential. We need to unlock the full potential of women, young people and other vulnerable groups to make our societies more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous. Participation in economic, social and political life as well as economic progress is central to sustaining peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the ECOSOC Youth Forum next week, we will bring the voices of youth on their participation in the implementing the 2030 Agenda. We should use this platform to bring attention to the unique role of young people in poverty eradication and sustainable development thereby promoting peaceful societies.

Young people need decent jobs. This is crucial as lack of opportunities can make young people vulnerable to socially disruptive activities that undermine social cohesion, peace and development.

We need to improve the links between education, training and jobs.

Diversifying economies—by supporting private sector growth and encouraging entrepreneurship—can also help create decent jobs. Infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization can help create the much needed jobs and contribute to building peaceful societies.

Infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization can also facilitate sustainable economic growth, creation of decent jobs, the modernization of agriculture and sustainable use and management of natural resources, and channel the benefits to fight inequality and poverty. I will be convening a Special Meeting of ECOSOC on “*Innovations for infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization*” to facilitate an international dialogue among development partners from all regions to accelerate the implementation of SDG9.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The inclusion of the issues related to peaceful societies in the 2030 Agenda is a testament to the importance in attaining peaceful and prosperous

societies. The peace and development nexus is not exclusive to SDG16. Sustaining peace is critical for achieving all the sustainable development goals. The entire 2030 Agenda gives us a unique opportunity to address the root causes of conflicts and reversals into conflict.

The review of the peacebuilding architecture underlined the importance of enhanced collaboration between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission and the centrality of development to sustaining peace. This was the inspiration behind the ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission joint meeting on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace last June.

Closer collaboration of all intergovernmental bodies is imperative for enhancing the peace and development nexus. This would strengthen our individual and joint contributions to addressing the specific challenges and needs of countries emerging from conflict, and help sustain peace.

I would like to commend Secretary-General Guterres for establishing an Executive-Committee to increase UN's capacity to integrate all pillars of the United Nations. I hope that the analytical work underpinning the reports of the Secretary-General will also start to address these interlinkages even more deeply.

We must revisit our approach to countries emerging from conflict. The close collaboration of the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC in conflict prevention and peacebuilding culminated in the late 1990s and early 2000s in the creation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Haiti and on African countries emerging from conflict which provided useful advice to countries like Burundi and Guinea-Bissau.

We have more work to do in breaking down the silos in the work of the United Nations. While respecting the relevant mandates, I believe that there is space for the UN bodies to collectively promote coherence and complementarity between the UN's peace and security efforts and its humanitarian, human rights, justice and development work.

These issues were also addressed during the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system and should be a

priority going forward. The QCPR resolution has also addressed this issue. I hope that the follow up will help breaking the silos.

Excellencies,

The Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies have a lot to contribute to sustaining peace and promoting sustainable development. ECOSOC's oversight role on development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and coordination of the UN system will be useful in ensuring better integration between the policy and operational dimensions of sustaining peace and sustainable development. It could provide a platform to share lessons learned and ideas aimed at better integrating peacebuilding, resilience building and sustainable development.

I agree with the Secretary-General that we can no longer work in silos in the next era of sustainable development. The Economic and Social Council stands ready to work with you all to enhance the peace and development for all peoples and countries.

Thank you.