



Joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting

Peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development:

Towards coherence and impact on the ground

2 December 2022

Opening Remarks

by

H.E. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure to join the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, in welcoming you to the joint meeting of ECOSOC and the PBC. Through these joint meetings, we aim to foster regular dialogues among our membership to promote a coherent approach to peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development for impact on the ground. The General Assembly has welcomed these meetings and called for further strengthening them.

Our theme today could not be more pressing. We will focus on *“Peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development: Towards coherence and impact on the ground”*.

This joint meeting comes at a time when outbreak of multiple conflicts has taken a toll in numerous countries, disrupting supply chains and access to energy, fueling food insecurity, contributing to the rising risk of famine and high level of forced displacement. This has increased humanitarian needs as the COVID-19 pandemic



continues to exacerbate inequalities within and across countries, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable people the hardest.

Excellencies,

Countries in conflict or recovering from conflict were already gravely off track from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. At the recent high-level political forum on sustainable development in July, several post-conflict and crisis countries undertaking voluntary national reviews underscored the centrality of peace and security as a prerequisite to sustainable development. In countries with protracted conflicts, grave insecurity and weak institutional capacity remain major bottlenecks to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In some countries, persistent drought and floods exacerbated by impacts of climate change led to resource scarcity, widespread displacement, and food shortages. Droughts, floods, rising temperatures and conflicts also made it more difficult to manage water resources effectively. At this year's HLPF, we also heard some conflict-affected countries' commendable efforts to engage in nation-building processes grounded in social justice and inclusive participation, a condition for sustainable development.

Excellencies,

Improved cooperation of humanitarian-development-peace interventions leads to better results. This was a strong message of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system operational activities, the QCPR, in 2020. It also resonated throughout the May 2022 ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment as well as the Humanitarian Affairs Segment and ECOSOC Transition Meeting.

United efforts on humanitarian, development and peace objectives can play a critical role to reduce risks and build resilience, providing much greater positive impact for the affected communities. To this end, the UN system can help countries identify opportunities to promote early recovery, reconstruction and stabilization. This will enable countries to shift onto a track to realize the SDGs and



to strengthen their resilience against future shocks that could jeopardize the SDGs.

We need to further strengthen our efforts to assist countries in addressing root causes of crises and ensuring long-term sustainable development. Such efforts must focus on, among others, enhancing interoperability between UN entities and data sharing to help build synergies across pillars guided by Cooperation Frameworks, where helpful. We must also ensure that resident coordinators have dedicated expertise and strengthen the capacity of UN staff, including through cross-pillar mobility. It would be important for funding partners to enable pooling of funds and to scale up humanitarian and development funding to achieve integrated support across pillars.

And that brings us to the critical issue of financing. Development finance has the power to help prevent conflict by reducing social, environmental and economic vulnerabilities. It can also support durable peace and sustainable development in conflict-affected countries. However, the application of financing frameworks in conflict or post-conflict countries requires special care to ensure that financing does not reinforce the drivers of discord. Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) can enable conflict-affected countries to chart a long-term SDG-based investment plan and an accompanying fiscal framework to support the expansion of SDG investments. The recently launched INFF Facility can help in this regard.

Excellencies,

In addition to the segments and forums of the Economic and Social Council, the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies provide policy guidance that is pertinent for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development. Take the work of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) for example. The UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development it elaborated can serve as an important reference point for UN system entities engaged in building strong institutions at all levels over the long-term.

Excellencies,



Today, we will hear how the UN system agencies, funds and programmes are working together to address multidimensional challenges and contribute to peacebuilding, sustaining peace and promoting long term development in conflict-affected contexts. We look forward to your active engagement to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the UN system entities. Only this way can we promote greater coherence of international efforts and strong impact on the ground to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected countries.

It is my hope that our deliberations today will also spark momentum for our ambitions as we prepare for the 2023 SDG Summit and the discussions on the New Agenda for Peace in the lead up to the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 Summit of the Future.

Thank you.