

The 7th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work - Focused thematic discussion

New Agenda for Peace

Concept Note

*Dialogue on a Right to Development Approach to the New Agenda for Peace
and contribution to the process in the lead up to the SDG summit.*

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Introduction

In his report “Our Common Global Agenda”, the United Nations Secretary-General highlighted the need for a New Agenda for Peace to address the multidimensional challenges the international community faces today. The report noted that in order to protect and manage the global public good of peace, we need a peace continuum based on a better understanding of the underlying drivers and systems of influence that are sustaining conflict, a renewed effort to agree on more effective collective security responses and a meaningful set of steps to manage emerging risks.

Among the six potential areas for this New Agenda for Peace, the report included “Investing in prevention and peacebuilding”. The report rightly notes that “Investments in prevention and preparedness pay for themselves many times over in the human and financial costs that are spared, yet we continue to make the case in vain. The new agenda for peace could involve a set of commitments to provide the necessary resources for prevention, including at the national level; reduce excessive military budgets and ensure adequate social spending; tailor development assistance to address root causes of conflict and uphold human rights; and link disarmament to development opportunities”.

The report also proposes that the new agenda for peace could renew calls for Member States urgently to consider allocating a dedicated amount to the Peacebuilding Fund from assessed contributions, as a complementary investment that would increase the sustainability of peacekeeping outcomes and support the development agenda.

It is in this context that this dialogue on the Right to Development and Investing in Prevention and Peacebuilding seeks to explore the contributions that operationalizing the right to development can make toward realizing this new agenda for peace.

The 1986 Declaration on the right to development recognizes the mutually dependent relationship between development understood as a human right and peace and security. Violations of human rights which often are the root causes of conflict and violence are a key obstacle to the realization

of the right to development. The Declaration also recognizes the importance of peace and security, including through disarmament, in the realization of the right to development.

At the same time, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the mutually dependent relationship between sustainable development and peace. Neither is possible to be realized without the other.

This dialogue seeks to bring together the objectives of sustainable development, peacebuilding, and human rights under one umbrella by harnessing the normative framework of the right to development. It will explore how the principles of the right to development, including the duty of international cooperation, can be operationalized in the process of investing in conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well as in ensuring better outcomes therefrom.

Purpose:

To engage relevant experts in examining the New Agenda for Peace from the right to development perspective, with a view to formulating EMRTD contribution to the process in the lead up to the 2023 SDG summit in September 2023.

Guiding questions:

1. What policy frameworks have been developed at national and multilateral levels for investing in conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well as in ensuring better outcomes therefrom?
2. How can this process be addressed from the right to the development perspective, particularly the duty of States for international cooperation?
3. What are the key obstacles in channeling investment to prevention and peacebuilding and how can they be overcome?
4. What recommendations can be made for mainstreaming the right to development to ensure better investing in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and better outcomes therefrom?

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