10 January 2017

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 6 December, I have the honor to share herewith the latest information regarding the High Level Dialogue entitled 'Building Sustainable Peace for all: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace', that I will convene on 24 January at UN Headquarters.

Please find enclosed an updated programme for the meeting. Also attached is a concept note for the three workshops that will take place in parallel in the afternoon of 24 January.

Further updates to the programme will be included on the dedicated page on my website http://www.un.org/pga/71/event-latest/building-sustainable-peace-for-all-synergies-between-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-and-sustaining-peace/ . Please reach out to my office for further information.

I look forward to your active engagement in this important High Level Dialogue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

"Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace" High-Level Dialogue of the President of the General Assembly for the 71st session

Draft Programme

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017, ECOSOC Chamber	
09:00 – 10:00 a.m.	**Opening segment:** H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General H.E. Ms Margot Elisabeth Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden and President of the Security Council H.E. Mr Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council Ms Julienne Lusenge, SOFEPADI/Fonds pour les femmes congolaises, NGO, Democratic Republic of Congo
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	**High-level segment and plenary debate:** H.E. Ms.Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka. H.E.. Samura M. W. Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sierra Leone (TBC) H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovakia H.E. Mr. Rafael Pardo, High Counselor for Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security, Colombia H.E. Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Belarus H.E. Mr. Jean-Marie Le Guen Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, France H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Switzerland H.E. Mr. Agio Pereira, Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Timor Leste
11.00 – 1.00 p.m.	**Interactive panel discussion on taking a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and sustaining peace** *Moderator:* Ms Elizabeth Cousens, UN Foundation

	Panelists: H.E. Mr Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Iraq Mr Peter Wallensteen, Senior Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden Ms Joy Onyesoh, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), NGO, Nigeria Representative of Mexico and Chair of the Group of Friends of Sustaining Peace	
Lunch break		
3.00 - 5.15 p.m.	**Plenary debate (continued)** (ECOSOC Chamber)	**Workshops focusing on linkages across three themes:** 1. Empowering women and youth for peace and sustainable development. (CR1) 2. Managing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development (CR11) 3. Strengthening transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutions (CR8)
5.30 – 5.55 p.m.	**Briefing by chairs of workshops on main points discussed**	
5.55 – 6.00 p.m.	**Closing remarks** H.E. Mr Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly	
Evening reception hosted by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, incoming Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (invitations to issue)		

Workshop I: Empowering women and youth for peace and sustainable development In partnership with UN Women Venue: Conference Room 1 Draft Programme	
3:00 – 3:10 Opening	**Co-chairs:** H.E. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Indian Ministry of External Affairs Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General, UN Women (TBC) *Moderator:* Mr. Graeme Simpson, *Director of InterPeace USA)*
3:10 – 3:15 3:15 – 3:30	**Introduction of Panelists and of the workshop format by Moderator** **Overview by 4 panelists of themes based on concept note questions (3 minutes)** - Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair, Association of War Affected Women, Sri Lanka - Ms. Hager Sharief, Libya, Youth Advocate and member of the UN Advisory Group for the Progress Study on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security - Mr Henk-Jan Brinkman, Peace Building Support Office, UN Secretariat
3:30 – 4:10	**Interactive discussion with the audience** Comments and/or questions from the floor and answers by the Panelists **Discussion leaders from the floor** - Ms. Gwendolyn Myers (Liberia), founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Messengers of Peace (MOP) - Ms. Saba Ismail (Pakistan), Executive Director and Co-founder of "Aware Girls" Mr. Cedric de Coning, Senior Research Fellow, NUPI and ACCORD (South Africa)
4:10 – 4:25	**Panelists address new questions on the theme, to be posed by the Moderator** (3 minutes speaking time for each panelist)
4:25 – 5:05	**2nd round interactive discussion with the audience** Comments and/or questions from the floor and answers by the Panelists
5:05 – 5:15	**Closing – Wrap up** Chair's remarks

Workshop II: Managing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development In partnership with the World Resources Institute Venue: Conference Room 11 Draft Programme	
3:00 – 3:20 Opening	**Moderator:** Mr Manish Bapna, World Resources Institute *Introduction and presentation of the state of play on the subject, introduction of Panelists*
3:20 – 4:00	**Land degradation** • UNDP • Niger (Regreeening Africa initiative) • Civil Society contribution (tbd) *Discussion*
4:00 – 4:40	*Water* • Mr. Pasquale Steduto, Regional Strategic Programmes Coordinator for the Near East and North Africa, FAO • Member state contribution (tbc) • Civil Society contribution (tbd) *Discussion*
4:40 – 5:10	**Extractive industries** • Mr Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary General and head of New York office, UNEP • Timor Leste (tbc) • Botswana (tbc) • Ms Karla Basselier, Head of Public Affairs, Antwerp World Diamond Centre *Discussion*
5:05 – 5:15	**Closing – Wrap up** Chair's remarks

Workshop III: Strengthening transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutions In partnership with the International Peace Institute Venue: Conference Room 8 Draft Programme	
3:00– 3:10	**Opening** Moderator: Youssef Mahmoud, International Peace Institute *Introduction and presentation of the state of play on the subject, introduction of Panelists*
3:10 – 3:40	Member States Panel - best practices and experiences (tbc): • Germany • Guatemala • Tunisia • Open Government Partnership, OGP (France) *Discussion*
3:40 – 3:55	Discussants from the UN: • Mr Magdy Martínez-Solimán, Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP • Ms Marta Santos Pais, SRSG for Violence against Children. *Discussion*
3:55 – 4:15	Participation from the Civil Society from the floor: • John Romano, Transparency, Accountability & Participation Network • SaferWorld (tbc) • International Development Law Organization (tbc) • Center on International Cooperation, NYU (tbc) *Discussion*
4:15 – 5:00	**Other interventions**
5:00 – 5:10	**Closing – Wrap up**

Building Sustainable Peace For All: Synergies Between The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development And Sustaining Peace
Tuesday, 24 January 2017 Workshops, 3:00p.m.-5:15 p.m.
Concept Note

Overview

In order to focus in on areas of specific relevance to both sustaining peace and sustainable development, three workshops will be held in parallel from 3.00-5.15pm.

The workshops will focus on the following themes:

- Workshop I: Empowering Women and Youth for Peace and Sustainable Development
- Workshop II: Managing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development
- Workshop III: Strengthening transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutions for Peace and Sustainable Development

Participants

The workshops will be open to Member States and accredited civil society representatives. There will be a moderated expert panel as well as an open discussion. UN entities working to advance to sustainable development and peace will also be joining the debate. Participants will have an opportunity to engage from the floor to share their experience or pose questions to the panelists.

Format

Each workshop will be held as an interactive panel discussion, with three – five panelists of known leaders on these themes. They will be chaired by a prominent figure on issues relating to the theme, and a Q&A session will follow interventions from the panelists.

The three workshops are organized in partnership with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Women, the World Resources Institute and the International Peace Institute.

Outcome

A summary of discussions in each Workshop will be presented by the workshop chairs in the plenary at 5.30pm. These summaries will feed into the overall summary of the High Level Dialogue as a whole and towards preparations for the High-Level meeting on "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace", which will be convened during the 72nd session of the GA.

Workshop I: Empowering Women and Youth for Peace and Sustainable Development
(Conference Room 1)

Background

On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted substantively identical resolutions[1] on the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, outlining an ambitious and comprehensive agenda on peacebuilding and "Sustaining Peace". The resolutions addressed the challenges of achieving sustainable peace and the increasingly complex contexts in which peacebuilding takes place, noting that those efforts would only succeed in the long term if they are coherent and involve engagement across the UN pillars on peace and security, development and human rights, and during all stages of the conflict cycle – before, during and after.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, interconnected and integrated. There are mutually reinforcing interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace, and there is a need to bring a comprehensive approach to the implementation of both.

National ownership and inclusivity are among the key elements of Sustaining Peace, which means that the responsibility for Sustaining Peace is shared by the government, civil society and other national stakeholders, and that the approaches utilized must ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. The participation of women and youth is crucial for the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace in all parts of the world.

Women's engagement and the involvement of young people from the earlier stages of prevention, resolving crises, peacebuilding and consolidating peace, reduces the probability of relapses to violent conflict. Often, the contributions and roles of young people and women are undervalued, under-resourced and relegated. Consequently, their longer-term and meaningful engagement in political, social and economic recovery, and in inclusive governance and security, often lacks adequate support.

The linkages and synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and Sustaining Peace provides a strong basis for the engagement of women and young people in peace and development efforts. The workshop on *Empowering women and youth for peace and sustainable development,* to be held under the auspices of the high-level dialogue of the President of the General Assembly on 24 January 2017 will bring key stakeholders together to discuss the role of women and young people in sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development.

Objectives

The objective of the workshop is to discuss the important roles of women and young people in sustaining peace and in leading and contributing to sustainable development. Under the overall objective of the Dialogue to highlight the linkages between the SDGs and Sustaining Peace, this

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[1] A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), respectively

workshop will especially focus on the linkages between the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. It will also address the issue of inclusivity as central to the achievement of both Sustaining Peace and sustainable development.

Discussions will be guided by the following questions:

- What is the current level and mechanisms of participation of women and youth in sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts at the national, regional and international levels?
- What challenges do they face in this regard and how can they be addressed effectively?
- How can their participation in these critical activities be better appreciated and enhanced?
- How can their participation help improve coherence in achieving sustainable peace and development at the national level?
- What further action is required from the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to grow the capacity of women and youth to serve as active agents of sustaining peace and sustainable development?

Workshop II: Managing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development
(Conference Room 11)

Background

All countries depend on natural resources. Renewable resources like clean air, freshwater, healthy forests, fertile land and coastal waters are essential to meeting basic human needs. When well managed, natural resources have the potential to support sustainable development, contribute to sustaining peace, generate revenues for poverty alleviation and investing in the long-term well-being of the population.

Rising living standards, changing demand patterns, and population growth, combined in many instances with inefficient use, have placed increasing pressures on natural resource availability. These pressures are being intensified by the effects of climate change, for example on precipitation patterns, water availability, and the condition of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Conflicts over access to natural resources or over the distribution of the benefits derived from them can turn violent when systems to manage such conflict peacefully fail. In fact, between 1950 and 2010, 40 per cent of all intrastate conflicts had a link to natural resources[2].

Water crises are now recognized as a top global risk for business by the World Economic Forum, and about one-third of the world's population now resides in water-stressed areas.[3] Over two and a half billion people depend directly on agriculture, but over half of the land used for agriculture worldwide is now moderately or severely affected by soil degradation.[4] And scientists recently estimated that, with continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change could cost the global fishing industry $10 billion per year in lost revenue by 2050.[5] Poor people bear the brunt of these impacts.

Scarcities of water, fertile land and other resources have already reached critical levels in some places, increasing resource competition, migration pressures and, especially where poverty is high and governance institutions are weak, the risk of rising tensions within and between countries, including violent conflict. Particularly with climate change, natural resource scarcities and loss of biodiversity are projected to worsen across a widening geography in coming decades.

Effective and equitable natural resource management at local, national and regional levels are imperative in the face of worsening resource scarcities – imperative for both sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development as reflected in the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/262 recognizes the importance of "a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace", particularly through the prevention of conflict by addressing its root causes, among them worsening natural resource scarcities.[6]

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[2] UNEP, *From conflict to peacebuilding: the role of natural resources and the environment*, 2009:

[3] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/01/why-world-water-crises-are-a-top-global-risk/

[4] http://www.un.org/en/events/desertificationday/background.shtml

[5] Global-fisheries-will-lose-10b-a-year-to-climate-change-by-2050

[6] "Review of the United Nations peacekeeping architecture", Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2016.

Localities, countries and regions differ markedly in their vulnerability to various natural resource stresses and to the impacts of climate change. Some are already facing serious natural resource challenges – acute water shortages, land degradation, desertification, loss of forest cover, degradation of coastal ecosystems, depletion of fisheries. Resilience and capacity to manage such stresses also varies widely across locations. The risks to peace and sustainable development are greatest where vulnerability is high, institutions weak and resilience low.

Evidence is growing that climate variability and change, through impacts, for example, on extreme temperature, water scarcity, drought and rural-to-urban migration, exacerbate poverty and increase risks of conflict in different parts of the world.[7]

With varying degrees of success, countries are adapting to natural resource scarcities and climate change. Some are improving the management of natural resources and sharing their benefits in an equitable and transparent manner. Some treat and reuse a high percentage of their wastewater. Some are expanding their use of conservation agriculture.[8] Others invest in renewable energy and forest conservation. Restoration of degraded lands has made notable progress in a number of countries, alleviating poverty and bringing multiple ecosystem benefits. New efforts to reduce food loss and waste could dramatically reduce pressure on land, water, biodiversity and energy resources, and may bring food security within reach for the poor. Solutions are available, but we need greater political will and governance capacity to deploy them.

Objectives:

The workshop will provide an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to discuss natural resource management challenges they are confronting and to share experiences, including successful approaches to equitably managing natural resources so as to prevent violent conflicts and relieve migration pressures. Participants may wish to consider the following questions:

1) **What are the long-term trends in the status of your country's natural resources that could constrain or facilitate the achievement of the SDGs and peace? How is climate change impacting natural resources in your country and what are the consequences for peace and sustainable development?**
2) **Are relations in your country strained by natural resource challenges? Is your region affected by transboundary water resource management issues with rivers and lakes?**
3) **Have natural resource scarcities been a contributor to fragility, internal displacement or migration pressures, and conflict? How have you sought to mitigate such pressures?**
4) **What measures have worked to strengthen participatory, inclusive, equitable and sustainable natural resource governance?**
5) **How can the United Nations system effectively support good practices in managing natural resources for peace and sustainable development in its Member States?**

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7 C.P. Kelley, S. Mohtadi, M.A. Cane, R. Seager, and Y. Kusnir, Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, Vol. 112, No. 11, 17 March 2015: http://www.pnas.org/content/112/11/3241; P.H. Gleick, Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria, *Weather, Climate, and Society*, Journal of the American Meteorological Society, July 2014. See also S.M. Hsiang, M. Burke, E. Miguel, Quantifying the Influence of Climate on Human Conflict, *Science*, Vol 341, 13 September 2013.

[8] https://factsreports.revues.org/1941#tocto1n3

Workshop III: Strengthening transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutions for Peace and Sustainable Development
(Conference Room 8)

Background:

Transparent, inclusive and accountable institutions are crucial elements in order to achieve both 2030 Agenda and sustainable peace agenda. Reinforcement of institutions aiming transparency, inclusiveness and accountability at a national and at an international level will lead to peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. The effective implementation of the SDGs will not only prevent the outbreak of conflict but also will lay the foundations for self-sustaining peace—a critical condition for sustainable development. Inclusive, transparent, and participatory decision-making are essential to achieving the SDGs and sustaining peace. On one hand, studies have found that political exclusion is among the critical factors that lead to the recurrence of civil war.[9] On the other, countries with inclusive political institutions are often more successful in achieving long-term economic growth.[10]

To address the root causes of conflict and build positive peace, investment in key areas must be secured in an inclusive way that ensures the participation of all. Moreover, the international community and member states must redouble efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of such an ambitious agenda. As the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations in Global Economic Governance states: *"Weak economic growth is likely to undermine public and private investment in education, health and infrastructure, environmental protection and progress in poverty reduction."*[11]

Moreover, **building a peaceful and inclusive world requires an international, enabling environment conducive to achieving the 2030 Agenda.** Reducing inequality within and among nations, facilitating greater human mobility, and reducing trade barriers are essential components that transcend implementation at the national level. Addressing illicit financial and arms flows that enable corruption and trigger violence must also be prioritized, while promoting technology transfer and capacity building in developing countries, as envisioned in Goal 17, will generate greater prosperity which is linked to lasting peace.

In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and sustainable peace agenda, global and national institutions need to be more inclusive, transparent and accountable to all people. At the global level, institutions should aim its work to pursue representativeness, equality and fairness. As a result,

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[9] Charles Call, *Why Peace Fails: The Causes and Prevention of Civil War Recurrence* (Georgetown University Press: Georgetown, 2012). Quantitative studies have found polarized politics and factionalism to be a key predictor of conflict. See Goldstone, J. et al. (2010) 'A Global Model for Forecasting Political Instability' in *American Journal of Political Science* 54, no. 1, pp 190-208. The evidence base on peace settlements also suggests that greater inclusiveness is important for sustaining peace in the long-term.

[10] Douglas North, John Wallis & Barry Weingest, *Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History,* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2009).

[11] Report of the UN SG on "The UN in Global Economic Governance," http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/378.

policies will be more holistic, have greater ownership, and deliver better outcomes.[12] At the national level—when implemented together with civil society and other national stakeholders, instead of using a top-down approach—the 2030 Agenda and the sustaining peace agenda can be used as a new social contract between citizens and institutions. Through this approach, the SDGs in conjunction with the sustaining peace agenda have the greatest potential to catalyze change.

Objectives:

The workshop will provide an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to discuss the challenges they are confronting on these issues and to share experiences, including successful approaches to build more inclusive, transparent and accountable institutions.

Discussions will be guided by the following questions:

- How are these global frameworks influencing national policies? What is being done differently?
- How are national institutions increasing accountability and transparency to meet the needs of the citizens and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? Are these decision-making processes becoming more inclusive and participatory?
- How are international institutions facilitating a more inclusive response to transnational challenges, creating an enabling environment for peace, and directing support to those most in need?
- How can the UN system support this integrated approach towards sustainable peace and development, including through partnerships?

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[12] "Voting rights assigned to groups of countries in international institutions is one indication of inclusivity at the international level. For example, while developing countries account for 63 per cent of voting rights in the African Development Bank, this figure is only 35 per cent in the International Monetary Fund and 38 per cent in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank Group."
See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16.