

Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

Statement by H.E. Mr. David Donoghue

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Security Council Chamber

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Thank you, Mr. President. I commend you for convening today's discussion.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

I would like to focus on one or two aspects of this debate, which are of particular interest to my country.

First, the crucial role of women in peacebuilding. The need to increase the participation of women in building and sustaining peace is a theme that straddles the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325. Ireland concurs with the general recommendation of all three reviews that women's participation in peacebuilding is vital – both in decision-making related to peace and security, such as peace negotiations, and in the vital socio-economic sphere, encompassing both human rights and development. The Security Council has acted as a major lynchpin of this

debate through its adoption of Resolution 1325 16 years ago, followed by six subsequent resolutions. However, more must be done by us all to ensure that the gains made in the normative framework on women, peace and security extend from the Council chamber to field experience and practice.

The Global Study, which Ireland helped to support, is the first major step to catalyse movement in this area. Frank discussion is now needed on how its recommendations, along with the gender-related aspects of the other reviews, should be implemented. Ireland advocates the inclusion in the Council resolution on peacebuilding architecture of a clear deadline to meet the 15% gender marker for financing for peacebuilding. We also see the participation of women in mediation processes as fundamental. This stems from our own experience in brokering and sustaining peace on the island of Ireland. We call for this recommendation to be built into the terms of reference for special envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, we see a vital need for innovative tools and mechanisms with which to implement Resolution 1325. One example of such tools is the Global Acceleration Instrument, a flexible funding mechanism

and platform to spur the resolution's implementation, which will be launched tomorrow at an event co-hosted by Ireland.

Second, conflict prevention.

Mr. President,

Conflict prevention is now high on the UN's peace and security agenda. The need for further work in this area has been stressed by almost every stakeholder – from heads of states at September's General Assembly to civil society actors, both in New York and Geneva. Conflict prevention is at the very core of the UN's mandate; the organization was established not merely to end World War II in its entirety, but also to prevent its recurrence. Calls for a greater focus on conflict prevention permeate the three reviews. The AGE report recommends that the Peacebuilding Commission act as a bridge between those sitting in the Security Council chamber and those on the ground, witnessing the stirrings of conflict. The report also calls for the PBC to be afforded more flexibility, stressing the need for it to move away from the strictures of its formal agenda in order to respond to emerging crises in

any country or region, at any time. Ireland encourages the co-facilitators to explore with the Security Council the possible role of the PBC in identifying early warning signs of conflict. We also ask that the resolution mandate the changes needed to adapt the working methods of the PBC to the unpredictability, geographic diversity and challenges presented by today's wars and conflict.

Third, mandate design.

Ireland's long history of support to UN peace operations has afforded us an opportunity to learn from both successes and mistakes. We strongly concur with the general finding of the reviews that mandates and missions do not lend themselves to a one-size-fits-all approach. Every conflict has unique characteristics. Any UN mission to support countries in conflict should reflect this. The reviews contain varying recommendations to improve the design of mandates. One such suggestion, which Ireland supports, is for the establishment of a role for the Peacebuilding Commission in advising the Security Council on the mandates of peacekeeping and technical assistance

operations. The resolution should also be coherent with the follow-up processes of the other reviews, particularly the peace operations review.

Mr. President,

The publication of the reports of these three reviews is the culmination of only one step in what will be a very long process. We look forward to the High-Level Thematic Debate to be convened by the President of the General Assembly in May. As this process evolves, we will need to address some very difficult questions. How will we go about breaking down silos so as to ensure an holistic approach to peacebuilding with the UNSCR1325 principles at its heart? How can we implement the SDGs in a way that addresses the root causes of conflict? Are we willing to make the tough decisions regarding predictable finance to enhance the innovation and implementation of peacebuilding mechanisms?

And, how can we ensure that every step taken in New York is one more towards resolving the challenges faced on the ground? No reports, recommendations or resolutions will make any difference unless they have

meaning for those who are at risk of experiencing, or who have already experienced, conflict.

Thank you again, Mr. President, for convening this dialogue. Let us not forget that in reviewing the UN's peacebuilding architecture in all its dimensions, our fundamental goal is the prevention of war and conflict, and the creation of a safer world for all.