

# Implementing the New Commitments to Peace

A shared statement by peacebuilding organizations  
International Day of Peace, 21 September 2017

The last year has seen significant global challenges, including an unprecedented level of humanitarian need, rising inequality and exclusion, growing climate change impacts, and increasing threats to our shared security. Nevertheless, the international community has taken important steps in addressing these challenges by implementing the recent bold commitments to foster sustainable peace.

Member states have affirmed the centrality of peace and prevention, first through their commitment to “foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence” with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, and then with the dual resolutions on Sustaining Peace in 2016. While these efforts should be applauded, urgent action must be taken to ensure that the opportunities for more effective development, peace and security, and humanitarian action presented by these new approaches are realized. Most critically, these commitments to address root causes are at the heart of the changes required for the international community to genuinely shift towards preventing, rather than responding to, crisis.

At this year’s High Level Political Forum (HLPF), member states, through their Voluntary National Reviews, illustrated the centrality of peace, justice, and inclusion through their efforts to implement the SDGs, both at home and globally. These reviews underlined the indispensable contribution of these approaches, (often now referred to as “SDG16+”), to achieving the goal of eliminating extreme poverty (this year’s HLPF theme). In a series of parallel developments, we have seen important initiatives in ECOSOC, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council to ensure that UN action to assist countries in transition is based on the longer term needs and aspirations of the communities most affected by instability and violence. This has included initiatives to address the fragmentation of UN efforts, and we welcome the leadership of the Secretary-General and his reform proposals that are intended to make the UN more fit for purpose for ensuring sustainable peace.

There is an important opportunity during the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly to consolidate and broaden these gains. As organizations devoted to the building of peace around the world, we call on the international community to take these next steps:

- **Fully embrace the commitments to peace in the 2030 Agenda:** Member states have committed to the principle that there is no peace without development and no development without peace. If we are truly to reflect this interdependence, then progress against the 36 targets across the 2030 Agenda that are necessary to achieve peace, justice and inclusion needs to be highlighted in *all* SDG reporting at *all* levels, reflecting the role of peace as an indispensable condition of development. Social, economic, and political inclusion across all segments of society is critical for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, (a central issue for the UN with the upcoming UNSG report and High Level Event on this subject), and to transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, (which is the theme of the 2018 HLPF).
- **Balance national efforts with a focus on regional and international drivers of peace, justice and inclusion:** National implementation alone will not suffice to achieve the SDGs: 40% of the SDG16+ targets require implementation at regional and international levels. This is particularly the case with issues of peace, where addressing the external drivers of peace, justice and inclusion requires concerted action by states, as duty holders, to support responsible trade, reduce arms flows, promote constructive financial, tax and investment practices, and to strengthen a rules-based system that creates a more effective enabling environment that privileges the long-term peace, development and human rights needs of all people and communities.
- **Mainstream prevention:** The Sustaining Peace resolutions articulated the need for a new, preventive lens to be applied to all development and humanitarian action, and for inclusive peacebuilding approaches to be used before, during and after conflict. Member states need to affirm their primary role in prevention, as national governments, members of regional and international organizations, and as peers and donors. Prevention needs to be mainstreamed, with conflict sensitive approaches applied to all development and humanitarian action in transitional environments. For prevention to be realized, it will be essential that peacebuilding and preventive priorities at all levels receive adequate funding. Additionally, crisis response needs to be forward looking, with a preventive lens that aligns with and contributes to longer term strategies for building peace.
- **Protect and support civil society in fostering sustainable peace:** Civil society, including youth and women’s groups, are at the forefront of building peace at all levels and in all places, and civil society participation is at the heart of effective peace processes and national implementation of SDG16+ targets. Nevertheless, civil society inclusion continues to be under threat around the world, with onerous restrictions imposed on the ability of civil society groups to be effective, speak out and access funding. We call on member states to reverse this course, and for the UN system to model inclusion in all its local and global processes.

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21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative Nigeria  
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation, Pakistan  
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)  
AfroLeadership  
Aid Organization (AO), Bangladesh  
Alliance for Peacebuilding  
American Friends Service Committee  
ANBTI Yogyakarta: National Unity in Diversity Alliance  
Association for promotion sustainable development. Hisar. India  
AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services or (AWAZCDS-Pakistan)  
Badhon Manob Unnayan Sangstha  
Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament  
Brain Builders International  
Bridging for Sustainable Development (BSD)  
CAFSO-WRAG for Development  
Canadian Friends Service Committee  
CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
CDA Collaborative Learning Projects  
Center for Law and Development Policy  
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research, Nigeria  
Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies  
Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR)  
Centre for the Defence of Human rights and Democracy (CDHD)  
Centre for Youth and Development  
CHALLENGES International: Action for Sustainable Development  
ChildFund Alliance  
CIS Timor (Kupang)  
CIS Timor Volunteers Association  
Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development  
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

CNOSC/New Deal (Coalition Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le New Deal en République Centrafricaine (RCA))

Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale (CI CPI)

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

Community Resource Development Foundation (CREDEF)

Conciliation Resources

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Cordaid

Crisis Management Initiative

CSYM HUDUMA-Christian Spiritual Youth Ministry

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation

Dria Manunggal (Yogyakarta)

ENDA Tiers Monde

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

Faith & Justice Network of the Mano River Basin Countries

Female Prisoners Support Trust (FEMPRIST)

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Global Center on Cooperative Security

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Global Peace and Development Organization

Greenspring Development Initiative

GusDurian (Yogyakarta)

Igarapé Institute

Institute for Economics & Peace

International Alert

International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP)

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFCJ)

International Justice Project

Interpeace

Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Enugu, Nigeria

JMSPS: Jaringan Masyarakat Sipil Peduli Syariah / Civil Society Network That Cares About Sharia (Aceh)

KOMPAK NTT - Indonesia

KOMPAK: Kupang Peacemakers (Kupang)

KOMPAS

KOMPAS: Border Peacemakers (Atambua)

Kontras Aceh: Commission on the Missing and Victims of Violence Aceh

l'Organisation pour le développement Durable Intégré de la Guinée (ODDI-GUINEE)

Legal Aid Institute Yogyakarta

LKIS; Lembaga Kajian Isam Sosial / Institute for Islamic and Social Studies (Yogyakarta)

Loretto Community

Maria Ebum Foundation

Mbulu Education Network-Mbulu Rural Initiatives

Mediators Beyond Borders International

Mennonite Central Committee

Mercy International Association at the UN, Global Action

Metta Center for Nonviolence

Namati

New African Research and Development Agency (NARDA) of Liberia, West Africa

Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court (NCICC)

Nonviolent Peaceforce

Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Initiative, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Oxford Research Group

PartnersGlobal

Pax Christi International

Peace Direct

Peacemaker 360

PeaceNexus Foundation

Peacifica

Platform for Social Justice

Quaker Council for European Affairs

Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Quaker Service Norway

Quaker United Nations Office

Quäker-Hilfe Stiftung

Regional Center for International Development Corporation (**RCIDC**)

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

REPAOC

Réseau Equitas Côte d'Ivoire (REQCI)

Rumah Perempuan Kupang: Women's House Kupang

Saferworld

Search for Common Ground

Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

Social Economic and Governance Promotion Centre(SEGP) of Tanzania

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

Society of the Sacred Heart

Swisspeace

The Council for International Conflict Resolution (RIKO)

The International Criminal Court Student Network

Trippinz Care Inc

Tritura Foundation (Yogyakarta)

UN Association of South Sudan

Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD)

United Youth for Growth and Development (Advocacy Centre), Osun State, Nigeria

Universal Rights Network

UWEMA

VIVAT International

Women Educators Association of Nigeria

Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative (WOPEGEE)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt)

World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy

World Federation of United Nations Associations

World Vision International

YOUTH ADVOCACY HEALTH FOUNDATION NIGERIA

Youth Association for Development (YAD) Pakistan

Zo Indigenous Forum (ZIF), India