



## **Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Integrating Sustainable Development and Peace in Post-conflict Situations: the Role of Public Institutions and Public Administration**

CONCEPT NOTE  
25 October 2017

### ***Background***

Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in contexts of post-conflict reconstruction presents complex and multifaceted challenges. These are linked to the root causes of conflict as well as a combination of political, economic, social, geographical and environmental factors in each concerned country. Particularly challenging is the pursuit of actions aimed at sustaining governance reform, economic restructuring and rebuilding the social fabric destroyed during conflict, while simultaneously securing visible achievements in terms of poverty alleviation, peace dividends, security and stability and environmental sustainability.

Recently, much emphasis has been put on the concept of “sustaining peace”, broadly understood as a “goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account.”<sup>1</sup> Security Council resolution 2282 of 2016 emphasizes the role and primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in “identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace” although this task should be shared with “all other national stakeholders.”<sup>2</sup> The resolution also emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace which includes preventing conflict while addressing its root causes and strengthening the rule of law. The Secretary-General is preparing a report on this concept, which will imply further work by all departments from the perspective of their mandates.

DESA/DPADM has included the topic of *Realizing the SDGs in post-conflict situations: Challenges for the State* as part of the 2017 World Public Sector Report (WPSR), which is currently being prepared. Public administration has a critical role in prompting the implementation of public policies that support recovery, sustainable development and durable peace. Whole-of-government approaches are important in order to ensure that actions in various sectors are coordinated. Likewise, vertical integration across (national and sub-national) levels of government is critical to successfully realizing the SDGs. Finally, governments and public administration need to be able to provide the right incentives for stakeholders to participate in decision-making and efforts to sustain peace and development.

---

<sup>1</sup> S/RES/2282 (2016)

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem

## ***Objectives***

The expert group meeting (EGM) aims to inform the preparation of the World Public Sector Report 2017, by gathering practitioners working on issues relating to the integration of peace, humanitarian and development issues in post-conflict context or within the framework of a “sustaining peace” approach from an institutional perspective.

Specifically, the objectives of the EGM are the following:

- Create a window for dialogue and exchange of experiences among UN agencies and outside experts working on the integration of peace, humanitarian action and sustainable development on policy integration models, institutional processes and engagement modalities for SDG implementation in post-conflict and prevention contexts;
- Examine innovative governance approaches that can enhance recovery and state-building for sustainable peace and development both at the national and local levels;
- Discuss the positive experiences of people engagement in peace and development processes within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## ***Expected outputs***

The expected outputs of the EGM are:

- A list of key ideas and analysis that could inform the chapter of the WPSR 2017 and the further work of DPADM on “sustaining peace”;
- A list of topics where further collaborative work may be desirable between DPADM and other UN agencies working in post-conflict contexts.

A report of the EGM will be produced to summarize the deliberations of the event supplementing the WPSR chapter. The draft report will be disseminated through the relevant DPADM web page. The substance is likely to be reflected largely in the WPSR.

## ***Format***

The event will include a one-day EGM devoted to exchanges of perspectives and experiences on the subject matter among a group of experts. The format of the meeting will aim to prioritize deliberation and interaction among all participants to generate collective knowledge.

Before the meeting, participating experts are encouraged to share case studies, short notes, sample strategies, articles, publications or presentations with the organizers.

Guiding questions will be developed to structure discussion during each EGM session.

## ***Date and venue***

The EGM will be held on 25 October 2017 in conference room 8, at UN Headquarters in New York.

### ***Participants***

International experts including United Nations officials, national practitioners and researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as officials from international and civil society organizations.

### ***Contact information***

Ms. Valentina Resta, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, e-mail: [restav@un.org](mailto:restav@un.org)

Mr. David Lung'aho, Programme Assistant, e-mail: [lungaho@un.org](mailto:lungaho@un.org) / Ms. Xinxin Cai, Programme Assistant, e-mail: [cai2@un.org](mailto:cai2@un.org)