



# AUSTRALIA



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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
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## **Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace**

**Statement by H.E. Ms Gillian Bird  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Australia to the United Nations**

Peace and development are intrinsically linked. Peace and good governance are prerequisites for sustainable development, and underpin all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Advancing the sustaining peace agenda and advancing the 2030 Agenda require similar approaches – to improve UN system coherence, financing and monitoring progress.

First, we must improve UN coordination and coherence. Member States expect the UN to work seamlessly across its three pillars. Integrated planning for peace and security, human rights and development will be key for achieving lasting peace. We commend the decisions made by the Secretary-General to reduce fragmentation and co-locate parts of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. DPKO has a vital role in implementing the sustaining peace agenda. Both UNDP and DPKO should continue to adopt new policies and practices for enhanced coherence and joint programs.

Second, new financing approaches are long overdue. A fit-for-purpose UN must be financed in a way which facilitates effective action on the ground. This will ensure a nimble, innovative UN which responds to practical, field-based needs rather than corporate structures. A key gap is financing for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Prevention is far more cost-effective than reacting to crises. A way forward needs to be found to redress the funding imbalance between cost-effective conflict prevention and costly post-conflict peacekeeping. We look forward to the Secretary-General's report on this and other aspects of sustaining peace, called for in the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Finally, it is paramount to monitor progress to recognise success and failure. We have the tools to report on the development agenda through the SDGs. In addition, the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review will monitor the steps taken by all UN development agencies to adopt a whole of system approach where humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs are considered alongside each other. We must ensure that implementation of the sustaining peace agenda is similarly monitored.

Mr President, our commitment to build sustainable peace for all requires us to take action and adopt new approaches. Australia welcomes the Secretary-General's leadership in putting sustaining peace at the core of the UN's mission and building a culture of prevention within the UN. We urge all member States and the whole of the UN to come together to advance these agendas.