



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.AustraliaUN.org

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

23 February 2016

UNSC Open Debate on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

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

(Check against delivery)

Thank you Mr President.

As we meet today in this Council, we all know, all too well, how
fleeting peace can be.

As the Secretary-General has reminded us time and again,
countries that experience armed conflict often remain at risk of
relapsing into violence for years after the conflict has ended.

Ninety per cent of conflicts between 2000 and 2009 occurred in countries which had previously experienced civil war.

Mr President

We meet with the benefit of the insight of three seminal reports concluded in 2015 – the Advisory Group of Experts’ Review of the UN’s Peacebuilding Architecture, the Review of UN Peace Operations, and the Global Study on Security Council Resolution 1325. And like others, we welcome the participation of Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts in today’s debate.

Together, these reports lay out a clear framework for how the United Nations can better work to achieve the Charter goal of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Central to this vision is achieving ‘sustainable peace’.

‘Sustainable peace’ is not a nebulous concept.

Rather, it clarifies that to achieve just, meaningful and lasting peace we must prioritise peacebuilding across the complete cycle of the UN’s engagement – from conflict prevention and resolution, through to reconciliation and recovery.

Sustainable peace requires us to take a longer-term perspective in our efforts to maintain international peace and security.

It requires intergovernmental and operational coherence – between the UN’s principal organs, among UN agencies, and between UN Headquarters and the field. This needs to be supported by integrated analysis, planning, policy development and implementation.

Sustaining peace requires drawing together the UN’s political, peace and security, human rights, development and humanitarian arms, and demands a whole of UN-system approach.

Fundamentally, it recognises that to be sustainable, peace must be nationally-owned and inclusive of all, particularly women, youth and civil society.

And it acknowledges that the scale of the challenge requires close strategic and operational partnerships between the UN and other key stakeholders, including regional and sub-regional organisations, multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector.

Mr President

As co-chair, along with the distinguished representative of Angola, of the intergovernmental phase of the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, Australia has been tasked with the responsibility of translating the widely-supported vision for UN peacebuilding set out in the Advisory Group of Experts' report, into parallel resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly.

Our consultations are ongoing. We have been pleased by the constructive spirit in which they are being held, and the strong demand we are hearing from Member States for a more comprehensive approach to UN peacebuilding. This includes broad acknowledgement that adequate, predictable and sustained financing is essential to support UN system-wide peacebuilding efforts.

Mr President

Let me conclude by stating that today's debate is not about the scale or nature of the crises facing the world, or whether the human cost of these crises is too high.

These are a given.

The question is how we seize the opportunity before us to change how we conceive of and do peacebuilding, and how we ensure that

our most vulnerable people – those in conflict-affected countries – are not left behind in our implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

‘Sustaining peace’ represents a crucial change in mindset in how the UN does peacebuilding. It is not a new concept. Rather, it goes to the very heart of the goals of the UN Charter.

Australia is committed to working closely with all Member States to find consensus in this effort.

Thank you