



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24-25 April 2018

High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

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

(Check against delivery)

Sustaining peace is a policy agenda with the potential to have a transformative impact on the UN's effectiveness. Properly implemented, it will make the UN more fit for purpose in the modern world, and enhance implementation of the UN's founding principles in this day and age.

Sustaining peace is a core, organising principle for the whole UN across its three pillars. It provides a home for the vision of UN reform that will only become more essential as individual UN reform tracks go forward.

Australia was proud to co-facilitate negotiations on the landmark Sustaining Peace resolutions in 2016. We welcome this High-Level Meeting, as well as the Secretary-General's recent report on the issue, both of which were requested in those original resolutions. We also welcome the imminent

adoption of the new General Assembly resolution. All of these developments give us what we need to continue successfully implementing this agenda.

We are encouraged by the energy and commitment from Member States, the UN leadership and UN system to take action to date. Continued implementation is essential.

For Member States, the resolutions emphasise the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities for sustaining peace. Continued efforts by Member States to advance inclusive peacebuilding processes are vital.

When it comes to the UN system - let there be no confusion. Sustaining peace requires action from the entire UN system, not just the traditional peacebuilding areas. Member States have expressed their clear expectation that the whole UN system will advance this agenda energetically and without delay. Further consideration by Member States of a few outstanding issues must not delay progress in other areas.

We must prioritise organisational change. It will be crucial to embed coherent working methods throughout the UN system, to deepen and broaden partnerships outside the UN system, to ensure that reforms make a practical difference in the field, and to get better at identifying and delivering effective action on prevention. Ensuring that the key role of women is recognised and used to advance sustaining peace will be vital. Financing, including from private sector and innovative sources, will be key.

Mr President

With the new sustaining peace resolution we have a further window to continue implementing this agenda. We need to use that time well, moving further beyond the slogans and building a UN that is as effective as possible at sustaining peace in practice.