



Geneva Thematic Consultations for the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture

Closing Event

“Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: What’s next for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture?”

Keynote Speech & Roundtable Discussion

Wednesday, 19 February 2020 | Auditorium Ivan Pictet B, Maison de la Paix

What challenges lie ahead for peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the new decade, and which challenges are the United Nations (UN) ready to address? 15 years ago, the UN devised ambitious plans for a Peacebuilding Architecture (UNPBA) that could respond to post-Cold War peace and security challenges. Since then, the UN’s peacebuilding approach has steadily evolved from building peace after war, to preventing armed conflict through a coherent approach that involves the peace and security, development and human rights pillars of the UN system.

However, is the “sustaining peace” agenda the right response to the increasingly complex challenges of preventing armed conflict? Are the UN and its partners well equipped to enter a decade that will be shaped by the climate crisis, rising populism, and democratic backsliding? In a global context characterized by a crisis of multilateralism and a resurgence of nationalism, is the “sustaining peace” agenda ambitious enough - or even too ambitious? What further changes are needed, and what changes are realistic?

You are invited to the public Closing Event of the Geneva Thematic Consultations, for the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The Thematic Consultations are co-organized by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Switzerland, and will be held on 18-19 February 2020. They bring together high-level representatives and experts from Geneva organizations working on peace, security, human rights, development, humanitarian affairs and disarmament.

The Closing Event will feature a Keynote speech by one of the intellectual masterminds of the Sustaining Peace Agenda, Gert Rosenthal*. The roundtable will provide a summary of key insights from the closed-door technical consultations, held at the Maison de la Paix, and will be followed by a Q&A session.

**Gert Rosenthal is a member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture. He has held senior positions in the Guatemalan Government and with the United Nations. He has also been Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations twice (1999-2004, 2008-2014), heading his delegation in the Security Council during 2012 and 2013.*



Moderation: Achim Wennmann, *Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

18.15 – 18.30 Welcome Remarks

Speaker: Scott Weber, *Director-General, Interpeace, on Behalf of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

18.30 - 18.50 "The Role of Peacebuilding in the Agenda of the United Nations since 2005".

Speaker: Gert Rosenthal, *Eminent Person, Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture*

18.50 – 19.20 Roundtable: Key Takeaways for Sustaining Peace from the Geneva Consultations

This roundtable will discuss the most important insights from the technical sessions of the Geneva Thematic Consultations for the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.

19.20 – 19.50 Questions & Answers

All participants will be invited to ask questions to the roundtable participants.

19.50 – 20.00 Closing Remarks

Speakers: Felix Baumann, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNOG.*



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Background Note

In resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), the General Assembly and the Security Council called for a “comprehensive review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (UNPBA) to be conducted during the 74th session of the General Assembly”. UN Member States, under the auspices of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), elaborated Terms of Reference for the review. They agreed that the review should take stock of the work done by the United Nations on peacebuilding and called for a forward-looking review, aimed at further improving the capacity of the architecture to effectively support efforts to build and sustain peace.

The resolutions emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to “sustaining peace”, wherein “respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms” are an integral component and reaffirm that “development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing”. The UN Secretary-General was tasked by the General Assembly to submit a detailed report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in connection with the review. This report, which will be the main input to the review, is expected in mid-2020.

To feed into the UNPBA review process, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, in partnership with Switzerland will facilitate a consultative process among relevant stakeholders in Geneva. The consultations aim to gather the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations of stakeholders that operate primarily out of International Geneva. Representatives of Member States, Geneva-based International Organizations, International Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and Academia are invited to participate.

The consultative process is composed of three elements: An opening session for all stakeholders, a technical session for experts from International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Academia, as well as a closing session for all stakeholders and the interested public.

The Geneva thematic consultations will focus specifically on concrete examples of policy and operational coherence linking peace and security, development and human rights, as well as partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In addition to plenary discussions in the opening and technical sessions, five specific break-out groups will shed light on the role of human rights in sustaining peace, meaningful women participation, governance-driven approaches to security, peace-responsive programming to operationalize sustaining peace across the system, as well as the role of integrated analysis to enable coherent action on humanitarian, development, peace and security challenges.