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Invitation to an informal breakfast meeting on

**The United Nations Approach to Sustaining Peace:
Insights for the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace of
the General Assembly**

Hosted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) under the auspices of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and with the participation of the President of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly.

Geneva, Tuesday, **27 February 2018**

08.30 am – 10.15 am

Venue: Maison de la Paix, Room C1

The President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (PGA), H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a key priority. In accordance with the twin resolutions on sustaining peace,¹ the President will convene a High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018. While efforts to sustain peace have gained increasing traction at the policy level, there are many challenges to their effective implementation. The main objective of the High-Level Meeting is to assess efforts undertaken and identify opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The PGA's roadmap on peacebuilding and sustaining peace notes that while the bulk of discussions on sustaining peace may happen in New York, they need to be informed by experiences on the ground.² On the occasion of his visit to Geneva during the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, the PGA will interact with the senior professionals from different sectors and institutions working on peacebuilding directly or indirectly to gather input for the High-level Meeting in April 2018.

¹ UN General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/70/262, May 12, 2016; and UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/2282(2016), April 27, 2016, on Review of United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.

² Roadmap of the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 16 November 2017, p.2. <https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2017/11/HLM-Sustaining-Peace.pdf>

Many Geneva-based institutions have a wealth of experience in the provision of operational and policy support in areas which contribute to sustaining peace, from mine action to small arms control, and from security sector reform to peace mediation. The Geneva-based institutions also benefit from strong linkages to the peace and security, human rights and development agendas which lie at the heart of efforts to strengthen sustainable peace. The meeting will therefore serve to identify operational and policy insights on experience in strengthening peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The meeting will address the following three themes which are important to advancing efforts to strengthen peace sustainment:

i) Operationalising sustaining peace through a prevention lens

The concept of sustaining peace is considered ground-breaking in that “it redefines the UN approach to peace by adopting a long-term perspective and focusing on prevention.”³ The meeting will identify experiences in contributing to peace sustainment, and reflect on what needs to be done differently to strengthen the implementation of preventive approaches.⁴

- ➔ *What are the comparative advantages of Geneva-based actors in contributing to the implementation of sustaining peace, and in particular in prevention?*
- ➔ *To what extent have Geneva-based actors been engaged in supporting the prevention of violent conflict, albeit under another name?*
- ➔ *What needs to be done differently in order to strengthen support through a prevention lens?*

ii) Building synergies between related UN agendas

The sustaining peace resolutions call for an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, security, and development actors. In particular, recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the meeting will reflect on how synergies can be better supported across these related areas.

- ➔ *How can enhanced synergies between the related development, peace and security and human rights agendas contribute in concrete terms to sustaining peace?*
- ➔ *What are the key challenges to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach to sustaining peace across all three pillars (security, human rights, development) of the UN?*
- ➔ *What are the opportunities to strengthen linkages between sustaining peace, human rights, and sustainable development?*

iii) Strengthening partnerships to promote sustaining peace

While the primary responsibility for driving efforts to sustain peace lies with national authorities, there are increasing calls to re-think the United Nations, and the broader international community’s, approach to supporting these efforts. Building more effective partnerships among international

³ Roadmap of the President of the General Assembly, p.1.

⁴ The Security Council has highlighted the importance of addressing root causes as well as enhanced strategic planning. See UN Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016), [*on Review of United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*], S/RES/2282, April 27, 2016, *Preamble* and para. 13.

actors, including bilateral donors and multilateral organisations, is an important precondition for sustaining peace. The meeting will reflect on approaches to strengthening partnerships to promote sustaining peace.

- ➔ *How can more effective partnerships contribute in concrete terms to sustaining peace?*
- ➔ *What are the opportunities and challenges to promoting effective partnerships between the UN and host countries, including civil society?*
- ➔ *What are the opportunities and challenges to promoting effective partnerships between the UN and other international actors, in particular, donors and multilateral organisations?*

The format of the meeting will consist of the delivery of introductory remarks by the PGA, followed by a moderated discussion on the three themes identified above. The meeting will be held under Chatham House Rules, and will result in a short summary of the discussion.

Biography of the President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák is the President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Lajčák is a career diplomat who commenced his career at the then Czechoslovak and later Slovak Foreign Ministry in 1988. He was Ambassador to Japan and to Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He served as Chef de Cabinet to the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister of Slovakia. Within the Slovak Foreign Ministry he also served as Director General for Political Affairs and Head of the Permanent Secretariat for the preparation of the Summit of the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States in Bratislava. Additionally Mr. Lajčák was the Assistant to the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans.

In his service to the international and European community, Mr. Lajčák notably held the posts of EU Representative to facilitate the referendum on the independence of Montenegro in 2006 and later High Representative/European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2007 – 2009.

From 2009 to 2010 Mr. Lajčák was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia for the first time.

From 2010 to 2012 Mr. Lajčák was appointed Managing Director of the European External Action Service for Europe and Central Asia. In this capacity he served as EU Chief Negotiator for the EU's Association Agreements with Ukraine and Moldova respectively, as well as the EU representative in the „5+2“ talks on the Transnistria Settlement Process.

In 2012 he returned to the post of Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, serving also as Deputy Prime Minister from 2012 – 2016. Mr. Lajčák is currently in his third term as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.