



Security Council

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Letter dated 1 March 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Japan, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate on 13 March 2024 on the theme “Promoting conflict prevention – empowering all actors including women and youth”, in connection with the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”.

In this regard, Japan has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Yamazaki Kazuyuki**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: promoting conflict prevention – empowering all actors including women and youth”, 13 March 2024

Background

Importance of preventing conflict and its recurrence

Despite our continued efforts, the world is faced with multiple conflicts which gravely endanger people’s lives and undermine human security. This is further exacerbated by new risk multipliers such as climate change, pandemics, and food and energy insecurity. Realizing a world where the human dignity of every individual is upheld and no one is left behind should be our common goal, and to this end, achieving sustainable peace by preventing relapses into conflict is crucial. Better still is to prevent conflict from breaking out in the first place. Prevention of the occurrence and recurrence of conflict not only enables us to avoid human tragedy and the devastating impacts of conflicts, including their negative impact on development gains, but is also much more cost-effective considering the political, socioeconomic and financial costs that are required once a conflict occurs. Strengthening prevention is also advocated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as one of the priorities of his “New Agenda for Peace”. Therefore, it is high time to examine lessons from our past experiences of preventing conflict and its recurrence and identify concrete actions that we should take in collaboration within and beyond the United Nations system.

Discourse surrounding the approaches in promoting conflict prevention

There is a widely shared understanding that a comprehensive approach ensuring the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is more important than ever in achieving sustainable peace. Having a long-term perspective and looking ahead to the post-conflict stage requires us to comprehensively address the root causes of conflict and the vulnerabilities in society, which leads us to take measures towards building resilience. That resilience comes from a stable social system supported by institutions which upholds human dignity for all and enables people to enjoy their lives fully. Capacity-building is fundamental to constructing these institutions and necessary for people to detect, withstand and address challenges that may lead to conflict, thereby contributing to the prevention of conflict and its recurrence.

Empowerment should be extended to all members of society, and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people is essential in consolidating peace, on the basis of the principles of the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas. This will further strengthen societal resilience while fostering national ownership for sustainable peace, not just in times of conflict but in more stable times as well.

Roles of international organizations and bodies, including the Security Council

As the international body that bears the primary responsibility to address threats to international peace and security, it is most relevant that the Security Council discusses peacebuilding and, notably, the prevention of conflict and its recurrence and incorporates such deliberations into its decisions. More concretely, the Council can

and should strategically plan and ensure smooth transitions, especially towards the withdrawal of United Nations peace operations and their reconfiguration, from the perspective of the prevention of the recurrence of conflict. The Council can also encourage closer coordination in information-sharing and early warning within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the whole United Nations system and beyond while respecting national ownership.

Furthermore, a comprehensive approach ensuring the humanitarian-development-peace nexus requires all relevant actors to fully collaborate with one another. In this regard, the Peacebuilding Commission can serve as a hub to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, national and local governments and civil society.

Objectives

With the understanding that the Security Council has a vital role to play in preventing conflict and its recurrence, the open debate will highlight the challenges faced by States in preventing conflict and its recurrence and serve to discuss how the international community, including the Council, can collaboratively support national efforts to address these challenges. One focus will be on how to build resilience and advance the meaningful participation of all actors, including women and young people, through investing in and empowering people.

The open debate will more specifically serve to discuss how the Security Council should support Member States' national ownership in identifying root causes of conflict and encourage them to implement their tailor-made plans and strategies for conflict prevention, through a comprehensive approach ensuring the humanitarian-development-peace nexus with the support of the whole of the United Nations system and beyond. It is noteworthy that the Secretary-General has recommended that Member States develop their national prevention strategies, which would help to strengthen their national infrastructure for peace.

Looking ahead, the open debate will also hopefully contribute to the discussions leading up to the Summit of the Future and the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, including on strengthening and updating the United Nations toolbox for the prevention of conflict and its recurrence, with women and peace and security and youth, peace and security perspectives as highlighted by the Secretary-General in the New Agenda for Peace.

Guiding questions

1. What role is the Security Council expected to play in realizing a comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable peace through the prevention of conflict and its recurrence, especially in building resilience and investing in and empowering all actors, including women and young people? What lessons can we derive from past experiences?
2. What concrete actions can the Security Council and the United Nations take in supporting Member States' nationally led efforts in the prevention of conflict and its recurrence? What would be the significance of each Member State formulating its national prevention strategy, and what components could such a strategy include? What do Member States expect from the Council and the United Nations system to support the formulation and implementation of such a strategy?
3. How can the multilateral system be strengthened to accelerate conflict prevention efforts to build sustainable peace? What synergies can the Security

Council achieve through enhanced coordination and collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission, international financial institutions and others?

4. When United Nations peace operations withdraw from a country or reconfigure while the United Nations country team, agencies, funds and programmes are assuming more responsibility in supporting the host State, what are the critical factors and challenges for planning and implementing a smooth transition to ensure the prevention of conflict recurrence?

5. What are the challenges and opportunities in promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of all actors, including women and young people, in the prevention of conflict and its recurrence for sustainable peace?

Format

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024, at 10 a.m. in an open debate format to facilitate the wider participation of the membership. The following speakers are invited to brief the Council:

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
2. The Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Sérgio França Danese
3. A representative from academia
4. A representative from civil society

Member States wishing to participate in person should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. Inscription for said meeting will open on 8 March 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

All speakers are asked to kindly keep their interventions succinct and within three minutes (four minutes for group statements.) The red light on the collar of the microphone will start blinking two and a half minutes after the beginning of the intervention. The President may encourage the speakers to kindly wrap up immediately as necessary after 30 seconds have elapsed beyond the time limit. Given the current administrative constraints of the United Nations, the President might need to wrap up the open debate without finishing the list of speakers.