

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 24 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of
Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for the month of November 2022, Ghana will convene a ministerial-level open debate on the topic “Integrating effective resilience-building in peace operations for sustainable peace” under the item “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. The open debate will be held on 3 November 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

I have enclosed herewith a concept note that we have prepared to guide the discussions during the open debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Harold Adlai Agyeman
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the topic “Integrating effective resilience-building in peace operations for sustainable peace”, to be held on 3 November 2022, at 10 a.m.

Introduction

In its capacity as President of the Security Council, Ghana will convene a ministerial-level open debate on the topic “Integrating effective resilience-building in peace operations for sustainable peace”.

Ghana hopes to build consensus in the Security Council and across the United Nations on the need to ensure that peace operations, including kinetic and non-kinetic interventions, take into consideration the changing security landscape by fully addressing underlying causes and drivers of conflict, linked to the growing youth bulge, poverty, climate change and the absence of resilient institutions, among others. Evidence, including that contained in reports of the Secretary-General, have underscored over the years that unaddressed structural factors could contribute to the resurgence of conflict during or after peace support missions.

The emerging trends and dynamics linked to traditional and non-traditional security threats confront the Security Council with new challenges. These require the Council to devise new approaches to ensure a balanced response to both military operations and the underlying causes of conflict to ensure sustainable peace. There has been a growing call for a robust mandate for peace operations to allow them to respond to the changing security dynamics and, in this respect, time is of the essence to address the sustainability gap for peace operations. Ensuring peace operations fit for contemporary times is thus as much a crucial issue for sustainable peace as it is for the credibility and effectiveness of the Council itself.

Context

United Nations peace operations in Africa have conventionally focused on the use of military actions to end intra-State conflict, as evidenced in missions in Somalia (United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia), South Sudan (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) and Liberia (United Nations Mission in Liberia), among others. This approach to ensuring and sustaining peace in Africa was particularly appropriate in the face of symmetrical threats, such as conflict arising from political and ethnic tensions. However, in the past two decades, the threat situation in Africa has undergone a significant evolution, culminating in the emergence of terrorism and violent extremism as the foremost threat to the peace, stability and territorial integrity of many African States.

The difficulties in defeating the terrorist threat continue to highlight the importance of non-kinetic interventions, especially for prevention, as a necessary component of peace operations. This underscores the need for action on climate change, building resilient institutions and communities, education consistent with target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as skill development for young people, and strengthening early warning and early response mechanisms, as well as the role of women and young people as critical agents of change, especially in Africa.

As noted in the 2015 report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, changes in conflict may be outpacing the ability of United Nations peace

operations to respond. In its report, the Panel highlighted the significance of the spread of violent extremism and the limited capabilities of missions to deal with that threat. Indeed, in his follow-up report to the Panel's report, the Secretary-General concluded that United Nations peace operations were not the appropriate tool for military counter-terrorism operations. However, considering the current security landscape and challenges, it is opportune for the Security Council to explore and identify appropriate mechanisms, including funding and technical support, for dealing with the root causes of such threats, including in the context of peace operations, in keeping with its responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

Objective

The objective of the ministerial-level debate is to start a conversation on the reconfiguration of United Nations peace operations to ensure a situationally determined balance between kinetic and non-kinetic actions aimed at restoring peace and addressing the underlying causes of conflict.

Guiding questions

1. How can the Security Council ensure that United Nations peace operations address the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity?
2. How can the Security Council's thematic agendas on women and peace and security and youth, peace and security be leveraged to support national and regional efforts towards addressing the prevailing conflict situations, including their underlying causes?
3. How can the Security Council work with other United Nations organs to ensure a coherent strategy for supporting national and regional efforts to build resilient communities with the aim of addressing existing and emerging threats to international peace and security?
4. Which sustainable funding mechanisms can be leveraged towards supporting resilience-building against security threats in the Sahel and coastal West Africa?

Speakers

1. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
2. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union Commission
3. The Elders
4. Karin Landgren, Executive Director, Security Council Report

Member States wishing to participate should register 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 provisional rules of procedure of the Council must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE.

The presidency encourages the participation of as many Member States as possible. Statements or interventions should, however, not exceed three minutes.