Генеральная Ассамблея
Совет Безопасности

Генеральная Ассамблея	**Совет Безопасности**
Семьдесят пятая сессия	**Семьдесят шестой год**
Пункт 64 повестки дня	
Миростроительство и сохранение мира	

Письмо постоянного представителя Сент-Винсента и Гренадин при Организации Объединенных Наций от 29 декабря 2020 года на имя Генерального секретаря

Постоянное представительство Сент-Винсента и Гренадин при Организации Объединенных Наций имеет честь настоящим препроводить аналитическое резюме виртуальных открытых прений Совета Безопасности по теме «Миростроительство и сохранение мира: современные движущие силы конфликтов и ухудшения безопасности», проведенных 3 ноября 2020 года в период председательства в нем Сент-Винсента и Гренадин (см. приложение).

Будем признательны за распространение настоящего письма и приложения к нему в качестве документа Генеральной Ассамблеи и Совета Безопасности.

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Приложение к письму Постоянного представителя Сент-Винсента и Гренадин при Организации Объединенных Наций от 29 декабря 2020 года на имя Генерального секретаря

Analytical summary of the Security Council virtual open debate on the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: contemporary drivers of conflict and insecurity", held on 3 November 2020

Introduction

1.   On 3 November 2020, the Security Council held an open debate by videoconference on the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: contemporary drivers of conflict and insecurity". It was chaired by the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph E. Gonsalves, in his capacity as president of the Security Council. The briefers included the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency, Ibrahim Mayaki; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles; and the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Munir Akram, in his capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

Synopsis

2.   The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated the fragility and instability of many existing conflicts, making global peace and security more elusive. It is clear that peacebuilding and sustaining peace are increasingly multifaceted and interconnected, made evident as Member States work to combat the effects of the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the vulnerabilities and structural flaws in many systems once deemed reliable. The most vulnerable people suffer disproportionately. The President of the Economic and Social Council warned that the poorest countries were likely to face economic collapse if they were not provided with proper assistance, including debt relief and debt cancellation for the poorest countries. Similar sentiments were echoed by Member States, which highlighted that many countries were forced to choose between providing public resources and paying their debts. Low-income countries could suffer permanent economic and development losses, which would negatively affect their pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.   Recovery from the pandemic presents a unique opportunity to address inequalities that have been prevalent in societies around the world. The Deputy Secretary-General highlighted that by stating that such recovery must prioritize good governance and human rights. She urged Governments not to return to the failed frameworks that had caused fragility and instability. The global response to the pandemic required an invigorated multilateral system that was responsive to the needs of all countries and peoples, including through work with stakeholders at multiple levels to address challenges. Such success should be expanded by utilizing regional actors to confront international issues. The United Nations had a unique role to play as countries tried to recover sustainably. Some delegations urged the United Nations to strengthen existing partnerships with various international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and regional and subregional organizations to develop coherent and comprehensive responses to complex interrelated challenges.

4.   As highlighted by Mr. Beckles and the President of the Economic and Social Council, rapid decolonization in the twentieth century had not entirely eliminated the legacy and mentality of colonialism. Its present-day effects had led to unsustainable economies and security challenges in many former colonies. For those countries, that

remained a major threat to peacebuilding and maintaining peace. The reparatory justice movement sought to address the legacies of slavery, violent colonization and institutional racism. Mr. Beckles cited reparations as a means to repair the wounds of colonized nations, in particular in Africa. The abhorrent violation of the civil and human rights of those who had been colonized had resulted in a lasting legacy of instability. Reparations would lead to further development, a step necessary for sustainable peace. In that regard, reparatory justice was a means to reconciliation and peace for the Caribbean and Africa and its diaspora.

5.   Many Member States cited climate change and environmental degradation as major drivers of global insecurity. In several regions of the world, environmental degradation had caused significant instability. Extreme weather events had led to food insecurity and forced displacement. Furthermore, natural disasters tended to exacerbate existing conflicts, making it more difficult to establish sustainable peace. African nations and the Deputy Secretary-General cited the climate and security challenges in the Sahel region of Africa as an example thereof. Climate change in the Sahel had exacerbated vulnerability, worsening the plight of millions of people. In the Lake Chad area, resource scarcity, often driven by climate change, had exacerbated tensions between local farmers and herders. That conflict was a microcosm of the reality that unchecked climate change could create. Similarly, small island developing States faced a significant threat owing to climate change. The effects of climate change threatened the existence of many countries. Extreme weather events had led to an increase in the number of environmental refugees, which was a driver of instability. Some Member States requested that the Council take more proactive measures, given that the destabilizing nature of climate change and environmental degradation had the potential to affect the lives of billions of people around the world.

6.   Human rights violations were cited by some Member States as an early indicator of conflict. The erosion of human rights could lead to greater instability in a society. Some delegations expressed the view that respect for human rights had resulted in more resilient communities and sustainable peace. The COVID-19 pandemic had exposed vulnerabilities with regard to the human rights of millions of people around the world, given that the most vulnerable people continued to suffer the most. Sustainable peace required a whole-of-society approach, and human security must be a critical aspect thereof. In addition, respect for gender equality was a critical component of human rights. During the pandemic, women had been more adversely affected by lockdown measures. For example, domestic violence incidents had increased since lockdowns began, earlier in 2020. Women were also particularly vulnerable to arbitrary killings, sexual violence and forced marriages. Such developments represented a breakdown in the rule of law and many essential services provided by the government. Human rights could not be achieved without ensuring the rights of women and girls. The full and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding was critical to sustainable peace, including prevention, disarmament, peacekeeping, policymaking and reconstruction. It was imperative that the human rights of all members of society, including the right to development, be respected as a means to foster an equitable and just society. To that end, some delegations called for a lifting of unilateral coercive measures that may undermine the ability of countries to respond to and recover from the pandemic. Amid the challenges caused by the pandemic, some delegations, notably Germany and Tunisia, underscored that greater efforts were needed to implement Security Council resolution 2532 (2020).

7.   Some caution was expressed with regard to attempts to establish universal indicators of conflict, with specific references made to attempts to portray human rights violations as the main driver of conflict. Rather, it was proposed that the successful settlement of armed conflict and the reconciliation of conflicting sides create a foundation for improving the human rights record. Thus, improved human rights were a

result of sustainable peace. One Member State stressed that economic difficulties did not automatically lead to insecurity and that climate change was not an omnipresent driver of conflict.

8.   Delegations highlighted that development and peace were intertwined and that conflicts depleted much-needed development resources and sometimes made the process of restoration difficult or impossible. It was crucial to employ a coordinated and coherent approach across the humanitarian, development, peace and security and human rights work of the United Nations, with a focus on the interlinkages between drivers of conflict and instability. Comprehensive reforms that brought together all actors, including the development system and in-country presence of the United Nations, such as resident coordinators, peace operations and United Nations country teams, should be promoted to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. It was emphasized that development underpinned the solution to the problems of conflict and insecurity and underscored the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9.   Some delegations emphasized that marginalization and exclusion, of women, young people and minorities in particular, were drivers of violence that could destabilize entire regions. Others stressed that fragile States were susceptible to the influence of external actors, and they emphasized the role of diplomacy as an important tool for building sustainable peace around the world.

10.   Overall, Member States emphasized the importance of multilateral partnerships in combating threats to peace and security, as well as the need for synergies across the United Nations system. As challenges became more complex, collective action and cooperation provided individual nations with the tools necessary to maintain peace. It was imperative that nations continue to operate in the multilateral system. The COVID-19 pandemic had emphasized the need to build back better, and as countries recovered, it was important to invest in systems that prioritized resilient, inclusive and accountable institutions. There could be no development without lasting peace and no peace without development.

11.   The primary theme that emerged from the high-level event was the need for coherence and complementarity across the peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian nexus. Operationalizing that nexus required enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the other main organs of the United Nations system, such as the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission was critical to that whole-of-system approach, but effectively addressing the root causes of conflict through sustainable development initiatives would require the political will of Member States to meaningfully confront the fundamental challenges of inequality, including those that had been left largely unaddressed in the rapid process of decolonization.

12.   Along with the social and economic forces of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts and the lasting effects of the colonial era – including the intergenerational traumas and legacies of underdevelopment left in the wake of violent colonization, the slave trade and institutional racism – required the firm commitment of Member States to achieving reconciliation. The International Decade for People of African Descent provided an opportunity to engage with people of African descent on appropriate and effective measures of reparatory justice that would halt and reverse those lasting consequences.

13.   As the important decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals was being marked, and as the fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was being embarked on, the legitimate demand for an appropriate recompense for those historical atrocities must form part of any serious international

development agenda. The promise of leaving no one behind under the 2030 Agenda would only be successfully achieved when the process of decolonization was complete. To that end, and as called for by Mr. Beckles, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should finalize its work. Mr. Beckles emphasized that the mandate would not be completed until the matter of reparations had been settled, allowing those who suffered harm at the time to move forward with justice and equality. The root causes of insecurity, both historical and contemporary, must be addressed adequately.

Recommendations

14.   The contemporary causes of conflict and instability will require coordinated action across the United Nations system, with the Security Council continuing to play a leading role. Member States shared recommended measures and actions that would strengthen the efforts of the Council to maintain international peace and security. They included the following:

- The President of the Security Council should meet more regularly with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the General Assembly. Those three United Nations organs are key to promoting international peace, security and development. It is critical to increase collaboration as means of achieving shared goals. The United Nations should adopt a whole-of-system approach.

- The Security Council should encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to deepen substantive discussions on critical components of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, such as institution-building, and become the primary platform for exchanging good practices and lessons learned. Institution-building is a critical component of development. Strengthening the capacities of national Governments can lead to the achievement of sustainable development. In addition, the unique perspective of the Commission, through its convening and advisory roles, allows the United Nations to have a holistic understanding of contemporary challenges. The role of the Commission is critical in bridging the actions taken by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

- Cross-sectional analysis should be fed into reporting on the security impact of environmental degradation and climate change to both the Security Council and the General Assembly. The climate security mechanism of the United Nations Secretariat offers a practical example thereof. The mechanism brings together expertise from the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. It offers a multidimensional approach to finding sustainable solutions that lead to more peaceful outcomes. The mechanism has implemented a number of good practices that can inform all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Council.

- The Security Council should regularly invite the High Commissioner for Human Rights to brief the Council. The violation of human rights has been cited by many as one of the main drivers of conflict. The Security Council needs to strengthen synergy with the Human Rights Council. Human rights play a critical role in many of aspects of peacebuilding, as evidenced by numerous Security Council agenda items.

- The Security Council should increase coordination with relevant actors on the ground. The United Nations should incentivize information-sharing and

coordination. A key area of potential development is improving the relationship of the Council with field-based actors beyond the leadership of peace operations, including, notably, resident coordinators and representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. In addition, local and regional actors have a specialized understanding of events as they happen. That knowledge is invaluable to the Council and should be treated as such.

• The Security Council should continue to explore ways to strengthen early detection systems and operational action to avoid conflicts resulting from climate change, extreme weather events and natural resource management, taking into account community tensions and governance, within its mandate. Extreme weather events are destabilizing, and they exacerbate existing challenges. Investments in early warning systems will save human lives and mitigate avoidable damage.

• The Security Council should take more immediate action to ensure that conflict-affected countries do not slip back into chaos. That will require the creation of strong governance structures, which will enhance trust between citizens and the government. Governments must ensure that there are increased avenues for citizen participation in governance. The Council should continue to advocate the full participation of women, young people and other underrepresented groups when negotiating peace agreements.

• The Secretary-General should use his prerogative under Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations to inform the Security Council of conflicts at their earliest stages. Early action will keep new conflicts from arising and stop old ones.