

Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030
Sustaining Peace and Security through Agenda 2030
Thursday, 25 February 2016
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120

32nd of a monthly series
Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community
and the International Movement ATD Fourth World

08:30 **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**

08:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Serik Tokbolat
Representative to the UN
Bahá'í International Community

08:40 **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman
Chief of Policy, Planning and Application
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office

Ms. Sunaina Lowe
Coordination Officer for the Policy, Evaluation, and Training Division
UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Respondent

Mr. Robert Zuber
Director
Global Action to Prevent War

09:00 **Open Discussion**

Moderated by Ms. Cristina Diez
Main Representative to the UN
International Movement ATD Fourth World

09:55 **Information Sharing**

All participants are encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities.

10:00 **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

32nd Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030 *Sustaining Peace and Security through Agenda 2030*

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and
the International Movement ATD Fourth World
25 February 2016

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to peace and Agenda 2030. The following are highlights of the discussion:

Framing Peace in Agenda 2030

- 2030 Agenda is not a “peace and security” agenda. Careful not to have bait and switch approach to SDG 16. Peace is a Charter responsibility for all Member States, system-wide responsibility, not just peace and security pillar of UN.
- It was on purpose that the phrase “peace and security” is not in the agenda. Instead, Member States used “peaceful and inclusive societies” to keep “peace and security” out of the development agenda, and keep the development agenda out of the Security Council.
- There is a fundamental change in the definition of development, that “peace and justice” are fundamental development outcomes, it’s not just about health, education, and poverty. Development includes freedom from fear of violence, want, repression.
- Peace and justice are not just enablers, but a significant outcome. The new concept of violence is that it is not just about wars between countries or civil wars; it is also about homicide, gang violence, terrorism and organized crime that involves a lot of non-state actors. The changing nature of violence is driven by a different set of factors: inequalities, resource management, corruption, weak state institutions, lack of jobs.
- We should not separate Goal 16 from other goals; it is a universal agenda. All countries have problems with violence and access to justice.
- Peace and justice are linked to Goals 1, 5 (gender-based violence), 8 (forced labor), 10 (horizontal inequalities), 14 & 15 (natural resource management) – among others.
- Within the UN, at the highest levels, we should recognize the importance of working across the system. The development side of the house needs to take into account conflict dynamics. We need joint analysis and joint planning by development actors and Security Council-mandated missions.
- The Security Council is struggling. The Peacebuilding Commission has a real advantage over the Security Council. It’s not as reactive or overburdened. It has a much wider stakeholder population and broader membership. Gender is actually written into the founding document.
- We are forgetting what the people really want and we aren’t getting the communities involved in their own demand for peace and security. It’d be great if we can somehow voice this as community actors.
- We are increasingly dealing with extremism, and are at a loss about what motivates it.

¹Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Costa Rica, European Union, Office of the Permanent Observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie to the UN, France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland. Representatives from UN: Office of the Special Representative of the World Bank Group to the UN, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN Peacebuilding Support Office. Non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, CARE International, Center on International Cooperation – NYU, CIVICUS, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Global Action to Prevent War, Global Policy Forum, IBVM, ICSW, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, International Presentation Association, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Medical Mission Sisters, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Salesians of Don Bosco, Save the Children, Sisters of Charity Federation, Soroptimist International, UNANIMA, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Accountability

- We assume that an equitable delivery of social services will increase the legitimacy of the government, but it turns out that social services delivery has a very tenuous relationship with trust in and legitimacy of government. Quantity, quality, nor who delivers the social services seem to matter. The only thing that seems to be important is that there is a complaint mechanism, that people feel they have a chance to give feedback – even if it is not used. Feedback and monitoring systems should be implemented throughout the Agenda.
- Is the UN the best mechanism for complaint mechanisms? Does it have people's trust?
- Accountability is directly related to elements like the social contract, the role of government, and principles like honesty and duty. It need not be adversarial in its construction.

The Role of Civil Society

- We need to create more policy space – civil society organizations are trying to pry open space. At the UN many meetings are closed while countries claim to want CS participation.
- Civil society has a very important role in keeping the UN and governments accountable, so that there's a possibility in getting real feedback in real time about the populations we are supposed to serve. CS has much better information and conflict dynamics in the countries where the UN is working than the UN will ever hope to have.

Gender Perspective

- There is an enormous increase of violence against women and girls. What about the role of women as peacekeepers and in decision-making?

Humanitarian Perspective

- Are we addressing the prevention of atrocities? Is the UN able to give early warning and early action to prevent serious human rights violations?
- The Security Council is really struggling around early warning. What is the relationship between the Security Council and Agenda 2030?
- Many of those left furthest behind are those in violent states. How can we create more resilient societies - how do people gain more access to basic services like education and health? The World Humanitarian Summit and UNGA are valuable opportunities this year to continue this conversation.
- The forced displacement agenda is going to be addressed by the World Bank and IMF spheres. The fragility forum is being held at the World Bank in DC. There's a lot of momentum here.

Indicators

- Won't reach Agenda 2030 if we don't reach those furthest behind in conflict-affected countries. Suggestion of looking at disparities of indicators within a country: look at indicators for each region compared to the national average, which can be summarized in a weighted average, standardized on a scale between 0 and 1.
- The most important things are the most difficult to measure, so we report on that which is the easiest to measure.

Financing Agenda 2030

- Already seeing picking and choosing in terms of the SDGs, on the part of the UN, Member States, and NGOs. We ignore what we don't like by not funding or measuring it adequately. With current broken system of financing – relying on a few donors with voluntary contributions – is it too early for integration?
- One proposal is to get set funds for the Peacebuilding Fund and not depend on donors. Need to reduce the caseload. If we are successful in preventing violence, then we can reduce the humanitarian expenditure.