



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 18 November 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the 8906th meeting of the Security Council, convened on 16 November 2021 under the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The interventions of the briefers, Council members, as well as Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, will be published as an official record of the Security Council (S/PV.8906).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8906th meeting, the following delegations submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed: Australia, Guatemala, Italy and the Republic of Korea. Those statements will be issued as an official document of the Security Council, in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Council dated 7 May 2020 (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, and reference to the official document will be made in S/PV.8906.

(Signed) **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**  
President of the Security Council



**Annex I****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

First, let me thank your delegation, Sir, for hosting this open debate on the important issue of “Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”.

Australia, like Mexico and many other States around this table and the world, shares a deep commitment to multilateralism. Australia remains steadfast in its support for a United Nations system that is fit for purpose, effective, open, transparent and accountable to all Member States.

We are pleased to be a long-standing supporter of the Secretary-General’s vision to place prevention at the centre of United Nations peace and security efforts. Member States have expressed their clear expectation that the whole United Nations system will advance this agenda energetically and without delay.

We commend Mexico for prioritizing prevention through this signature event and for encouraging United Nations organs to ensure that they place prevention at the heart of their work. Preventive diplomacy is a critical tool for preventing conflict, addressing atrocity risk and ending protracted crises. Sustaining peace requires action across the United Nations system, not just in traditional peacebuilding areas. Today is an opportunity to explore how the principal organs of the United Nations can ensure that preventive diplomacy be employed across respective agendas.

Australia continues to support meaningful reform across the United Nations development, human rights and peace and security pillars. For reforms to make a practical difference, it will be crucial to embed coherent working methods throughout the United Nations system, deepen and broaden partnerships outside the system and get better at identifying and delivering effective action on prevention.

Persistent inequality will impede our efforts, and recognizing the key role of women in prevention and championing and facilitating their involvement in peacebuilding and sustaining peace are vital. Greater diversity and representation across the United Nations principal organs will give us an opportunity to further advance inclusive processes.

As we look to implement the Secretary-General’s latest reform measures in *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), we look forward to working with Mexico, the Security Council and United Nations States Members to consolidate gains made from existing efforts and build a United Nations that is as effective as possible. That includes the current efforts of the United Nations to sustain peace, and its capacity and readiness to respond to emerging global challenges.

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**Annex II****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations**

[Original: Spanish]

Guatemala thanks the delegation of Mexico in its capacity as President of the Security Council during the month of November 2021 for convening this open debate on “Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”. At the same time, we appreciate the statements delivered by the speakers.

We acknowledge the importance of the concept note (S/2021/888, annex) that was circulated as a basis for our deliberations. At the same time, we agree with what is stated in the note in the sense that the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, will be achieved only through genuine harmonization, cooperation and mutually reinforcing collaboration among the principal organs of the United Nations and jointly with the entire United Nations system. When acting within their respective mandates, they all share the same ideals for the benefit of international peace and security and play a fundamental role within the framework of preventive diplomacy.

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council is the organ responsible for addressing threats to international peace and security. However, Guatemala believes that the actions that the Council may take to restore international peace and security, including those actions outlined in Chapter VII of the Charter, are reactionary. It should have previously exhausted the promotion of good offices for the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, as indicated in Chapter VI of the Charter. In that sense, for the Security Council, conflict prevention should be a priority, while harmonizing efforts within the United Nations structure to foster dialogue and preventive diplomacy. The statistics leave no room for interpretation — investing in prevention will prevent the loss of human life, but it will also make it possible to optimize the Organization’s limited financial resources.

In addition, we acknowledge that the States Members of the Organization have at their disposal the Peacebuilding Commission, which prioritizes prevention and whose reports to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council contribute, through a coherent approach, to achieving that objective.

We have witnessed that during special political mission transitions, the Peacebuilding Commission can and should play a crucial role in maintaining international support for a country to address its priorities, in particular with regard to strengthening its institutions and development priorities. We recognize that the United Nations country team should base its activities on the repositioning of the development system, which anticipates country needs, in accordance with Government priorities.

Furthermore, in our view, we stress the importance of the rule of law at the national and international levels and the strengthening of institutions. A society with strong, solid institutions is essential in the areas of conflict resolution and conflict prevention. At the international level, we highly value the important role played by the International Court of Justice in the peaceful resolution of disputes between States. Respect for the decisions, judgments and advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice is key to upholding the Charter and international law and to consolidating the success of the international justice system.

In conclusion, we reiterate our position that the Security Council can and must consider the full range of resources available for peacebuilding in an environment of transition and prevention. In order to build peace, we must learn from past lessons. The Organization as a whole and the Security Council must adapt to the different contexts of the world today.

## Annex III

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

We thank the Mexican presidency of the Security Council for organizing this timely open debate and express our appreciation to the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Preventing conflict is one of the priorities of our time, and we share the view that preventive diplomacy should take a more prominent place in the activities of the United Nations system. We strongly believe that peace and security issues must be addressed with a multidimensional and inclusive approach that spans the development, political, security, justice and human rights dimensions, while paying due consideration to the concept of the peace continuum and the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.

Italy has consistently supported the Secretary-General's commitment to changing the paradigm from crisis management to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. We are long-standing supporters of his good offices and are pleased to see the steady reinforcement of the role of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) in preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding, in line with the objective of enhancing United Nations action along the entire cycle of conflict. We encourage DPPA to continue to follow that path with strong and innovative initiatives and take full advantage of all possible synergies, especially with the Peacebuilding Fund. In the same spirit, we agree on the need to reinforce the whole-of-pillar approach, which is at the core of the reform as well as a significant factor in the initiative of the Secretary-General — *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982).

The United Nations defence of peace worldwide must be comprehensive in nature. For strong concerted action by the global community, Italy believes that the United Nations should act as the linchpin and catalyst of joint efforts, while promoting an effective division of labour among all the actors involved — specialized agencies, national institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as parliamentary groups and academic institutions.

The entities of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, should review existing policies and programmes and sharpen their focus on alleviating the root causes of conflict. They should find practical ways to cooperate effectively in preventive diplomacy and in the promotion of the rule of law. We suggest that the General Assembly be more involved in preventive diplomacy — instituting regular meetings of the Security Council to review conflict-prone situations. We believe in a greater role for the Economic and Social Council in identifying social and economic problems likely to result in crisis, as well as in developing strategies to deal with economic and social causes of conflict.

Lastly, we also suggest making greater use of the International Court of Justice in the peaceful settlement of disputes. In addition, Member States should allocate more funds to preventive diplomacy that can also be directed towards setting up small preventive diplomacy teams in the regional centres, reinforcing early-warning capacities and ensuring a smooth transition from early warning to early action. Closer cooperation between development agencies and humanitarian and human rights agencies should be ensured both in the field and at Headquarters level.

We believe that the Security Council should further strengthen its relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission, which is uniquely poised to mobilize coordinated support for peacebuilding priorities and development plans, as well as with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice. However, we need more commitment and more unity from the Security Council.

We also believe that the United Nations should be able to count on the fundamental contribution of regional organizations, since they are in the best position to detect early-warning signals and deploy preventive tools before tensions escalate. Italy has also placed conflict prevention and conflict resolution consistently at the core of its membership in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The latter's contribution to conflict prevention, as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, fully aligns itself with the concept of a comprehensive approach to peace, recognizing security, development and human rights as indivisible components of a stable, prosperous and diverse society. That is the idea at the core of the Secretary-General's vision of a reformed United Nations.

We cannot overestimate the role of civil society in promoting resilient societies and preventing tensions from escalating. We stress once again the importance of the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. For Italy, women's participation is crucial to guaranteeing inclusivity. In that respect, the launch in 2017 Mediterranean Women Mediators Network responds to the pressing need to foster women's participation in a region that is key to global peace and stability. Religious leaders and NGOs also play an essential role in preventing the escalation of tensions and fostering the prospects for peace and promoting dialogue and reconciliation. A notable example is the support provided by the organization Comunità di Sant'Egidio to the Central African Republic peace process. The work of the Italian NGO Rondine Cittadella della Pace also attests to the important contribution that so-called second-track diplomacy can bring to conflict prevention, and education to peace and the promotion of human rights.

We are currently members of three country configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, and we are a top contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund. The need to ensure predictable and sustainable financing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace is clear. We are therefore keen to cooperate in order to define ways to fulfil such need.

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**Annex IV****Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Cho Hyun**

My delegation would like to commend the President of the Security Council for convening today's timely open debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the International Court of Justice. The convening of this meeting itself is a great example that demonstrates how the Security Council coordinates with the other principal organs of the United Nations.

As the Secretary-General mentions in his report *Our Common Agenda* (A/75/982), we now stand at an inflection point in history. Despite all of our efforts for the prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding, we are still facing the grim reality of continued conflicts and violence in many parts of the world. In addition, we are also witnessing multifaceted challenges, from terrorism and violent extremism to hate speech and the infodemic. The adverse impacts of climate change to global peace and security are becoming all too real. It is high time to accelerate our efforts for sustaining peace. In that regard, we warmly welcome the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda*, which highlights a stronger and more inclusive multilateral system anchored within the United Nations for prevention and peacebuilding through the new agenda for peace.

Against that backdrop, let me highlight three points.

First, my delegation emphasizes the importance of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and the comprehensive all-of-United Nations approach. As the 2020 peacebuilding architecture review process reaffirmed, effective peacebuilding must involve the entire United Nations system. That is also highlighted in *Our Common Agenda*, which states that prevention must be based on better links between peace and security and human rights, climate and development work.

Secondly, it is crucial to expand the unique advisory, bridging and convening roles of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In particular, it is important to strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the Security Council and the PBC. The PBC has been providing written advice to the Security Council on some country-specific issues, particularly ahead of the mandate renewal of peacekeeping missions. However, much more needs to be done. We need a more systematic mechanism for close consultation between those two bodies.

Last but not least, we need to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for prevention and peacebuilding. In that regard, I would like to highlight the importance of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the multi-year appeal of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. In particular, the PBF has been playing an instrumental and catalytic role in advancing various peacebuilding projects. Therefore, we need to continue to explore how to finance the PBF, including funding through assessed contributions.

The prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding has always been a priority for the Republic of Korea. The Republic of Korea has continued to be a member of the PBC since 2015 and remains a staunch supporter of the PBF and the multi-year appeal. Furthermore, sustaining peace will also be discussed at the 2021 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial, to be held in Seoul next month. We hope that will be another great opportunity to strengthen the impact and contributions of peacekeeping on transitions and achieving sustaining peace, and we will spare no effort in that regard.