

# POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO PREVENT AND END CONFLICTS

## HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

### Core Responsibility One of the Agenda for Humanity

**“An end to human suffering requires political solutions, unity of purpose, sustained leadership and investment in inclusive and peaceful societies.”**

Report of the  
Secretary-General for  
the World Humanitarian  
Summit

### CORE COMMITMENTS

Conflict prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts are recognized as the most durable solutions for saving lives, reducing economic and social losses, and reducing the need for humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping operations or post-conflict reconstruction in conflict-affected regions. However, as new conflicts emerge in places once considered secure and gain intensity or relapse where they were once thought to be resolved, there remains a considerable gap between good intentions on conflict prevention and reality. The failure to reach durable political solutions may prolong human suffering, cause existing conflicts to intensify, or result in parties to tenuous peace agreements breaking their commitments and falling back into violence causing enormous socio-economic development set-backs. Courageous leadership, early response, investments in stability and broad participation by affected people and civil society are pivotal to a recommitment to use political leadership to peacefully prevent and resolve conflicts.

Preventing and ending conflicts and building peace are recognized in the United Nations Charter as the Organization's first and foremost responsibility to humanity. A collective responsibility, it calls for strong leadership from the Security Council, Member States, the United Nations system, and civil society. The international community must provide stronger leadership in addressing root causes of conflict, as well as strengthening tools, multidisciplinary conflict analysis and partnerships to prevent conflicts from beginning, escalating or re-emerging. The five core commitments listed below aim to move conflict prevention from rhetoric to reality.

**The five proposed core commitments for this roundtable are anchored in Core Responsibility One of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity.**

- **Core Commitment 1: Commit to act early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis, in accordance with international law**



**#1**  
PREVENT AND  
END CONFLICT



**#2**  
RESPECT RULES  
OF WAR



**#3**  
LEAVE NO ONE  
BEHIND



**#4**  
WORKING DIFFERENTLY  
TO END NEED



**#5**  
INVEST IN  
HUMANITY



- **Core Commitment 2:** Commit to improve prevention and peaceful resolution capacities at the national, regional and international level improving the ability to work on multiple crises simultaneously.
- **Core Commitment 3:** Commit to sustain political leadership and engagement through all stages of a crisis to prevent the emergence or relapse into conflict.
- **Core Commitment 4:** Commit to address root causes of conflict and work to reduce fragility by investing in the development of inclusive, peaceful societies.
- **Core Commitment 5:** Commit to make successful conflict prevention visible by capturing, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt.



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## Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

### HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

#### SAMPLE COMMITMENTS

**Core Commitment 1: Commit to act early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis, in accordance with international law.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will actively use early warning findings to identify, address and defuse critical risks before they deteriorate into intractable conflicts by using preventive diplomacy tools such as good offices, Peace and Development Advisors, groups of contact and mediation.
- [Member of the Security Council] calls on the UN Secretariat to provide a regularized background briefing to the Council for greater situational awareness, in line with Article 34 of the Charter.
- [UN entity] commits to make conflict analysis and early warning an integral part of operations, by full engagement in the mechanism established under the Secretary General's Human Rights Upfront initiative.
- [Name of Member State/s] commit to encourage the Secretary-General to use his prerogative under Article 99 of the Charter to brief the Security Council proactively on emerging issues.
- [Members of the Security Council] commit to increase early engagement with countries at risk of conflict, their regional partners and relevant regional/sub regional organizations, using tools such as timely visiting missions, interactive dialogues, and the role of the Presidency.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will strengthen and if necessary, develop comprehensive, shared frameworks for conflict and risk analysis including early warning mechanisms at the local, national, regional and international level.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] declares its support for the Code of Conduct on mass atrocities.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will systemize Gender and Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk analysis in conflict analysis including the use of community and women informed local early warning mechanisms to identify and defuse conflicts early.

**Core Commitment 2: Commit to improve prevention and peaceful resolution capacities at the national, regional and international level improving the ability to work on multiple crises simultaneously.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to increase direct funding in support of national conflict prevention and resolution capacities by [\$xx million] and ensure that a minimum of 15 per cent goes toward supporting meaningful women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will increase the number of staff by [xx per cent or xx amount] working on conflict analysis, prevention and resolution in governments, regional and international organizations by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will improve the skills of staff working on conflict analysis, prevention and resolution in national ministries, regional and international organizations by holding a minimum of 2 yearly targeted trainings commencing in [20XX].
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will invest in strengthening [civil society/regional organizations/sub regional organizations/ women's groups] to work on conflict analysis, prevention and resolution by [list action].
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will establish effective partnership/s with [name of global, regional, local, private, academic or public actor/s] for planning and delivering on collective conflict prevention and resolutions strategies based on shared conflict analysis.
- [Name of Member State] commits additional funding in the amount of [\$xx] to support the UN's conflict prevention capacities, in particular conflict analysis and the good offices function and will advocate for the use of regular budget funds for conflict prevention.

**Core Commitment 3: Commit to sustain political leadership and engagement through all stages of a crisis to prevent the emergence or relapse into conflict.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will establish Contact Groups/Group of Friends at the onset of a crisis and use their political leverage for continued support through to post-conflict reconstruction.
- [UN] commits to strengthening and increase the use of the Good Offices of the Secretary-General during an emerging conflict.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] having identified [xx country/ crisis] as a situation with the potential to relapse or escalate into conflict, commits to provide political support by organizing high-level [joint missions/ dialogue/ conference/ sustained engagement] with a view to mobilizing support to prevent or resolve a crisis.

**Core Commitment 4: Commit to address root causes of conflict and work to reduce fragility by investing in the development of inclusive, peaceful societies.**

- [Name of Member State] commits to increase the amount aid being spent on fragile situations by [xx per cent] over a five-year period, to ensure equitable distribution.
- [Name of Member State] commits to allocating additional, predictable resources to the Peacebuilding Fund in the manner of [\$xx] by [20XX] to allow the Fund to continue operations at the current level of \$100 million per year.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will support cooperation between countries on how to build resilience after crisis and manage complex aid relationships through [name of initiative e.g. g7+ “Fragile-2-Fragile”] by [list action i.e. adopting data sharing protocols/ establishing desk-to-desk dialogues] by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State] will support the establishment of an African Humanitarian Agency, in line with the Draft Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, by contributing [\$xx/facilities/in kind technical capacity/staff] by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State] commits to establishing ‘constituencies for peace’ through committees/dialogue mechanisms at the district level to act as an early warning system, with the first meeting to take place by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State] commits to convene periodic, inclusive national dialogue platforms with civil society, youth, women’s groups and others to ensure concerns and disputes are addressed early on, with a minimum of 3 meetings per year, commencing in [20XX].
- [Name of Member State] commits to strengthening the active participation of women and youth in peacebuilding by linking the implementation of the New Deal to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015).
- [Name of Member State] commits to actively focus on addressing long standing human rights concerns and grievances, including patterns of discrimination and marginalization, recognizing this as a key structural cause of conflict and instability within societies.

**Core Commitment 5: Commit to make successful conflict prevention visible by capturing, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will support the United Nations in convening a “World Prevention Forum” by 2020 to identify how Member States, the UN Secretariat, the Security Council and regional organizations can work more effectively together on conflict prevention and resolution.
- In preparation of the international conference, [Name of Member State/ Organization] will convene/ host a regional forum on conflict prevention to identify and advance elements of successful conflict prevention, which include the participation of the private sector and civil society.
- [Name of Member State] requests that the Secretary-General develop a



comprehensive plan to strengthen conflict prevention at the United Nations based on lessons learnt and recommendations emanating from the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, the Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, and the Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325, in time for the “World Prevention Forum” by 2020.