United Nations Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy In Action

An overview of the role, approach and tools
of the United Nations and its partners
in preventing violent conflict

United Nations
Department of Political Affairs
DIPLOMACY. PREVENTION. ACTION

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Charter underscores the centrality of conflict prevention as a responsibility for the whole of the United Nations system. Conflict prevention involves a range of actors across the three pillars of the UN: peace and security; development; and human rights. Each of these pillars works in distinct but mutually reinforcing ways to address both the immediate and deeper causes of violent conflict, through engaging at the local, national, regional and international levels, partnering with communities, civil society, governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, and other international institutions.

Conflict prevention remains, however, a relatively under-publicized aspect of the UN's work. Media tend to cover crises after they have turned violent, when dramatic scenes are more likely to capture audience attention. The UN Security Council, which has a key responsibility in the prevention of violent conflict, has historically focused on the management of immediate crises and large-scale conflicts. Compounding the low visibility of conflict prevention is the difficulty in measuring the UN's impact in averting the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of violent conflict, given the challenge of demonstrating that a given action resulted in conflict *not* taking place.

This booklet, prepared by the Department of Political Affairs in consultation with key partners across the UN system, presents a non-exhaustive, illustrative overview of the UN's approach to conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. It summarizes a series of cases selected to show prevention at work in diverse contexts, the different tools deployed to support national actors in preventing violent conflict, and the multiple UN actors involved in implementing these efforts, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

THE UN'S ROLE IN PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT

The Secretary-General and prevention

ABOVE: Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the Security Council ministerial-level open debate on conflict prevention and sustaining peace, 10 January 2017. UN Photo

Secretary-General António Guterres has laid out a comprehensive vision for how the United Nations can better support countries in averting the outbreak of crises that can take a high toll on humanity and undermine institutions and capacities to achieve peace and development. Within this vision, the UN plays a critical role in supporting Member States to prevent violent conflict.

The role of the Secretary-General as a peacemaking actor derives from the Charter of the United Nations. Importantly, the Secretary-General supports the Security Council in its efforts to promote the "pacific settlement of disputes", in line with its mandate under Chapter VI of the Charter. Article 98 of the Charter provides that the Secretary-

General perform functions entrusted to him or her by the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council and other UN organs, including in relation to conflict prevention. Article 99 provides that the Secretary-General may "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter that in his opinion may threaten international peace and security".

The range of activities carried out by the Secretary-General includes "good offices", mediation, facilitation, dialogue processes and arbitration. Good offices refers to steps taken publicly and in private, drawing upon the

Secretary-General's independence, impartiality and integrity, to prevent disputes from arising, escalating or spreading. These may be undertaken by the Secretary-General directly, through his or her Special Envoys and Representatives, or by others acting at his or her behest.

The United Nations' approach to conflict prevention

The UN's approach to conflict prevention has evolved over time. The General Assembly and Security Council resolutions adopted in 2016 (A/70/262 and S/2282, respectively) on "sustaining peace", which encompass activities to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict further reinforce this approach. The UN works at a variety of points along the conflict cycle, addressing issues that present long-term risks of conflict, engaging with parties that are on the brink of violence, helping to negotiate the end to conflicts, and assisting countries to achieve reconciliation and build resilient and inclusive societies. In addition to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council play important roles in advising, directing and supporting the UN's efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

The type of activities the UN undertakes to prevent conflict varies along a spectrum, from broad and long-term to targeted and short-term, and can be employed simultaneously. At one end of the spectrum are activities focused on the structural causes of conflict which aim to strengthen the institutions and social mechanisms of states and societies, helping them to become more resilient to the causes and triggers of conflict. This includes work in areas such as governance, rule of law and security sector reform, electoral assistance and gender equality. At the other end of the spectrum are short-term and highly

ABOVE: The Security Council meets to debate conflict prevention, 10 January 2017. UN Photo

focused efforts to stave off impending violence, escalation or continuation of conflict. As a situation deteriorates, state institutions become less effective, societies less cohesive, and more susceptible to economic shocks. At this stage, preventive diplomacy can play an important role in influencing the decision-making of key actors on whether or not to engage in or escalate violence.

Evolving practices and applications

The UN's role in conflict prevention has undergone important innovations over the last few years. Peace operations – both peacekeeping and special political missions – have increased their focus on preventing conflict escalation or recurrence. New thematic and technical capacities support the good offices of the Secretary-General, as well as his or her Special Envoys and Representatives, including heads of Regional Offices, on the ground. In recent years, cases of unconstitutional changes of government, fragile electoral processes, and large-scale human rights violations – often, but not always, accompanied by violent conflict – have all been addressed through preventive diplomacy.

Special envoys	The most visible manifestations of the Secretary-General's "good offices" efforts, Special Envoys, are deployed to help resolve a wide variety of disputes, from territorial questions to constitutional and electoral crises to peace talks. Special Envoys may have country-specific (e.g. Syria, Yemen), regional (e.g. Sahel, Great Lakes), or thematic (e.g. prevention of genocide) mandates.	
Special political missions	Headed by senior representatives of the Secretary-General, special political missions provide a tool for intensive and sustained preventive efforts across a range of disciplines such as electoral support, women's empowerment and human rights. They support complex political transitions and help sustain peace in coordination with national and UN development and humanitarian entities and other actors such as regional organizations and international financial institutions.	
Peacekeeping operations	Peacekeeping missions bring military and police capacities to bear, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates. Peacekeepers provide security and political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace, helping to prevent relapse and to secure longer term stability, working in partnership with many other actors.	
Regional offices	UN regional offices serve as forward platforms for preventive diplomacy. Their networks and proximity to the countries in their region help to defuse tensions and support national actors, UN Country Teams, and regional organizations to address crises. Regional offices are also well placed to address cross-boundary issues such as transnational organized crime and water sharing.	
Rapidly-deployable mediation expertise	The UN maintains a Standby Tteam of senior mediation experts on a wide range of issues typical of peace negotiations, such as process design, constitution-making, power-sharing, gender issues, security arrangements, transitional justice, and natural resources. Members of the team can be deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours to provide advice on mediation and conflict prevention efforts. This capacity is complemented by a High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation, which advises the Secretary-General on mediation initiatives and supports specific mediation efforts around the world.	

CONFLICT PREVENTION TOOLKIT

UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams	In countries where there is no UN mission, UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) represent the Organization and coordinate the efforts of the UN family. The UN supports RCs, including through the deployment of Peace and Development Advisors through the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention to provide analysis and support conflict sensitive and preventive programming, and by making use of catalytic funding through the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the advisory support of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office.	
Electoral assistance	Elections, when well conducted, can be a process for conciliation, for giving voice to citizens, and for peaceful transitions. The UN assists Member States – at their request or based on a mandate from the Security Council or General Assembly – to hold elections that are a legitimate and sovereign expression of the people's will and enjoy credibility among national stakeholders.	
Gender and inclusion expertise	Peace processes and agreements are more legitimate and sustainable when they acknowledge that armed conflict impacts women and girls differently from men and boys, effectively include women in their design and execution, and incorporate the interests of different segments of society. The UN deploys experts on gender/women, peace and security who can initiate and advise on gender-sensitive conflict analysis; the design of inclusive processes, including through engagement with different social and political groups on multiple tracks; and creating an enabling environment for women's political participation. They also provide advice on a range of substantive issues, such as power sharing, constitutional issues, and securoty arrangements.	
Deployable political and human rights analytical capacity	The "Human Rights up Front" initiative seeks to strengthen prevention across the UN system by monitoring violations of international human rights and humanitarian law to provide early warning and propose actions to address these risks. When risks of serious human rights abuses are present, the initiative provides for the rapid deployment of teams of human rights and political officers to provide analytical capacity on the ground.	
Sanctions monitoring groups	When the Security Council imposes sanctions to enforce a decision, it often establishes Panels or Groups of Experts to monitor implementation. These groups gather information and make recommendations that can inform prevention efforts, such as updates on compliance with the sanctions; serious violations of international humanitarian law; and the illicit flow of weapons.	

BURKINA FASO (2014-5)
FACILITATING DE-ESCALATION AND SUPPORTING POLITICAL TRANSITION

In late 2013, Burkina Faso's government initiated an amendment of the constitution to extend pres-idential term limits. Over the course of 2014, pub-lic opposition to this constitutional change grew, and in October the outbreak of mass demon-strations led to the resignation of then-President Blaise Compaoré and his departure from the country. A year later, despite a political transition plan and barely a month before new elections, members of the former presidential guard organized an attempted coup d'état against the transition authorities. Armed soldiers broke into a sitting Council of Ministers meeting and took the President of the transition, the Prime Minister, and several ministers hostage.

Before the attempted coup, as opposition to the proposed constitutional change grew, the UN's Regional Office in West Africa (UNOWA) deployed a joint early warning mission with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and worked to dissuade President Compaoré. Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Mohamed Ibn Chambas, in cooperation with ECOWAS and the African Union (AU), helped national political actors and civil society stake-holders to engage in dialogue, resulting in a new constitutional charter and a one-year civilian-led transition that would culminate with general elec-

BELOW: SRSG and Head of UNOWA, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, speaks during a Security Council meeting on peace consolidation in West Africa, 11 July 2016.
UN Photo/Manuel Elias

tions in November 2015. In parallel, and throughout the crisis, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) closely monitored the situation, conducting a mission to document violations and sensitize local stakeholders on human rights mechanisms.

The attempted coup in September 2015 threatened the elections and peaceful transition. In response, SRSG Chambas and other senior UN officials including the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the coup and called for the protection of civilians. Together with regional leaders and transitional authorities, the UN met with the coup leaders, successfully conveying to them that they did not enjoy political support. Consequently, the transitional authorities were restored to their positions. The UN rapidly deployed a team of political and human rights analysts to follow developments and provide real-time support to the SRSG to enable him to respond with speed to the evolving situation.

On 29 November 2015, Burkina Faso held historic post-transition elections, choosing Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of the People's Movement for Progress as president. Key success factors in the UN's preventive engagement in Burkina Faso included the presence of a dedicated regional political office with a highly-respected leader; timely and extended deployment of a UN envoy; cohesive messages from key actors; and an effective partnership with regional organizations and the broader diplomatic community.

BELOW: Then-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) addresses a joint press conference with Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, in Ouagadougou, 3 March 2016. UN Photo/Evan Schneider

07

COLOMBIA

PREPARING THE GROUND FOR PEACE

For over six decades, the Colombian armed conflict caused more than 200,000 deaths and displaced almost eight million people. The conflict, which pitted Government forces, leftist guerrillas and paramilitary forces against each other, disproportionately affected rural areas. It damaged the social fabric of communities and trapped large swathes of the country in poverty and violence. Three attempts to negotiate an end to the conflict with Colombia's largest guerrilla group, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), ended in failure in 1986, 1994 and 2002. At the start of the 21st century, few believed that a negotiated end to the conflict was possible, with a renewed government military campaign resulting in heavy losses on both sides and a steep rise in civilian casualties.

ABOVE: Members of the first victims' delegation that travelled to Havana to engage with negotiating parties in the peace process. The UNCT, together with national partners, played a key role selecting and accompanying the 60 victims who brought their voice to Havana. August 2015. UNDP Colombia Photo

BELOW: UNDP Deputy Country Director, Ms Inka Mattila, visits Arhuaca indigenous communities in Colombia's Caribbean coast. Indigenous communities, with UNCT accompaniment, are active peacebuilding actors. March 2015. UNDP Colombia Photo

As negotiations remained frozen and violence continued, UN agencies, funds and programmes, present in the country since 1950, sought to address the root causes of the conflict. The UN Country Team (UNCT) documented human rights violations, provided protection and humanitarian assistance to the country's internally displaced and promoted development policies to address the exclusion and inequity that fuelled violence. In 2004, UNDP launched a major initiative, the Programme for Reconciliation and Development. Focusing on peacebuilding and livelihoods in the hardest hit conflict areas, the programme helped build the resilience of local communities, strengthening the capacity of local authorities and hundreds of civil society organizations, including women's organizations, to design social policies and advocate for their communities. In more recent years, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights supported the formulation of a ground-breaking Victims and Land Restitutions Law, which formally recognised victims of conflict and established their right to reparations.

In 2012, peace talks with the FARC-EP were formally announced. The communities and organizations at whose side the UNCT had stood could now make their voices heard. The UN and national partners organised some 50 regional and national events focused on the items on the peace process agenda, such as land, political participation, narcotics and victims' rights. Some 20,000 Colombians from all walks of life participated. In August 2016, the Government of Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC-EP reached a historic agreement. As a new UN Mission arrived in the country to support the implementation of a ceasefire and FARC-EP disarmament, it was able to build on decades of work by the UNCT, work that had helped lay the groundwork for the peace agreement. The UN is now helping the Government and Colombians from the most vulnerable segments of society in implementation of the agreement and, in so doing, helping sustain peace and prevent the risk of relapse into conflict.

BELOW: Juan Manuel Santos Calderón (centre left), President of Colombia, shakes hands with Timoleón Jiménez ("Timochenko"), Commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC-EP), at the ceremony in Havana for the signing of a ceasefire and the laying down of arms between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP, 23 June 2016. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

09

KYRGYZSTAN (2010)

FACILITATING DE-ESCALATION AND PAVING THE WAY
FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

ABOVE: **Ethnic Uzbeks fleeing violence in Osh, Kyrgyzstan,
form a refugee camp in the border town of Nariman.**
UN Photo

On 6 April 2010, mass demonstrations erupted in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, protesting corruption and high energy costs. When unarmed demonstrators tried to storm the main government building, snipers and riot police opened fire, killing at least 75 people and injuring 300 more. Two days later, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev left Bishkek and subsequently went into exile. An interim government headed by opposition leader and former foreign minister, Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, came to power. Nationalist, extremist and criminal groups continued to instigate tensions in the South, however. In May and June violent clashes between members of the country's two largest ethnic groups, Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, broke out in the southern cities of Jalal-Abad and Osh, killing nearly 470 people and displacing 411,000. While the situation stabilized in mid-June, the humanitarian needs of displaced and other affected persons reached a critical point and required urgent action from the international community.

The UN's preventive work throughout the crisis in Kyrgyzstan took several forms. Following the protests in April, the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission headed by Jan Kubiš, the then-head of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, to determine conditions on the ground, work with the actors and urge restraint. After President Bakiyev's resignation and exile, the UN continued to provide on-the-ground good offices support and advice through SRSG Miroslav Jenča, then-head of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), who travelled frequently to Kyrgyzstan to support the interim government on political stabilization and re-establishment of legitimate authority. When inter-ethnic tensions in the south broke out, the SRSG coordinated his work with the EU, OSCE and the UN Country Team on the ground. Preventive efforts included the deployment of a Senior Reconciliation Advisor to advise on deescalating tensions, the deployment of an Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) rapid response team to Southern Kyrgyzstan, and interim UNCT conflict-sensitive programming with Peacebuilding Fund support. Longer-term programming facilitated by a Peace and Development Advisor focused on stabilizing the situation, improving inter-ethnic relations, building trust between the population and state institutions, and facilitating access to justice.

At various points throughout the crisis, the UN's efforts helped mobilize and coordinate the international community and facilitate a peaceful transition to an interim state authority. When the tragic episode of violence in the South broke out, the UN's support, thanks to fast, responsive and catalytic Peacebuilding Fund assistance, helped to stabilize the situation quickly, reduce tensions and avert further violent incidents. In the aftermath of the crisis, the UN invested in conflict analysis and

ABOVE: Jan Kubiš, the then Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), briefs journalists on his fact-finding mission to Kyrgyzstan where he was dispatched as the Secretary-General's special envoy. 16 April 2010. UN Photo

management capacities to help build peace and nurture trust and cooperation among communities which, combined with humanitarian and development assistance, have helped to avoid a resurgence of the events of 2010.

11

BELOW: Children queue for water in a refugee camp of ethnic Uzbeks near Osh, Kyrgyzstan. 15 June 2010 UN Photo

GUYANA (2002-15)

BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO PROMOTE
SOCIAL COHESION AND INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE

ABOVE: Workshop of religious leaders in Guyana, June 2004. UN Photo

Today, Guyana is generally recognized as a tranquil, well-developed ecotourism destination. In the past, however, tensions present from Guyana's independence in 1966 sometimes escalated into violence around national elections, and politics within the country was historically divided along ethnic lines. This pattern of conflict caught the attention of the international community when post-election riots in 2001 coincided with a regional summit of the Caribbean

Community (CARICOM). After discussions among the Government, opposition leaders and international partners facilitated by CARICOM, the parties committed to working towards a sustainable solution to resolve the country's recurring crises in advance of the next election.

On the basis of this commitment, in 2002, a joint mission by DPA, UNDP and OHCHR was dispatched to Guyana. In consultation with political and civil society stakeholders, a Social Cohesion Programme (SCP) was established. Executed from 2003 to 2006 by UNDP, with input from DPA, DESA, OHCHR and others, the Programme supported a range of activities to strengthen national capacities for peaceful conflict resolution. The SCP engaged the Government, the National Assembly, the Ethnic Relations Commission and civil society at large on issues such as security and justice and the building of national capacities to work toward consensus. To support national actors in these efforts, the UN deployed a Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) to the UN Country Team.

The 2006 election was the most peaceful since independence. An evaluation by Princeton University credited the SCP for having contributed to this success. However, insecurity reemerged in 2008. A second phase of the SCP, the Enhancing Public Trust, Security, and Inclusion (EPTSI) Project, was launched to address community security and local-level conflict resolution. The PDA and the EPTSI Project are deemed to be among the factors contributing to peaceful elections in 2011.

A major test of Guyana's social cohesion arose during the snap elections of 2015 with the possibility that the governing party could lose after 23 years in power. In advance of the elections, the UN supported the Guyana Elections Commission with media monitoring; supported religious leaders with peace messaging; and facilitated the establishment of a group of eminent citizens, the "Guyanese for Peace," who advocated for peaceful political participation and public order. Calm generally prevailed after the elections, despite repeated delays in the results. When the opposition was announced the winner, the "Guyanese for Peace" and the UN actively engaged with political leaders behind the scenes, encouraging them to abide by the democratic process. These efforts helped to calm tensions, and while the incumbent President did not officially accept the results of the vote, he stepped down, and a peaceful transition of power took place. As the Carter Center, which was among the election observers, noted, "All Guyanese should be proud of what transpired on election day".

13

LIBERIA
PREVENTING THE RECURRENCE OF CONFLICT
WHILE BUILDING PEACE

ABOVE: On International Women's Day, activists stage a peaceful sit-in at the Liberian Supreme Court to protest against gender-based violence, 8 March 2007. Monrovia, Liberia. UNPhoto

Liberia, the first independent African state, suffered two brutal civil wars between 1989 and 2003. Civil war in Liberia claimed the lives of almost 250,000 people - mostly civilians - and led to a complete breakdown of law and order. After years of political and peacekeeping efforts by the UN, African Union and Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), social mobilization – especially by women's organizations – calling for peace, and following the handover of power by then-President Charles Taylor, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed by the parties to the conflict in Accra, Ghana, on 17-18 August 2003. The Agreement called for the monitoring of a ceasefire and the establishment of a National Transitional Government that would oversee the implementation of the agreement, restore security and administration throughout the country, and manage the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants into society until elections could be held to select a new government.

The resignation of Charles Taylor and the signing of the CPA presented the best chance for peace in years. However, the Transitional Government faced a considerable challenge in exercising authority, as over 80 per cent of the national territory was controlled by armed groups. Cognizant of the risk of a relapse into conflict, the parties

requested the United Nations to deploy a peace-keeping mission to support the Transitional Government, as well as an ECOWAS force to serve in the interim. On 19 September 2003, the Security Council adopted resolution 1509 authorizing deployment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), made up of 15,000 troops, over 1,000 police and a component of civilian experts. The mission was mandated, among other things, to assist the Transitional Government in extending State authority throughout Liberia; contribute to security in the country; protect civilians from violence; and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In addition, it would advise, train and assist Liberian law enforcement authorities and other criminal justice institutions, assist in the preparation of elections through technical support and political engagement, and provide training in human rights to help build the capacity of national institutions to one day function effectively on their own.

Since the signing of the CPA, the establishment of the National Transitional Government, and the deployment of UNMIL, Liberia has undergone a significant transformation, avoided a relapse into civil war and is on the path to sustained stability. Through the commitment and determination of the people and Government of Liberia, with support from regional and international partners, the country has built new institutions based on democratic principles and the rule of law, while advancing national reconciliation and addressing the root causes of violence. It also overcame the Ebola outbreak in 2014, which threatened to reverse gains made since the end of the civil war. UNMIL handed over full security responsibilities to the Government of Liberia on 30 June 2016 as part of a phased drawdown of its troops. In resolution 2333 of November 2016, the Security Council decided that the mission would close on 30 March 2018, after a decade-and-a-half of support to the Liberian people to prevent relapse and sustain peace.

ABOVE: An UNMIL Police Officer uses binoculars to carry out an aerial survey of the capital city during a reconnaissance mission, 13 December 2008. Monrovia, Liberia. UNPhoto

15

BELOW: The 33rd class of police officers of the Liberian National Police (LNP) participate in a graduation ceremony, 17 January 2009. Monrovia, Liberia. UNPhoto

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS; NATIONAL AND LOCAL MEDIATION; AND GENDER AND INCLUSION IN CONFLICT PREVENTION

Partnerships:

The UN works closely with regional partners – either in a leading or supporting role – to prevent conflict and maintain international peace and security. Partnerships with regional organizations such as the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) or the Organization of American States (OAS), and sub-regional organizations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), play important roles in early warning, engaging national networks and coordinating regional responses.

The UN also works in partnership with other international institutions, including international financial institutions. In 2018 the UN and World Bank issued a joint study entitled *Pathways to Peace: Inclusive approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, laying out a shared framework for understanding how societies forge pathways toward peace or violence and highlighting key arenas where sustained, targeted and flexible intervention can have a significant impact. The study pres-

ents guiding principles and an agenda for action to frame a shift from reaction toward prevention of violent conflict.

National and Local Mediation:

National and local mediators are credible figures, groups or institutions that have a relationship to a conflict and can use their influence and legitimacy to play a constructive role in solving and preventing it. They work behind the scenes to lay the groundwork for formal peace negotiations; address recurring issues such as human rights abuses and land use; and build consensus around reforms in the context of political transitions. Local and national mediators bring specific insights, cultural sensitivity, knowledge and contacts that are not always accessible to outsiders. The UN strives to recognize these capacities and provide support

ABOVE: Community leaders attend a Peace Caravan in Gao, Mali, on social cohesion and national stability. The event was organized by the Economic Community of West African States in collaboration with UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 29 August 2013. Gao, Mali. UNPhoto

to national and local mediation through training, technical support, knowledge development, and peer-to-peer support. In particular, the UN works to champion women, youth, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and religious and traditional leaders and to strengthen their efforts.

Gender and Inclusion in Conflict Prevention:
Adopted in 2000, Security Council Resolution 1325 was the first to explicitly link women to peace and security, acknowledging that armed conflicts impact women and girls differently and recognizing the role and contributions of women in wartime and to peacemaking, as well as their fundamental right to be included in peace processes. In its support to conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy, the UN promotes greater and more effective participation of women in these and other political processes, the inclusion of dedicated gender expertise, addressing the specific needs of women and girls, and the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence in all peacemaking efforts and political processes.

ABOVE: Civil Affairs Officers from the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan conduct a mediation workshop on effective engagement of women in the prevention and management of conflict, 16-17 May 2016. Juba, South Sudan. UNPhoto

GLOSSARY

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPA	UN Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FARC-EP	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejercito del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army)
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PBF	UN Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	UN Peacebuilding Support Office
PDA	Peace and Development Advisor
RC	UN Resident Coordinator
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNOWA(S)	United Nations Office for West Africa (and the Sahel)
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

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