



IPI Meeting Brief New York Seminar June 7, 2016

The 2016 New York Seminar on “Sustaining Peace: Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 2282 and General Assembly Resolution 70/262” offered an opportunity to explore and think critically about the policy and programmatic implications of implementing the “sustaining peace” approach outlined in these concurrent resolutions. These resolutions build on the work of the 2015 reviews of UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and the women, peace, and security agenda, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustaining peace, as defined in the resolutions, means that peacebuilding is no longer confined to the post-conflict period but applies to all phases of conflict: before it breaks out, while it is ongoing, and after it has ended. It offers new opportunities for the UN as a whole, and the Peacebuilding Commission in particular, to work more effectively across divides.

The annual seminar, held on June 7th at the International Peace Institute and supported by the Permanent Missions of Italy and Mexico, explored how to turn this new vision into concrete, actionable measures in national capitals, the UN system, and across various intergovernmental entities. These were some of the main conclusions:

- The conceptual shift to sustaining peace will require time, and the **process of implementation will need to be owned by member states, UN entities, international financial institutions, civil society, and academia** in order to be effective and integrated.
- Member states, in particular, will need to **bring this discussion back to their national capitals**, which will feed into further work and reflection at the UN. Until then, **a gap between the rhetorical support of member states and their willingness to act will remain.**
- Prevention and the primacy of politics lie at the heart of sustaining peace, as does the **link between sustainable development and peace**. In order to bring about the long-term shift from crisis response to sustaining peace, the concept of integrated planning and integrated missions—bringing together the different pillars of the UN together at headquarters and in the field—needs to be fully implemented and backed up with funding and staffing.
- The **lack of links between strategic planning and predictable funding**, both in the field and at headquarters, is a weakness. Upstream planning should be done before a transition takes place in order to avoid the precipitous drop in funding that occurs when a UN peace operation draws down.
- Pooled funding provides a way to manage risks collectively, which is particularly important in the post-conflict phase. Funding could capitalize either on existing funds or on new ones (e.g., private partnerships, remittances). **Financing is not only a matter of fundraising or numbers but a potential vehicle to move from fragmented and siloed efforts toward a holistic and inclusive approach to sustaining peace.**
- **Member states now have a clear and immediate mandate to engage the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in revising its working methods.** Opportunities exist for the PBC to use its convening capacity to bring different stakeholders into its consultations and inject a long-term perspective into its role.
- In order to keep the momentum going, **leadership is needed from all sides**—from member states, from the UN, and from the new secretary-general in making this agenda one of his or her top priorities.

-Delphine Mechoulan