



Joint UNDP-DPPA
Programme on
Building National
Capacities for
Conflict Prevention

Concept Note

Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention: HIGH LEVEL PARTNER EVENT

of the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme

15 July 2019, 1.15-2.30pm,
ECOSOC, UN Headquarters - New York

Objectives

Since its inception in 2004, the *Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme* has grown into a flagship initiative bridging the gap between political and development work in pursuit of sustaining peace. Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) are at the forefront of the Programme's efforts to empower national stakeholders to strengthen existing mechanisms and capacities for inclusive dialogue and conflict prevention and build national peace architectures. PDAs support the UN system to effectively identify entry points for prevention and peacebuilding, and adapt and respond to complex political situations.

The partner event will engage current and prospective partners of the *Joint Programme* to:

- Highlight examples of progress made towards strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention;
- Raise awareness of the *Joint Programme* as an important contribution to the Secretary-General's broad prevention agenda; and
- Present results achieved at the country level and reflect on lessons learnt.

Purpose

Organized on the sidelines of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the *Joint Programme* partner event will bring together the UN and Member States with an interest in enhancing national prevention capacities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace, demonstrate strong intergovernmental support for an integrated

“The UN system’s efforts must continue to be oriented around three key principles: reinforcing national ownership; developing country-contextual responses; and ensuring the effective delivery of development results on the ground [...] I recommend that the Joint Programme serve as a model for making such enhanced capacities available.”¹

—Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace [2018]

approach to prevention. The Joint Programme mainly contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) which is one of the goals under review during this HLPF.

The purpose of the partner event is to raise awareness of the Joint Programme, mobilize support for it, and explore opportunities to deepen partnerships between Member States and the Joint Programme. The event will gather national stakeholders involved in peace and development, senior UN representatives and Member States to highlight the innovative work of the Programme on conflict prevention and SDG 16.

Background on the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme

The Joint Programme is a cross-pillar initiative that aims to enhance UN support to national stakeholders on conflict prevention and sustaining peace. The Programme provides support to UN Resident Coordinators and to UN Country Teams, working to strengthen national capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation. It has become an essential mechanism through which UN Country Teams can support national infrastructures for peace, enhance conflict sensitivity in programming, and to guide UN engagement in responding to political crisis and violent extremism. Over the years, the cadre of PDAs has grown significantly, reflecting the value of strengthening capacities within UN Country Teams which can in turn increase support local capacities for prevention and peacebuilding. In 2019, there are PDA positions in 49 countries, with expanded PDA teams in more than 20 of these.

The Joint Programme has embarked on a new ambitious Programme cycle in 2019 with the aim to further connect advisory support to initiatives and programmes at the country level. In pursuit of building national prevention capacities, the Programme has two objectives:

- Strengthen national conflict prevention capacities in conflict-affected, fragile countries and/or countries undergoing political instability or difficult transition; and
- Ensuring UN strategies and programming in support of national efforts in sustaining peace and advancing development are conflict-sensitive and informed by high quality analysis.