



QUNO
Quaker United Nations Office

June 19, 2017

UNDP-DPA Joint Program Partner Event on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

Thank you to the Joint Program for hosting this timely event. My name is Rachel Madenyika and I serve as a UN Representative at the Quaker United Nations Office, which has worked on issues of justice and peace and the UN since 1947. My organization, together with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict GPPAC, co-facilitates the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform.

The Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform, was created stemming from the three 2015 UN peace and security reviews, as well as from the dual sustaining peace resolutions, which all call for a greater focus on prevention and the inclusion of civil society voices. Launched in 2016, this young initiative aims to support the UN's prevention agenda through strengthening coordination and, information sharing between civil society organizations and the UN at all levels, through close collaboration with various UN agencies and departments, including with the UNDP-DPA Joint Program on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention.

The platform seeks to identify concrete, practical steps to enhance the UN and Civil Society organizations collective capacity to carry out preventive work, through sharing examples of best practices, identifying areas of potential collaboration and supporting UN efforts to bridge early warning and early action. Our Platform believes that the UN's work on prevention benefits from a systematic engagement with civil society and that the inclusion of diverse civil society expertise is crucial to achieving sustainable development and peace. This Platform relies on a large network of global expert civil society actors and aims to use this network to closely partner with Peace and Development Advisors in different regions of the world.

One of our recommendations to the Secretary General in January of this year was in support of expanding and institutionalizing the Peace and Development Advisors program by deploying PDAs to all UN country teams on a regular long-term basis. We support that PDAs should be much more embedded in the ongoing governance and development work, as well as having regular and meaningful engagement with civil society.

We are grateful that in the past year, the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform has collaborated meaningfully with the Joint Program not only by participating in PDA inductions, but by also successfully linking PDAs to our larger network of local civil society actors. We see great potential in growing and developing this relationship -- there is an interest and demand within civil society for this enhanced relationship with the Joint Program in NY and PDAs in the field. And we are delighted with the positive response from the Joint Program to engage more deeply and meaningfully with civil society. Our platform stands ready to assist in whatever way possible to nurture and grow this partnership.

Thank you.