Report to the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on Building strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected countries
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1 Executive Summary

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) is pleased to present its report on the topic of building strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected countries. The topic brought a wide range of discussions and debate. The report brought consensus across the board on providing support for conflict-affected countries.

This report includes three resolutions within chapter one. The first resolution is over a three tiered system to help prevent conflict, support throughout conflict, and rebuild after conflict. The resolution also makes sure to emphasize the need to work with existing institutions rather than creating a new one. Within the three tiers the need for quality training, more non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as better infrastructure.

The second resolution is over the existing Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative. It discusses renewing the initiative as well as ensuring sovereignty is protected within the initiative. The 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) are also recognized as being important, specifically acknowledging SDG 16.

The third resolution is on the international response to COVID-19 within vaccine distribution and with specifically active areas of conflict. It discusses appropriate action, research, and the pausing of the vaccine patents in order to appropriately increase vaccination rates.

Chapter two discusses the deliberations between member states in CEPA. Many topics arose throughout those deliberations but sovereignty, NGOs, and de-escalation were brought up by many different Member States and were important.

The final chapter of the report discussed the acceptance by consensus of this report.
2 Matters calling for action

2.1 CEPA II/1

Drawing attention to the threat that the COVID-19 crisis continues to be present to the global community,

Emphasizing the need for global access to safe, effective and affordable medical equipment, treatment and preventative measures,

Noting with deep concern the uneven vaccine access and distribution that affects conflict-affected countries,

Taking into consideration that a successful health response to the COVID-19 pandemic is dependent on addressing country-specific operational challenges,

Reiterating the importance of human rights and stressing that prejudice cannot be tolerated,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges when promoting strong institutions and effective governance,

1. Calls for the strengthening of international, national and regional cooperation in order to contain and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic:

   (a) Recommends exchanging information and data freely among affected states;

   (b) Suggests utilizing the current scientific research to the fullest in regards to COVID-19 prevention and treatment;

   (c) Urges the reaffirming of adherence to the most up-to-date and scientifically supported guidelines on national and local levels as dictated by the World Health Organization (WHO);

2. Encourages increased research and resource development on building resilient and adaptable institutions:

   (a) Emphasizes this occurs through collection of local, national and regional data within self-reporting, outside assessments and peer reviewed mechanisms;

   (i) With focus on how to efficiently rebuild in former and/or temporary areas of conflict;

3. Endorses the temporary suspension of the vaccine patents:

   (a) Recommends the following are specifically suspended including;

   (i) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine;

   (ii) SPIKEVAX (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine;

   (iii) Oxford/AstraZeneca (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] vaccine) COVID-19 vaccine;

   (b) Strongly Urges that this suspension exists for a period of five years at minimum with reconsideration for a longer time period if vaccination rates continue to decline;

   (c) Calls for a United Nations Criminal Investigation into price gouging and suspected interference in sovereignty;

4. Recommends Member States reduce stockpiling of vaccines and other necessary medical technology in developed countries:

   (a) Invites Member States to donate excess vaccination doses to regions with disproportionately high fatality rates, such as the Global South;

   (b) Recommends increased participation in and funding to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) COVID-19 vaccination and assistance program;

5. Urges the intensification of global health awareness to incentivize citizens in countries with low vaccination rates to increase vaccination rates and increase use of preventative measures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);

6. Strongly Urges that Member States provide aid for areas that are most vulnerable and susceptible to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), emphasizing distribution to areas of active or temporarily paused conflict, refugees and other displaced persons camps and recently stabilized areas.
Noting with appreciation the existence of 415 recognized Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their importance in building strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected areas,

Taking note of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that help with global collaboration between all member states,

Emphasizing the necessity of pursuing the establishment of strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected areas and fragile states by taking steps to prevent conflict before it begins, by moving to deescalate ongoing conflicts, and by committing to the rebuilding of fragile states post-conflict in both the short and long term,

Believing that working together with already established institutions would be more effective than establishing new institutions,

Encouraging the creation of infrastructure throughout conflict affected areas to help increase the economy as well as the ability for refugees to return home,

1. Encourages the implementation of the three tier structure which stipulates:
   (a) Acknowledges the importance of a preventative approach to conflict and state fragility, this body encourages the following:
      (i) Noting that 415 NGOs either report to or are administered by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA);

2. Recommends that fragile and conflict affected states engage both CEPA administered NGOs as well as local civil society organizations, encouraging citizen participation, government oversight and accountability efforts and strengthening government legitimacy and inclusivity;

3. Calls for collaboration taking place between such NGOs and other civil society organizations and national, regional and international governments and bodies;

4. Supports the completion of all 17 SDGs but emphasizes goals 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16;

5. Remains concerned by the lack of help and support during conflicts:
   (a) Suggests that more nations contribute support to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations;
   (b) Encourages that this support be allocated towards more extensive training in order to prevent the continuation of acts of violence on citizens;
   (c) Strongly encourages fragile and conflict-affected states to adhere to the guidance and advice offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regarding respecting the rules of war, protecting civilian populations, drafting major regional agreements, and crafting domestic legislation to further support established humanitarian law;
   (d) Urges countries to reconsider their process of admission of refugees;
   (e) Encourages nations to create policies that would allow for temporary residency for refugees;

6. Strongly discourages discrimination based on race, sex, religion or country of origin:
   (a) Urges the necessity of long term commitment to post-conflict resolution and rebuilding efforts to provide for sustainable peace and develop, this body encourages the following;
   (b) Endorses the increased production of plastic asphalt for the reconstruction of basic infrastructure destroyed during conflict;
   (c) Suggests cooperation between plastic-asphalt companies such as MacRebur alongside United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);
      (i) This could occur as an incentive program to foster collaboration of such companies;
      (ii) This would allow for expanded efforts to collect plastic trash from rivers and oceans as well as reallocating plastic trash from landfills to increase supplies for the manufacturing;
      (iii) Keeping hope that pollution will be reduced via incorporating trash, e-waste and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) waste into the asphalt manufacturing;
A. This would lead to more opportunities created due to the need for trash and waste collection;

(iv) Hospitals, medical institutions, and research laboratories could donate used PPE to contribute towards plastic asphalt production.

2.3 CEPA II/3

*Being guided by* the joint effort between the United Nations and the World Bank in 2017 which created the Humanitarian Development Peace Initiative,

*Emphasizing* the importance of state sovereignty,

*Recognizing* the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in conflict affected areas,

1. *Urges* states to renew the Humanitarian Development Peace Initiative;

2. *Strongly Urges* that Member States modify the previous initiative with respect to state sovereignty, shifting to a five year checking system, which looks only at the progress of the sustainable development goal self reported statistics which is being focused on;

3. *Additionally Calls* for Member States to commit to more foreign direct investment into conflict affected countries;

4. *Encourages* member states to continue working together to help conflict-affected areas and ensure SDG 16 is completed:

   (a) *Further Underlines* the importance of the “No Country left behind” initiative with the SDGs;

   (b) *Expresses its hope* for completion of the SDGs and ensuring member states achieve world col-

laboration.
3 Consideration of the status

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea began looking into an already existing initiative that has addressed the topic which is aiming to prevent conflict by promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The deliberating countries found the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative under the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), which seeks to jointly work together with the World Bank to promote sustainable development in countries affected by conflict, violence, and fragility. This initiative was passed in 2017 and worked successfully in several countries which include Somalia, Cameroon, and Yemen. These deliberating countries would seek to redress and expand this initiative to support our current topic.

Furthermore, this initiative focuses on country-related issues, and utilizes pre-existing regional corporations to accomplish this narrative. This ensures respect for state sovereignty and for the nations themselves to have significant influence over what specific sustainable development projects they need to prioritize, while using United Nations funds to improve and reach SDG’s in multiple countries in the developing world. While the original plans for the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative actually claimed to “closely track” the progress of nations that were receiving these funds, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea as funding nations believe that this interference is too invasive of a country's sovereignty; instead we request a five year cycling checking system of countries' self-reported statistics. This is to ensure that the funding countries are aware that their resources are going to where they should be allocated and also to refrain from imposing subjective cultural values as universal principles. In order to create a sustainable global society by completing these sustainable development goals, we must collectively strive to aid those in precarious social positions without violating their fundamental rights.

The delegations of Brazil, Russian Federation, and the Republic of Korea also discussed the benefits of attracting more foreign direct investment into conflict-affected countries to help rebuild the economy and foster greater stability. Conflicts reduce a state’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by an average of two percent per year, thus affecting communities that are less likely to have access to basic services. Increasing more foreign direct investment would stimulate economic growth and development, in turn providing post-conflict states with the financing needed for sustainable development and institution-building. Long-term stability depends on effective and inclusive institutions that can deliver public services to meet all citizens' needs, and these institutions need to be publicly financed. Greater foreign direct investment would fulfill this need, promoting a more sustainable sense of stability and ensuring a more responsive and effective government. Additionally, having more foreign direct investment would provide more employment opportunities for ex-combatants, displaced persons, and underprivileged communities, thus addressing unemployment and economic underdevelopment, another root causes of conflict.

Conflict within the Arab Region is an ongoing concern, especially when considering the fulfillment of the SDGs. According to the United Nations Regional Report, Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in Conflict-Affected Countries in the Arab Region, there are five key rationale for promoting sustainable development in conflicted regions. These are understanding the interconnectedness of the 2030 Agenda, addressing vulnerabilities and eliminating exclusions are a key to achieving the SDGs in conflict-afflicted countries, achieving SDGs should consider a universal, yet contextual approach, adopting a common vision to achieve collective outcomes, and overcoming data constraints is key to understanding SDG progress. By fully emphasizing what is necessary to each conflict-affected country as an individual entity, such as by emphasizing these five rationales, the international community has a deeper framework for taking more tangible steps towards upholding sustainable development.

The Russian Federation and China support the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA helps make sure nuclear grade weapons are properly watched and that no countries overpower others with certain weapons. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) prevents the spread of nuclear weapons and supports peaceful cooperation across ratifiers. Both the Russian Federation and China have ratified the treaty and are recognized as nuclear-weapon states. With this recognition these Member States know first hand how important it is to safeguard these nuclear weapons and ensure that other countries do not disrupt the peaceful cooperation of us nuclear-weapon states. Both the IAEA and the NPT exist to protect the peace between member states and ensure that any nuclear weapons will not be used for conflict.

The delegations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America discussed the importance of encouraging and implementing bottom-up initiatives and solutions when it comes to building strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected areas. We encourage this body to explore and support comprehensive initiatives regarding the engagement of civil society groups, emphasizing coordination and collaboration with national, regional and international actors. Such a multi-faceted approach would strengthen citizen participation, inclusive governance, constitutionality and legitimacy of local and national governments and encour-
The onset and continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected most aspects of life globally. However, the pandemic has affected conflict-afflicted nations at a disproportionate rate. In an effort to combat these devastating effects, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) recommends the cooperation of Member States to focus on assisting these affected nations who’s COVID-19 infrastructure may be inefficient due to their continued conflict. Member States such as Germany, Russian Federation, France, and the United Kingdom have all expressed willingness to cooperate in this endeavor. This would include promotion of increased funding toward the comprehensive vaccination and assistance program being implemented through The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). CEPA also recommends the exporting of surplus vaccine doses to regions with higher fatality rates, such as the Global South, in order to mitigate fatalities from the pandemic. Vaccines have proven highly effective in the prevention of serious illness and death as a result of infection. We also encourage individual Member States voluntary donations of vaccines and other preventative equipment through a dedicated program organized by the Economic and Social Council. These efforts will ensure that nations already in turmoil from conflict and other internal and external threats can mitigate these issues without the concern of mass exposure and ailment from the SARS-CoV2 virus.

The delegations of Brazil and Egypt discussed an environmentally friendly and inexpensive method of rebuilding basic infrastructure, such as roads and bridges through making plastic asphalt from old asphalt, plastic trash and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Plastic trash from landfills, rivers and oceans would be collected and reallocated towards the manufacturing of asphalt. Utilizing this ability to produce plastic asphalt would help Member States progress towards achieving multiple SDGs as it would minimize plastic in landfills and oceans and reduce carbon emissions by eliminating the need to haul or store asphalt aggregate for recycling. In addition, since PPE can only be used once, the ability to reuse PPE for asphalt construction would dramatically reduce medical waste. The PPE would also be disinfected in the process of making the asphalt, eliminating any concerns of contamination. A significant benefit from investing in building plastic asphalt is that longer-lasting asphalt roads and bridges will result.

The delegation of Egypt also suggested creating educational programs on this method of construction. An idea was to teach citizens and local governments how to build plastic asphalt roads and bridges. Another idea pitched involves collaborating with MacRebur, a British company that has been manufacturing plastic asphalt from plastic waste, specifically water bottles, soda bottles and single use plastic bags. Encouraging MacRebur to work together with the local citizens and government in rebuilding roads and bridges using plastic asphalt would create more employment opportunities for local citizens, displaced persons and underserved communities.

Throughout previous sessions, the body collectively established that there was a need for expansion on education as CEPA approaches it, and found that the general agreement was on an increase in education focused programs and a continuation of regional based workshops. This is because long term solutions do not tend to work when education, both of civilians and of the government themselves, are not considered. The delegations of Morocco, Egypt, and Kazakhstan then brought the African Union’s regional workshops and the success of them to the attention of the body as a model to work from. The delegations of Brazil, Morocco, Egypt, Jamaica, France and other Member States later discussed education as a necessity to expand upon during the writing of resolutions, and then found it necessary to create its own document in order to fully flesh out the body’s recommendations.

Taking into account previously removed clauses written by the delegation of Jamaica as well as concerns on guidance brought up by the delegations of Sierra Leone and Morocco, the delegations of Egypt and Brazil identified there to be three main educational concerns. The first being that multi-level education is necessary in order to fully address the complexities of education for sustainable and effective governance. Thus it was divided into national and regional levels with the focus on educating government officials, the civilian populace, and general cooperation of Member States to focus on assisting these affected nations who’s COVID-19 infrastructure may be inefficient due to their continued conflict. Member States such as Germany, Russian Federation, France, and the United Kingdom have all expressed willingness to cooperate in this endeavor. This would include promotion of increased funding toward the comprehensive vaccination and assistance program being implemented through The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). CEPA also recommends the exporting of surplus vaccine doses to regions with higher fatality rates, such as the Global South, in order to mitigate fatalities from the pandemic. Vaccines have proven highly effective in the prevention of serious illness and death as a result of infection. We also encourage individual Member States voluntary donations of vaccines and other preventative equipment through a dedicated program organized by the Economic and Social Council. These efforts will ensure that nations already in turmoil from conflict and other internal and external threats can mitigate these issues without the concern of mass exposure and ailment from the SARS-CoV2 virus.

The delegation of Egypt firmly believes that in order to successfully rebuild infrastructure, developing nations should have greater access to food resources that are currently inaccessible due to the use of patents. Crops that are genetically modified to be weather and disease resistant while providing lots of nutrition are necessary in
the wake of various food crises, and the international community should look towards removing unnecessary and predatory patents from larger corporations in order to increase access to necessary food resources that are especially critical in the aftermath of conflict.

The delegations of Brazil and Egypt also discussed how water scarcity has triggered conflict and brought up the idea of using certain types of plants to purify water. Doing so would allow more citizens in less developed countries or areas experiencing conflict and disaster to fulfill a basic necessity of life. Some plants have been seen to remove E. coli and other bacteria, as well as heavy metals, oil and other pollutants. The advantages of using plants to purify water comes from its inexpensiveness and ability to be regrown. It would be beneficial to establish an educational outreach program to teach citizens how they can purify water when needed. It was also discussed that water purifying technology that is already developed be given increased funding in order to allow for the increased accessibility of the technology.

The delegations of Germany, Egypt, Kazakhstan and Costa Rica discussed the importance of dealing with the issue of COVID-19 and vaccine distribution. These nations suggest that there be a temporary suspension on vaccine patents, this would decentralize vaccine production from large western corporations, as well as preventing price gouging. This will enable other nations to work on their own vaccine production and distribution. If it is clear that nations are incapable of vaccine production, the United Nations will manage vaccine distribution in that area. If these nations are clearly capable of vaccine production and distribution, funds and resources will be given to aid this process. Additionally, Egypt and Costa Rica discussed that while revocation of these patents would be the most preferable solution to their nations, it would encroach on the United States of America sovereignty, as it is their patent law, hence why several delegations came to the conclusion discussed above.

The delegations of Kazakhstan, Brazil, France and Germany discussed the importance of emphasizing preventative approaches and measures that may be taken to address the root causes of conflict before violence erupts. These include encouraging fragile and conflict affected states to pursue actions and initiatives concerning sustainable development, constitutional, legitimate and inclusive governance and collaboration between international, regional, nations and civil society actors. This approach should specifically engage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that report to CEPA as well as local civil society groups in order to directly engage citizens in fragile and conflict affected states, ensuring a bottom-up approach to conflict prevention that will consider citizen concerns, inequalities and underlying grievances. Additionally, the committee finds it necessary for Member States to commit to addressing such root causes of conflict in fragile and conflict affected areas in both the short term and the long term, to ensure that states do not fall prey to a vicious cycle of internal or external conflict.

The delegations of Brazil and Kazakhstan also discussed the importance of constructing physical infrastructure in rebuilding a state in the wake of conflict. The delegations discussed how reliance on the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in infrastructure building could help fund the use of MacRebur in this solution. The method of infrastructure Brazil raised was the use of plastic asphalts for road construction like those manufactured by MacRebur. The procedure would be slightly adjusted by utilizing plastics and trash overall. This adjustment is to help tackle the issue of waste, pollution, and the need for the reconstruction of basic physical infrastructure while holding a specific emphasis on dealing with PPE pollution that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the increased production of recycled asphalt would provide the opportunity to create jobs. This physical infrastructure method thus has the potential to reinvigorate a country’s economy in the recovery from conflict. The delegation of Kazakhstan noted that, when looking at creating resolutions, we should have an order of precedence that separates solutions from most pertinent to least pertinent. After further deliberation, the two delegations recognized that it would be better to categorize the resolutions into the three sections: pre-conflict, during conflict, and post conflict. Doing so would allow for pre-emptive measures as well as the infrastructure building discussed earlier.

The delegations of Brazil and China discussed the expansion of peacekeeper initiatives. China hopes to build upon these programs by increasing funding. The delegation of Brazil raised concerns about the safety of citizens in the presence of peacekeepers, explaining how there have been many instances of sexual violence at the hands of peacekeepers in the past. To alleviate this issue, China suggests allocating more funding specifically towards training, education and sexual violence prevention programs.

Costa Rica and Kazakhstan discussed the second tier of the three tier plan which was previously introduced by Kazakhstan which focuses on countries that are currently in conflict. The main points discussed incorporated humanitarian aid as well as discussing refugee relocation. The reason for the focus on refugee relocation is because the average waiting period for refugees reaches multiple years and we thought that this was way too long for people in dangerous situations. The amount of refugees and the fact that the number keeps growing reiterates
the committee’s stance considering the advancements of each Member State and the amount of innovation we are at. The delegations agreed to reconsider each Member States’ process of admission of refugees.

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While on the topic of humanitarian aid, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan and China agreed to recommend and work with Peacekeepers to strengthen their accountability and transparency. Since there has been many reports of sexual violence committed by peacekeepers, these delegations suggested that funding be allocated towards training of these peacekeepers in order to prevent further acts of violence.

The delegations of Egypt, Ecuador, Germany and Brazil found that there had not been an attempt to address the COVID-19 pandemic in conflict affected countries, and so resolved that problem with a resolution. Many countries are already experiencing drastic social and economic blockades from ineffective governance and continued conflict from inside and outside threats, and the presence of the SARS CoV-2 virus has only exacerbated these already critical conditions. Egypt, Ecuador, Brazil and Germany recognize the threat that COVID-19 presents to countries both recovering from and actively engaged in conflict, and hope to relieve some of this pressure through the approval of this resolution. This includes the encouragement of Member States to increase their participation in and funding of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) vaccination program, a general discouragement of the stockpiling of vaccination doses, a call for reaffirmation to COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations and a suspension of patents for the Pfizer, Moderna and Astrazeneca brands of vaccines. For the reasons stated above, we have drafted this resolution.

The delegations of Kazakhstan and Brazil discussed how the resolution should be divided into three categories: pre-conflict, during conflict, and post-conflict. The reason behind this need for structure is that both delegations believe that solutions to conflict prevention are the most important to avoid the eruption of conflict and the consequences that result in the first place. By structuring the resolution in this way, the solutions are organized from the most pertinent to the least pertinent. Furthermore, the delegates wanted to ensure that there was a holistic approach to the issue. The two delegations argued about which solutions should be put at the forefront of this initiative and after some discussion decided that infrastructure would be considered a secondary need as well as a pre-emptive way to mitigate and handle development in the wake of conflict.

The resolution first began with solutions that aim to encourage fragile and conflict-prone states towards becoming more transparent, accountable, and effective in governance. Importance was also placed on these states to simultaneously work towards achieving the 17 SDGs. Regarding the need to increase aid during conflicts, the Member States sought to enhance the support that the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations provide to the civilians. As a result, the solutions laid out to meet this goal is to increase funding support for the operations and establish education and training programs to avoid violence committed by peacekeepers against citizens. In discussion with other delegates, Brazil was able to identify that there was a need for containment of COVID-19 produced plastic waste. This inspired them to incorporate trash collection for the plastic road initiative to not only strengthen the asphalt and reduce environmental pollution and degradation but to also find a creative solution to the issue of excess PPE waste and the disinfection of used masks.
4 Adoption of the Report of the Commission

At its meeting on 22 November 2022, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments was adopted by consensus.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions