Chair’s Summary

High-Level Ministerial Breakfast
“The Future of the U.N. Peace & Security Architecture:
A Continuum of Response through Different Stages of Conflict”

Organized by
The Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) and
the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations
11 May 2016

Introduction

1. The most recently concluded United Nations (UN) reviews of peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding architecture and women, peace and security all pointed to the imperative for a continuum in the nature and scope of the Organization’s response to the multidimensional and complex peace and security challenges of our times.

2. Against this backdrop and in view of the imminent selection of the next UN Secretary-General, the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) and the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations co-organized a Ministerial-level breakfast aimed at exchanging views and generating ideas on how strategically and practically such continuum can materialize.

3. Organized as a side event of the General Assembly’s High-Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security (10-11 May 2016), the event brought together the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General, a number of Ministers, Vice Ministers, members of the UN review panels, senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat and several candidates for the Secretary-General position (see Annex).

Key messages
4. In his opening remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Mr. Sameh Shoukry, noted that the multidimensional and emerging challenges to international peace and security necessitate a more robust, coherent and comprehensive UN approach throughout the various stages of UN engagement with countries affected by or
emerging from violent conflict. The UN operated siloed approach, inherent in its operational pillars of security, human rights and development, results in fragmentation, diminished efficiency and reduced effectiveness of the UN peace and security architecture, at a time when the Organization needed to respond to multi-faceted security challenges. Mr. Shoukry emphasized, therefore, the imperative for the next Secretary-General to initiate, early on in her/his term, practical and serious reforms aimed at breaking these silos and impart greater coherence and integration of efforts within the UN system.

5. In the ensuing interaction, participants reflected on the following issues, namely:

   The Changing Landscape Arising from New Forms of Conflict

6. The multifaceted challenges threatening peace and security cut across political, developmental, social and human rights aspects, and thus require a holistic approach and a variety of tools tailored to the specific context and needs. From the spread of terrorism to environmental challenges, and from massive displacement to illicit trafficking in humans, narcotics and arms, the existing collective security system is under increasing pressure. In this regard, several participants referred to the Sustainable Development Goals as a paradigm shift in the global mindset to tackle the multidimensional challenges facing humanity.

   The Continuum of UN Engagement to Ensure Sustainable Peace

7. The three major reviews recognized the changing landscape and pointed to a new strategic direction for the UN. An overarching political framework to guide operational mandates and activities must underpin this direction. In this connection, a continuum of engagement would necessitate a change in the existing mindset of the UN bureaucracy, which fuels fragmentation and sequential engagement.

8. Experience showed that a significant part of UN engagement is driven by sources of mandates and funding, rather than by practical needs and nationally-owned priorities. In contrast, the UN must stay the course beyond the life cycle of Security Council mandated missions. The contribution of the UN Development system (UN Country Teams) to this overarching political framework will ensure continuity and sustainability of the UN engagement, yet through tailored and context-specific tools. To this end, predictability of funding would reinforce long-term planning and sustained engagement.
The UN Must Be “Fit for Purpose” throughout the Various Stages of Conflict

9. A more efficient UN response to early signs of violent conflict is one that should be characterized by greater focus on enabling national and regional actors to take ownership of political and security arrangements. In this context, decision-making must shift from the UN Headquarters to the field.

10. Mandate design and implementation need to be guided by a people-centered prioritization process. Throughout the various stages of conflict response, the UN must deploy the tools that are most conducive to preventing and resolving conflict and addressing its root causes.

The Imperative for Viable and Strengthened Partnerships with Regional Organizations and International Financial Institutions

11. The continuum of UN response must draw upon a strategic partnership with regional organizations and international financial institutions. In particular, there is a need for a “New Deal” for peacekeeping operations in Africa, where the African Union and sub-regional organizations should take the lead.

12. At the same time, participants recognized that while the African Union has proven its readiness to respond, it is still hampered by capacity and financial challenges, that must be addressed through innovative means and solutions.

13. With respect to the broader preventive approach recommended by the three major reviews, the UN should also draw upon a strategic partnership with the African Union with a view to ensuring long-term regional ownership of political processes and solutions.

The Level of Political Commitment Required to Take Forward the Recommendations Emanating from the Three UN Reviews

14. In light of the pivotal role of leadership to change and transform mindsets, structures and operational culture within the UN system, the next Secretary-General is expected to catalyze a critical mass of support among member states to move forward the necessary reforms. This is a task requiring persistence, courage and clarity of vision in order to gain trust both within the UN system and among the wider membership of the Organization.

15. A sufficient level of trust would enable the next Secretary-General to deploy his/her good offices and advance preventive diplomacy when needed. If these good offices
prove successful, the Organization might as well witness a gradual shift from peacekeeping operations (as a tool to help manage and contain conflict) to pacific settlement of disputes (as a tool for conflict resolution).
List of Participants

High-Level Ministerial Breakfast

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>H.E. Ms. Susana Malcorra</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Amendola</td>
<td>Deputy MFA</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama</td>
<td>Deputy MFA</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Reezal Merican bin Naina Merican</td>
<td>Deputy MFA</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Albert Koenders</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Murray McCully</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye</td>
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<td>Somalia</td>
<td>H.E. Abdusalam Omer</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Ignacio Ybanez</td>
<td>Vice MFA</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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UN Officials
Mr. Mogens Lykketoft President of the UN General Assembly.
Mr. Jan Eliasson Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.
Mr. Jeffrey Feltman UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.
Mr. Hervé Ladsous UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Candidates to the Post of SG
Ms. Vesna Pusic Croatia Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Ms. Natalia Gherman Moldova First DPM and MFA
Ms. Helen Clark New Zealand ED of UNDP/Former PM
Mr. Vuc Jeremic Serbia Former PGA
Dr. Danilo Turk Slovenia Former President

Speakers/ Modulators
Mr. Ian Martin Member of the UN’s High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, also Executive Director of Security Council Report.
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Gert Rosenthal</td>
<td>Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.</td>
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<td>Mr. Alain le Roy</td>
<td>Secretary General of the European External Action Service.</td>
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