

**Security Council debate on**

**“Security, Development and the Root Causes of Conflict”**

**Statement**

**by H.E. David Donoghue**

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***[Check against delivery]***

I would like to thank the UK for organising today's timely debate on this important subject. I would like also to express my country's deepest condolences to the French Government and people following last Friday's atrocities in Paris. Our sympathies go also to the Government and people of Lebanon over their own recent suffering at the hands of terrorists.

Last week's terrible events were assaults on fundamental human freedoms and values. They must be condemned unreservedly. They reinforce our determination to eradicate the scourge of terrorism from our societies. Central to this, of course, is the need to remove environments of grievance and inequality within which terrorists can flourish. We have to go to the roots of conflict situations and tackle problems of inequality and disadvantage which all too frequently underlie them. There is clear evidence to show the deep interconnections between underdevelopment, fragility and conflict. In many parts of the world there is a vicious cycle linking these which must be broken. Only in this way can we hope to build peaceful and inclusive societies which protect human rights, provide a stable and prosperous environment and allow all human beings to reach their full potential.

As our Heads of State and Government recognised less than two months ago, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Both of these conditions are predicated on the promotion and protection of human rights, without discrimination.

The agreement adopted in September is often given the shorthand "the 2030 Agenda". But it is important to remind ourselves of its full title: "Transforming our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Agenda is

about nothing less than transformation: transforming the conditions in which we all live, transforming the future we offer our children. The challenges we face globally are huge and urgent, and we must all work collectively to overcome them.

Madam President,

One in four people in the world today lives in an area which suffers from repeated cycles of violence. People living in such areas are more than twice as likely to be under-nourished as those in other developing countries; more than three times as likely to miss school; and twice as likely to see their children die before age five. And the cycle continues, piling insecurity on top of poverty, fuelling further insecurity and in many cases conflict.

A specific Goal in the 2030 Agenda recognises this fact of life – and, indeed, of death. It recognises that the reduction of violence, insecurity and fragility is a legitimate objective of development policy and is essential for sustainable long-term growth, stability and poverty reduction.

The 2030 Agenda, which world leaders endorsed in September of this year, has enshrined this objective within Goal 16 and its accompanying targets. This is the most formal expression to date of a connection which has in fact been made for a number of years now. The 2011 New Deal for Engagement in Fragile and Conflict Affected States and this year's Reviews of the UN's Peace Operations and Peacebuilding Architecture all point to a need for a rebalancing of programming efforts and resources in support of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The 2030 Agenda makes clear that we must use all the tools at our disposal to ensure that we do not pursue sustainable development without addressing the root causes of conflict. It also makes clear, for example, that we cannot address inequality without addressing human rights; and that we cannot pursue economic growth without recognising the impact which this has on the environment and stability. We are embarking on an integrated and holistic approach to these great global challenges which we believe is the one which offers the greatest prospect of success. This is the challenge, and the opportunity, of sustainable development.

All member States of the UN have committed themselves to this integrated approach. It follows that the UN and each of its organs should reflect this integration and the interconnectedness of all the Goals and targets. We must all come out of our silos. This Council has, of course, particular responsibilities under the Charter. But it must also play its role in ensuring that progress is made on the interconnected and interdependent priorities of peace and development. The Council must recognise the central importance for the achievement of both peace and development of ensuring inclusive institutions, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and access to justice.

The inclusion of a dedicated goal on peaceful and inclusive societies in the 2030 Agenda is a platform for the promotion and protection of human rights for all. The targets on access to justice, on human trafficking, on violence and on illicit financial flows speak to some of the major injustices in our societies and impediments to development. Targets on effective, accountable and inclusive institutions on fundamental freedoms, on access to information, on birth registration and on participatory decision-making speak to some crucial

aspects of civil and political rights and embrace some of the most crucial elements needed for the effective and fair implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The reduction of violence and fragility and the other objectives set out in Goal 16 and its targets are, in short, essential tools in promoting sustainable long-term growth, stability and poverty reduction.

Madam President,

Ireland trusts that, with the Agenda now agreed as the basis for our work over the next fifteen years, a major effort will be made to ensure coherence and unity across the UN system -- and beyond -- in tackling issues relating to security, development and the root causes of conflict. We need responses which will promote early interventions to prevent conflict; which will promote the primacy of politics in resolving disputes; which will ensure the full involvement of women in peacebuilding; and which will lead to concerted global action to ensure sustainable development for all.

Goal 16 is as important as all other aspects of the Agenda in achieving this outcome. I can assure you of Ireland's absolute commitment to the priorities described in Goal 16 and to working in every way possible for the full implementation of this Agenda.

Thank you.

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