

26 Organizations Urge Ambassador Haley to Support Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

February 27, 2017

Ambassador Nikki Haley

Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

United States Mission to the United Nations

799 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Haley:

As members of the Prevention and Protection Working Group – a coalition of organizations dedicated to improving U.S. Government policies to prevent violent conflict, avert mass atrocities, and protect civilians – we write to urge your support for the United Nations' critical work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. These types of activities support a more secure, stable and peaceful global environment; promote essential U.S. foreign policy and national security interests; help avert more costly types of unilateral intervention; and advance deeply-held American values and moral leadership.

The UN's work on conflict and atrocities prevention and response takes a variety of forms and advances U.S. interests in different ways. For example:

- **UN Department of Political Affairs** supports diplomacy, mediation, and political analysis to help prevent and resolve violent conflict. Their focus on prevention and diplomatic solutions is much cheaper and more effective at securing long-term peace than armed intervention. The Secretary-General's Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect acts as a catalyst to raise awareness about genocide and mass atrocities, to alert relevant actors and to mobilize for appropriate action.
- **UN Peacebuilding Support Office** is working to advance the Secretary-General's emphasis on greater integration of conflict prevention into the work and goals of every department and agency by coordinating the development of a report on "Sustaining Peace" that is due later this year. The Peacebuilding Support Fund, managed by the PBSO, has assisted over 30 conflict-affected countries to avoid relapse into violent conflict, including by ensuring there is sufficient support to jumpstart reconciliation and development.
- **UN Peacekeeping Operations** play a vital role in protecting civilians from harm, preventing the resurgence of conflict, reducing displacement, restoring and maintaining the rule of law, and fostering stable governing institutions and free and fair elections. The stabilization activities undertaken by UN peacekeeping missions reduce the security burden on the U.S. and are overall eight times cheaper than U.S. armed intervention, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office [1].

The UN is at an important inflection point. Devastating conflicts in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and Yemen, among other countries, have spawned humanitarian disasters, soaring levels of forced displacement, and placed immense stress on the ability of the international community to respond. In light of these and other challenges, it is vital that the U.S. continues to support reforms that will make the UN more effective, nimble, and efficient. . .

The full letter can be found [here](#).