

State of Qatar: Submission of Proposals for the New Agenda for Peace

The State of Qatar supports the *Our Common Agenda* report, in which the Secretary-General of the United Nations sets out a 'new agenda for peace' with global solidarity and cooperation at its heart. The State of Qatar supports the secretary-general's call for "a new effort to agree on more collective security responses and a meaningful set of steps to manage emerging risks." We support the need for strengthening international and regional conflict prevention capacities to identify and adapt to new risks, reshaping responses to all forms of violence, and investing in peacebuilding.

Overall, such an agenda should include measures to reduce strategic risks from nuclear arms, cyberwarfare, and lethal autonomous weapons; strengthen foresight of future risks; and reshape responses to all forms of violence, including those by terrorist and criminal groups. It should heavily invest in conflict prevention and peacebuilding by addressing the root causes of conflict, giving more support to regional initiatives that can fill important gaps, placing women, girls, and youth at the center of security policy, reducing and better managing existential risks, strengthening our collective security mechanisms, and developing new international rules and tools to deal with new types of conflict.

Proposals

Prevention, Mediation, Preventive Diplomacy

- As a foundation for peace and security, the New Agenda must uphold human rights as well as core tenets of international law and the UN Charter, such as respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence, and the prohibition of the threat or use of force. Conflicts must always be resolved peacefully and via diplomacy and mediation.
- As articulated in *Our Common Agenda*, the New Agenda for Peace should be focused on a reinvigorated focus on prevention, understanding key risks, and addressing the roots of state fragility in their economic, environmental, political, security, and societal dimensions.
- Also with regard to prevention, the New Agenda for Peace should articulate a strong investment in preventive diplomacy, mediation, and respect for international law.
- Include a strong commitment to boosting regional mechanisms and approaches for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding, including strengthening the mediation capacities of regional organizations, which, if sufficiently equipped, could play a vital role. Intensified collaboration, assistance, information exchange, and capacity building should be included in this.
- Focus on how important it is to invest in justice and accountability for past atrocities as a way to help stop conflict and atrocities from happening again.
- Support the call in the UN75 Declaration for the Secretary-General to make full use of his diplomatic toolbox, including the unmatched legitimacy of his 'good offices'.
- There is a need to strengthen strategic foresight and capacities to identify and manage new risks, with a massive investment in prevention and peacebuilding. Also efforts to improve strategic foresight would be helped by looking at situations through the lens of preventing atrocities.
- It is also crucial to make better use of the current human rights structures, which must be sustainably funded. We should also better utilize the efforts by Geneva-based Special

Procedures, mandate holders, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Human Rights Commission.

Arms Control and Disarmament

- The New Agenda for Peace should include an ambitious statement of support for the UN's role in arms control and disarmament, including a recommitment to not using nuclear weapons and a timetable for their gradual elimination.
- It should also include the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which is not only an essential element in achieving peace and security in the Middle East region but also peace and security at the international level. It is crucial that all countries participate in the efforts and negotiations towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in order to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at the regional and international levels.

Changing Nature of Conflict

The New Agenda for Peace ought to address the changing nature of conflict. In this regard, it should set out a clear accounting of both "traditional" strategic risks (especially the threats associated with nuclear weapons) and a broader category of risks—many of which disproportionately threaten many countries and people in the Global South—including the effects of climate change, inequalities, and severe economic disruption.

- Cybersecurity: It should include new steps to lower the risks related to cyberspace, including intensified cooperation on cybersecurity. The international community has witnessed a growing phenomenon of cyber threats, especially against the vital infrastructure of states, including criminal breaches of communication systems and Internet services, which may cause armed conflicts or destabilize international peace and security. There is no doubt that cybersecurity has become an essential pillar for achieving international peace and security in light of the increasing and widespread use of modern technology in all aspects of life.
- ICTs: Recognize new threats emanating from the misuse of ICTs and emphasize the importance of public-private partnerships, especially between member states and global social media service providers.
- Terrorism: The New Agenda for Peace should also include improved cooperation to stop and fight terrorism. In this regard, it is important that all terrorist groups be included without distinction, including new and emerging terrorism from far-right terrorist and supremacist groups all over the world. It is also necessary to acknowledge the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families. The agenda should emphasize the danger to international peace and security posed by the movement and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters to other conflict areas and the need for member states to play a more active role in facilitating their return, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration. This includes the development of relevant strategies and strengthening international cooperation, bearing in mind that there can be no one-size-fits-all approach.
- Climate Change: Special emphasis on the security implications of climate change. The New Agenda is an opportunity for the secretary-general to lay out how the UN system can

respond to the overall demand for more information and action on this threat and to consider the linkages between climate action and the opportunity to build peace. There is also a need to break down work silos in climate change, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding, including integrating policy approaches and programming.

- Need to look at

Women and Youth Peace and Security Agenda

- The New Agenda for Peace should reinforce the commitment to place women and girls at the center of security policy and ensure that prevention takes into account populations' unique vulnerabilities based on gender as well as the unique role that women and girls can play as agents of change in conflict prevention, promoting peace, and peacebuilding mechanisms. It is critical to ensure accountability for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.
- The new Agenda must also reinforce the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Reform of the UN

- It must include a reform of the UN's collective security architecture, which includes Security Council reform for strengthened collective security; supporting and reinforcing the Peacebuilding Commission to better conform to the goals and principles of the New Agenda for Peace.
- It should also include a holistic approach within the UN to risk factors and greater cross-departmental collaboration.
- Reinforce the linkages between the UN's three pillars.