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Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

Panel Discussion

with

H. E. Ms Elizabeth Mary Spehar

Assistant Secretary General for Peace Building Support,
Department of Political and Peace Building Affairs, United Nations

on

Peace and Development

3.00-4.00 PM | 6 October 2022

Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre

CONCEPT NOTE

The United Nations Secretary-General has welcomed the remarkable progress of India in equitable and sustainable development over the last 75 years, lifting over 270 million people out of extreme poverty. India has also been a leader in South-South and triangular cooperation, working in global-solidarity to resolve common challenges and advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through initiatives such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and as a founding partner of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to promote democratic governance.

The Secretary-General has underscored the linkages between peace and development. Inclusive and sustainable development is not only an end in itself but is also the best defence against the risks of violent conflict. The 2030 Agenda contains the promise to leave no one behind in the quest to build such societies. The landmark 2016 twin resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council on peacebuilding and sustainable peace (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282) similarly recognize that there is no peace without development, and no development without peace.

Southern countries, including LDCs and SIDS, have been some of the most affected, simultaneously at the front-lines of conflict, poverty, economic downturns and unsustainable debt, climate extremes and natural disasters. Out of the 84 million people forcibly displaced in 2021 due to conflict, violence and human rights violations, 86 per cent lived in developing countries. The Secretary-General has warned that we are facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, directly affecting one quarter of the humanity living today in conflict-affected areas and causing skyrocketing food, fuel and fertilizer prices, among other things, with devastating repercussions for developing countries.

The compounded and adverse socio-economic and political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the significance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) for achieving national, regional and global priorities. For example, in the deliberations and outcome documents of the Peacebuilding Commission there has been a request to enhance support for SSTC as a partnership modality for exchanges of lessons learned, good practices and innovative solutions to address recurring instability and strengthen local, national, and regional capacities to better withstand, adapt, and recover from stresses and shocks.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, H. E. Ms Elizabeth Mary Spehar, will join this Panel Discussion on the critical linkages between peace and development, and explore the potential for South-South and triangular cooperation on the subject.

The Panel Discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What are the linkages between peace and development and why is this nexus considered critical to confronting today's global challenges?
- What is the further potential for South-South and triangular cooperation in support of peace and development?