

# Quarterly Progress Update on the Multi-Year Appeal

1 April to 30 June 2018

Department of Political Affairs (DPA)



United Nations  
Department of Political Affairs  
DIPLOMACY. PREVENTION. ACTION

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) continued to work on its six priority areas outlined in the 2018-2019 Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) for funding: conflict prevention, crisis response, investing in peace, expanding partnerships, strengthening United Nations system-wide collaboration, and ensuring organizational effectiveness. These priorities are in line with the objectives set out in the DPA's Strategic Plan for 2016-2019. Below are a few highlights of our achievements.

## Conflict prevention

On 17 June 2018, **Greece** and the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** signed an Agreement leading to a mutually acceptable solution to the "name" issue. The United Nations has been assisting the two sides in the search for a solution since 1993. Under the leadership of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Matthew Nimetz since 1999, the talks and mediation efforts intensified at a remarkable pace in 2018. Thanks to extra-budgetary funding, DPA was able to quickly respond to the increased demands and organized several meetings between the parties in New York, Vienna and Brussels, where the Department maintains its liaison presences, as well as other locations.

The continued crisis in the **Sahel** and its adverse global effects have resulted in a proliferation of initiatives dedicated to the Sahel whose coordination remains challenging. The Ministerial Coordination Platform of Sahel Strategies continues to be a unique political-diplomatic framework to ensure the coordination and coherence of action between Sahel countries, regional and international partners. Thanks to extra-budgetary funding, the **United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel** (UNOWAS) has continued to provide technical advice to the Chadian Presidency of the Platform with the establishment of a dedicated cell to support their coordination role. In particular, the cell facilitated the coordination of the Ministerial Coordination Platform meeting held on 15 March in N'Djamena under the leadership of the Chadian Minister of Foreign Affairs. This meeting enabled consultations with international partners on the best

ways to strengthen cooperation in the region, as well as to advocate for the ownership of Sahel countries of the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel.

The lack of a regional strategy to support women's increasing role in peacemaking and conflict prevention in **Central Africa** had been identified by the United Nations, Government and civil society experts as a key gap to solidify women's participation in promoting peace, stability and equality. As a result, and thanks to extra-budgetary funding, the **United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa** (UNOCA) recruited an international expert on Women, Peace and Security to develop a Regional Action Plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Central Africa. Building on lessons learned from similar processes in West Africa and Southern Africa, the process involved field assessments, consultations in eight out of the eleven countries of the region, and a validation workshop organized by UNOCA and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. The participants validated the document, pending some amendments that will be incorporated in the final version. Looking ahead, extra-budgetary funding will continue to support UNOCAS efforts to raise awareness on the need to support women peacebuilders and mobilize the funds necessary to the implementation of SCR 1325 in the region.

The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for **Western Sahara**, Mr. Horst Koehler, has been actively working to reinvigorate efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in Western Sahara. Building on the outcome of his visit to the region in 2017, the Personal Envoy undertook

an additional visit to the region to meet with the parties (Morocco and Polisario) and the neighboring States (Algeria and Mauritania) in June 2018. He also held a successful round of bilateral consultations in Berlin and Lisbon, as well as meetings with regional organizations and members of the Group of Friends. Extra-budgetary funds were crucial to support the good offices of the Personal Envoy, including visits to the region. He will continue to rely on extra-budgetary funding to help find a mutually acceptable political solution to the conflict.

Finally, extra-budgetary resources continued to support the Department's efforts to build a base of evidence and knowledge on conflict prevention. In particular, it enabled the development, printing and distribution of DPA's publication "**United Nations Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy in Action**" (<https://www.un.org/undpa/en/resources>). The publication, prepared in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), includes six case studies describing a diverse set of scenarios in which conflict prevention tools have been successfully deployed to forestall the outbreak of conflicts and sustain peace. It has been very well received by Member States and a second iteration is now being planned.

## Crisis response and resolution

In **Yemen**, the Office of the Special Envoy, under the leadership of Mr. Martin Griffiths, has been working with all parties to the conflict, as well as a wide range of Yemeni and international partners, to reach a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Getting the parties to commit to a peace agreement will involve a series of inclusive political consultations that count on the active and meaningful participation of women. Against this background, extra-budgetary funding has enabled the establishment of a Gender, Women, Peace and Security Unit in the Office of the Special Envoy to deliver specifically targeted programming for Yemeni women, and support their engagement in the peace process. The Office of the Special Envoy has facilitated briefing and information exchange sessions with Yemeni civil society and Yemeni women living in the diaspora, and developed a strategy that will govern the

selection of women advisers to the Special Envoy during the negotiations. The Special Envoy intends to form a committee of eleven members according to established criteria, technical expertise and geographical balance: five members will be selected by the Special Envoy and six members by the Yemeni Women's Pact, an organization from across the political spectrum that seeks to represent the views of women in the peace talks.

During the second quarter of 2018, the UN Special Envoy for **Syria**, Mr. Staffan de Mistura intensified his diplomatic efforts towards the establishment of a constitutional committee in Geneva under United Nations auspices consistent with resolution 2254 (2015). He held discussions in Geneva with the Astana guarantors (Iran, Russia and Turkey) on 18-19 June, and with the Small Group (France, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UK and the US) on 25 June, with a view to developing common ground among them on carrying forward the political process. Extra-budgetary resources were critical in supporting the consultations that took place in Geneva and deploying expertise, including constitutional, electoral, and ceasefire expertise, during the Special Envoy's diplomatic engagements. Throughout, the Office of the Special Envoy also continued its engagement with the Women's Advisory Board and the Civil Society Support Room. Extra-budgetary funding was also used in advancing the UN's work on the post-agreement planning as per the Secretary-General's Directive of 31 May 2017. Additionally, extra-budgetary funds continued to allow DPA's Syria Team to dedicate sufficient resources to further the implementation of the UN framework on "parameters and principles for UN assistance in Syria" (P&P) adopted in October 2017. Following the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation, especially in Eastern Ghouta and southwestern Syria, the Office of the Special Envoy intensified its role in hosting the International Syria Support Group's task forces on ceasefire and humanitarian access. The United Nations' intensive high-level diplomatic outreach helped to proactively ascertain options for a meaningful relaunch of the UN-facilitated political process.

The **Rapid Response and the Standby-Team of Senior Mediation Advisers** continued to be an essential part of DPA's Crisis Response System to enable the Department to respond quickly and with tailored approaches to demands stemming from a broad range of partners.



Since January 2018, the Standby Team has been engaged in over 80 operational engagements. For example, a Standby Team member was deployed to assist the Special Envoy of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) for South Sudan in the preparations and planning of consecutive rounds of the High-Level Revitalization Forum which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before moving on to Khartoum, Sudan. The Adviser assisted with process design advice, drafting the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and facilitating the Parties' preparation of an implementation Matrix.

DPA's Mediation Support Unit continues to serve as the Secretariat of the **Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Board on Mediation**. In the course of the second quarter, several Board members were deployed to support United Nations and regional partners processes. For example, Ms. Heyzer participated in a regional workshop on Enhancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Northeast Asia in late May, in Beijing. In addition, the Board held its second meeting in Helsinki on 18 June, co-hosted by the Governments of Finland and Indonesia. The meeting focused on "frontier issues" such as the use of new technologies in mediation. In addition, Board members discussed the current situation in Mali and the Rakhine crisis affecting Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Secretary-General tasked DPA with the development of a "digital toolbox for mediation" to be used in mediation initiatives. Extra-budgetary resources will continue to be essential for DPA to explore innovative approaches to mediation.

## Investing in peace

During the second quarter of 2018, the United Nations Assistance Mission for **Iraq** (UNAMI) undertook a series of innovative activities to advance the empowerment of women and promote their participation in the political life of Iraq. In the run-up to the 12 May parliamentary elections, UNAMI launched the #WhyNot (#Shakobeha) campaign, in consultation with tribal and religious leaders, provincial councils, youth leaders and civil society, to support women candidates and counter vicious negative social media campaigns at that time. This ongoing social media campaign funded with extra-budgetary resources, targeted specific segments of the society and their

constituents, and involved several national and local media outlets. Furthermore, three films, two documentaries and two animations were launched in support of the campaign, featuring prominent women leaders, ministers, and male champions calling for women's representation in government formation negotiations and presence at senior level in the new government to be formed after the elections. Following the government formation, the #WhyNot campaign will turn its focus to sustainable, longer-term political and electoral legislative reforms to promote women's equal access to executive roles in key areas such as judiciary, independent institutions and commissions, national reconciliation, security sector reform, and socio-economic development.

The implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement is supported by DPA including supporting dialogue between the Governments of **Papua New Guinea and Bougainville** as well as other stakeholders. Thanks to extra-budgetary funding, DPA has provided technical support to both governments on peacebuilding initiatives, ranging from dialogue, community peacebuilding to weapons disposal. DPA's liaison officer facilitated critical meetings in preparation for the Joint Supervisory Body, meeting between the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and the President of Bougainville held in June 2018. The Joint Supervisory Body is the body that oversees the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement including the preparations for the referendum on the political future of Bougainville and taking steps to establish and operationalize the Bougainville Referendum Commission. In addition, climate change in the Pacific region represents an imminent security and existential issue that requires regional cooperation and attention. DPA engaged an expert to develop a short study on the nexus between climate change and security. The results of the study will provide strong evidence to support the development of policy options in the context of the Pacific Island Forum's development of a new regional security framework "Biketawa Plus".

In **Colombia**, the UN Verification Mission continues to support the parties in enhancing their peace implementation efforts, including through facilitating exchanges between government institutions at national and local levels, former combatants, civil society and women's

groups. Given the growing role played by regional and local authorities in supporting socio-economic reintegration opportunities offered to former FARC-EP members, these exchanges proved useful in generating best practices, lessons learned and innovative approaches to the peacebuilding challenges facing the country. Thanks to extra-budgetary funding, the Verification Mission organized a Forum of Governors in June, with the participation of the Minister of the Interior, the High Commissioner for Peace, the private sector and 13 governors' offices. The Forum highlighted the need for local leadership, visible peace dividends, private sector engagement and reconciliation in the effective implementation of reintegration processes. The Forum also strengthened links between regional and national authorities to mobilize and align resources. The Verification Mission will continue to support the local leadership and seek visible peace dividends, private sector engagement and reconciliation.

Finally, extra-budgetary resources continued to support DPA's **electoral assistance** work. In particular, the Electoral Assistance Division conducted 13 electoral missions to provide technical electoral support and advice to electoral processes in various countries. For example, at the request of the Republic of Armenia, DPA deployed a needs assessment mission from 25 June to 3 July assessing the electoral and political environment in the country ahead of early parliamentary elections the Government plans to organize by May 2019. The expert team met with national and international electoral stakeholders including the government, parliament, political parties, international community, civil society representatives and electoral authorities. The mission concluded with the preparation of a report outlining recommendations to ensure an effective United Nations response to the Armenian Government's request for electoral support.

## Deepening partnerships with Member States and regional organizations

On 12-13 June 2018, the **Secretary-General held a high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations** at the Greentree Estate in New York. DPA took a leading role in the coordination of the event

that gathered 19 organizations from around the world. The high-level forum provided a unique forum for a frank and productive exchange of views around pressing matters of international peace and security. The meeting was very well received by all participants and ended with a strong commitment to reinforce multilateral cooperation and an agreement to hold this interactive dialogue on a biennial basis. Given the high-profile of the event, extra-budgetary funding provided additional capacity to manage the expansive planning, administrative and logistical arrangements needed for the meeting, including transportation, accommodation, interpretation and regular liaison with participants, security and protocol.

Extra-budgetary funding also helped advance the partnership with the **African Union (AU)** in the areas of peace and security through the provision of critical support by DPA on conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy, including support in the implementation of the African Union master roadmap of practical steps to Silence the Guns by 2020 Initiative. DPA in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) also supports the implementation of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April 2017 by the Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson. DPA, as Chair of the Peace and Security Working Group, is working with the Chair of the Development Working Group for the implementation of Action plan on the AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also signed by both leaders in January 2018. Participation in two AU Summits and regular consultations with AU counterparts allowed the Department to follow policy discussions, develop shared understanding on issues of common interest and maintain contacts with key stakeholders of the partnership.

The **United Nations Office for Peace and Security** based in Brussels represents DPA, DPKO and DFS in all matters related to peace and security under the remit of these three Departments. Supported with extra-budgetary funding, the office continues to play a critical role in deepening the cooperation with the European Union (EU) and in providing support to high-level United Nations' engagements, such as USG DiCarlo's recent

participation in the Somalia Partnership Forum held in Brussels in July. This forum, organized by the EU and Sweden with the Government of Somalia, underlined the importance of continued political progress and support to AMISOM throughout the transition. In addition, the office supported the completion of the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management for 2019-2021 in collaboration with DPKO and DFS in July. The joint UN-EU priorities focus on Women, Peace and Security, as well as conflict prevention, in addition to traditional areas of cooperation such as Security Sector Reform and mobilizing member state capabilities.

## Strengthening partnerships with the UN system and beyond

Over the past three years, DPA in partnership with **UNDP**, has been supporting opportunities for direct contact between the South Caucasus region's civil society through roundtable meetings focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Development Agenda in the context of the Department's ongoing conflict prevention, reconciliation and peacebuilding work in the region. This exercise was jointly facilitated and funded by DPA and UNDP, in partnership with the new Peace and Development Adviser (PDA) for the South Caucasus and the team of national PDAs. The two-day roundtable was held in Tbilisi on 31 May and 1 June 2018, bringing together 40 civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The roundtable also included the participation of the three United Nations Resident Coordinators and representatives of United Nations Country Team from around the region, and provided the forum to exchange best practice, for direct interaction, dialogue and collaboration between the civil society partners around the implementation of the SDGs. All attendees requested the continuation of this UN-facilitated and supported

initiative, noting its uniqueness in creating space for dialogue and interaction within the sub-region, including for youth and women in various dialogues.

Extra-budgetary resources have also helped solidify DPA's partnership with the **World Bank**, and in particular facilitated the first ever desk-to-desk exchange between DPA and the Bank on 15 May 2018 in Washington, DC. The meeting helped operationalize the UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations, signed by the Secretary-General with President Kim on 22 April 2017, as well as the recommendations of the UN-World Bank report on prevention, "Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict". The discussions focused on a number of priority country situations and aimed at identifying opportunities for further coordination of analysis and response. Another desk-to-desk exchange will be conducted towards the end of 2018 in New York, which will also benefit from the participation of a broader range of UN actors. Extra-budgetary resources also supported DPA's participation in the rollout of Pathways for Peace report in several European capitals. Further rollout events are in the pipelines for a number of non-European capitals, in partnership with DPA-led Special Political Missions and liaison offices as well as Resident Coordinators on the ground.

The UN's ability to promote peace and sustainable development in countries affected by violent conflict depends, in large part, on the timing, planning and management of United Nations transitions. Extra-budgetary funds have allowed DPA to actively participate in the ongoing system-wide discussions on mission transition and revision of system-wide guidance on strategic planning. Under the supervision of the joint DPA-DPKO/DFS-UNDP programme on transitions, a practice note on mission transition was also developed that will help the United Nations system to better plan and manage transitions.

## Institutional effectiveness

DPA continued to rely on extra-budgetary funds to improve its organizational effectiveness and enhance system-wide collaboration in anticipation of the reform of the peace and security pillar. As in the past, extra-budgetary funds were used to support knowledge and skills development of staff members at headquarters and improve working methods across all levels. Several of **DPA's flagship courses and trainings**, namely, Political Economy Analysis course, Drafting for Political Analysis course, Training on A Political Approach to Preventing and Responding to Electoral Violence, Ceasefire Mediation Course, and the High-Level Mediation Course were all organized during this quarter. Some of the courses also included dedicated sessions on violence against women in elections and on promoting women's political participation through electoral assistance.

Extra-budgetary funds also played a central role in advancing knowledge management, evaluation and communication within the Department. For example, DPA completed a **study on DPA's engagement in South-South Cooperation** to identify good practices and lessons learned. Moreover, DPA graduated from observer status to full membership of the **UN Evaluation Group** (UNEG) in 2018. Extra-budgetary funds supported DPA's participation in the UNEG Annual General

Meeting for the first time as a full member, signaling the Department's commitment to evaluation and learning. Heads of Evaluation Units of over 40 UN agencies, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Joint Inspection Unit participated in the UNEG Annual Conference. DPA's dedicated evaluation capacity and participation in UNEG fulfills one of OIOS audit recommendations to DPA on strengthening the role of evaluation function and contributes to organizational effectiveness. Similarly, using extra-budgetary funds, DPA continued to invest in systems to improve better communication and information sharing. As liaison between the Department and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, extra-budgetary funds helped to ensure timely provision of appropriate public messaging – as conveyed in statements, media briefings and other avenues – on the range of issues under DPA's purview.

Finally, DPA published its **2017 Annual Report on the Multi-Year Appeal**, an essential part of DPA's annual reporting obligations to donors. It details key results that were made possible with extra-budgetary support and further progress under the goals and objectives of DPA's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. In particular, it presented a number of instances where multilateral diplomacy, with the UN at the centre, made a difference. The report can be found at <http://www.un.org/undpa/en/funding>

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