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Note to the Secretary-General

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Canada and the Peacebuilding Fund ✓

1. Canada has been a core supporter to the Peacebuilding Fund, establishing a best practice by setting up the first multi-year agreement back in 2010. Unfortunately, after the 3 year agreement expired in 2012, Canada stopped funding the PBF due to shifting priorities in Ottawa (despite continued political support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). However, with the recently elected Government, there was interest expressed to support the PBF again as a visible sign of their multilateralism and contribution to sustaining peace.

2. This is a great opportunity to welcome back a core donor, Canada being PBFs 6th biggest cumulative donor. Canada may be persuaded that it has an opportunity to offer global leadership to fill the looming gap that the Nordics may be creating as they turn more inwards to focus on refugees, including by allocating increasing percentages of ODA to refugee settlement domestically. In that light, we are delighted to acknowledge that Canada is opting for a comprehensive view to address the current dynamics by both accepting refugees and investing in longer-term peacebuilding in conflict affected countries.

3. As has been highlighted by the reviews this year, obtaining predictable financing for peacebuilding is a critical issue. There is some indication that Canada may be open to a new multi-year agreement that is much longer in duration - 10 years rather than 3 or 4. Such a step would establish Canada once again as an innovator, by offering serious predictability through a much longer term commitment.

4. Canada may also consider increasing its contribution. The new Government may note that the previous Government had contributed \$5m per annum, and may wish to send a clear message of Canada's commitment if it were to raise its contribution beyond.

5. We are therefore very keen to renew the high level dialogue with Canada on peacebuilding to explore practical possibilities to further enhance the cooperation.

6. In order to continue the discussions from where they stand and to capitalize on the visionary thinking of the Canada of today, I would be very glad to be part of your upcoming trip to Ottawa.


Oscar Fernández-Taranco
25 November 2015

cc: Ms. Malcorra

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