10 key points of Day I on the Dutch-Brazilian Conference on *Setting a progressive United Nations peace and security agenda: searching for new narratives*

1. There is a risk of **Reform Fatigue**. The debates seem to go round and round again, and it seems to be impossible to break out of those circles. What new narratives can be found?

2. There is a tension in the ambition to make the UNSC both more effective and on the other side more legitimate and representative. Question is whether the two sides can really be served in any attempt to reform the UNSC?

3. Key challenge is how to better engage with emerging powers and non-state actors. This challenge, however, does not necessarily need radical reform to be met. Just making better use of the mechanisms that are there could already accommodate this challenge to a great extent. A concrete proposal was to permanently re-elect big powerful states like Brazil and India on non-permanent seats.

4. Even though engagement with non-state actors is very important, states still need to play their important part in the political game.

5. A very important point that was reiterated throughout the day was the role of youth and youth leaders on these important issues. On security issues one tends to mostly refer to youth only because of their role as troublemakers or as victims, instead of as partners for peace. Youth needs to be empowered to contribute to statebuilding in postconflict situations.

6. There are different levels on which enhancement of engagement could take place with other stakeholders. An interesting example is the role city diplomacy can play in helping cities in other places in the world improve their local governance structure. Can we learn from this when thinking about reform questions?

7. The P5 play a major role in deliberations on many agendas, and they are the ones that in the end block any reform, unless there is a way to change their mindset. Question is how to engage the P5 on common interests that make them want to change the status quo? And what lessons can be learned from the last time the SC was reformed? What dynamics were at play then, and how can we create an environment that resembles those times, and would be more favourable to any change?

8. A gradual limitation of the veto power might be a way to change the practice of the system, without completely reforming the system. In a way this already happened with the gradual acceptance in the past of accepting the abstention of voting by a P5 member, even though a strict reading of the Charter calls for concurring votes of all P5 members.

9. Competition from outside the UN system might challenge the organisation on peace and security agendas to become more susceptible to change and reform.
This could be done by the actions and developing practices of regional organisations, that simply do not wait any longer for the UN to come up with a response, and deal with the issues themselves. But other platforms, such as the G20 or the G77 could also fulfill that role.

10. There is a need for more emphasize on soft power measures and prevention. This is not a matter of funds, but a matter of priorities. For this kind of change a new mindset needs to sink in. This could offer a new narrative though, since the dominant narrative is still the one on hard security.