

Written Assessment of the Implementation of the Peacebuilding Commission Gender Strategy Action Plan

From 1 January to 31 December 2022

1. Introduction

In September 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) adopted a [gender strategy](#) to ensure a more structural and systematic integration of gender perspectives across its work, including in its country and region-specific engagements, thematic discussions, and dialogues with other intergovernmental organizations. This was the first such strategy to be adopted by a UN intergovernmental subsidiary body and followed a series of consultations throughout 2015 and early 2016 with Member States, practitioners, experts, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with civil society organizations.

In 2020, a review of the Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy was undertaken to assess the degree to which it has been implemented since its adoption in September 2016. The [review report](#), prepared by DPPA/PBSO and UN Women with support from an independent expert consultant, recommended the PBC to improve its gender analysis; enhance its consultations with diverse women peacebuilders; increase its advocacy on gender-responsive peacebuilding across the UN system, with regional organizations and with International Financial Institutions (IFIs); and conduct regular monitoring and review of its Gender Strategy.

In February 2021, the PBC adopted a [Gender Strategy Action Plan](#) on the implementation of the Gender Strategy, which includes four action areas and nine specific indicators. The first written assessment assessed the implementation of the PBC's Gender Strategy Action Plan from October 2020 to October 2021. This second assessment of the Gender Strategy Action Plan examines the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, based on a desk review of 65 outcome documents, as well as on a survey sent to women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission in 2022.

Progress in 2022

- The Commission continued its consistent efforts to promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding through its engagements, including meetings and visits. 69 per cent of the outcome documents promoted the importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and 92 per cent (compared with 94 per cent in 2021) of the Commission's advice, briefings and submissions to the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) included gender-responsive recommendations.
- The Commission's engagement with women peacebuilders continued to increase, the rate of participation¹ of women peacebuilders reached 87.5 per cent in 2022. The women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission and responded the 2022 survey considered the PBC engagement as important to address local peacebuilding challenges and identify practical solutions by utilizing the expertise of women peacebuilders.

¹ The participation rate is calculated based on the number of women briefers to the number of the PBC meetings in 2022.

- There was a significant increase in the number of outcome documents calling for the elimination of discriminatory practices against women and/or promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment measures (62 per cent compared with 46 per cent in 2021).

2. Implementation Challenges and Gaps in 2022

- Despite the increased rate of participation of women peacebuilders in the Commission’s meetings in 2022, still only 14 out of 24 meetings (58 per cent) had a woman peacebuilder as a briefer.
- The number of relevant direct or indirect follow-up in support of the work of women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission decreased. Only 19 out of 65 of outcome documents (29 per cent compared with 39 per cent in 2021) included references to information provided by women peacebuilders. In parallel, the respondents of the survey stressed the importance of follow-up to the meetings and emphasized the need for concrete support for women peacebuilders and women-led organizations and initiatives by the Commission.
- While 46 per cent (compared with 43 per cent in 2021) of the outcome documents included some form of gender analysis, only 6 per cent of the outcome documents included analysis based on sex disaggregated data.
- The percentage of engagements with relevant partners, including relevant regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions (IFIs), that promoted the importance of women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding decreased to 57 per cent (compared with 89 per cent in 2021).
- Despite consistent references to women in outcome documents, the messaging was often generic in these documents (i.e. many documents referred to ‘the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding’, without analysis or specific recommendations). Further, references to women were often combined with youth.

3. Progress on the PBC Gender Strategy Action Plan Indicators

Data from documents reviewed from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

- 65 outcome documents reviewed:
 - 27 Chair’s Summaries
 - 8 Press Statements
 - 17 Advice to the Security Council
 - 4 Advice to the General Assembly
 - 3 Submissions to the Economic and Social Council
 - 5 Chair’s remarks to other forums
 - 1 Other document (Written assessment on the implementation of the PBC Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding)

Indicator 1.1: % of PBC relevant outcome documents which include country and region-specific gender analysis based on sex disaggregated data

- 30 out of 65 outcome documents (46 per cent compared with 43 per cent in 2021) included some form of gender analysis.
- Only 4 out of 65 outcome documents (6 per cent) included country and region-specific gender analysis based on sex disaggregated data.
- The key observations include:
 - Three (3) Chair’s summaries (Liberia Configuration, Colombia, and WPS meeting) and the Report on the visit to South Sudan of the PBC Chair included gender analysis based on sex disaggregated data.
 - None of the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC advice included country and region-specific gender analysis based on sex disaggregated data.
- An example of a good practice include:
 - The Chair’s summary of the PBC Liberia Configuration meeting (19 April 2022): “Section e.5 (1d) of the Elections Law Amendment Act also calls for a political party or coalition to have at least one female contestant for every primary at a convention for each constituency. The punishment for defaulting political parties, he explained, was that their candidate listing would be rejected by the Election Commission and the affected party might be entitled to re-submit within the required period. This was, he said, a huge step on the way to achieving gender parity. However, the quota would not insulate women against prejudice, discrimination, and acts of physical or psychological violence, he noted. Regarding SGVB, he said it was estimated that 38.2% of girls and women aged 15-49 had undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)”.

Indicator 1.2: # of relevant PBC outcome documents which call for the elimination of discriminatory practices against women or which promote gender equality and women’s empowerment measures.

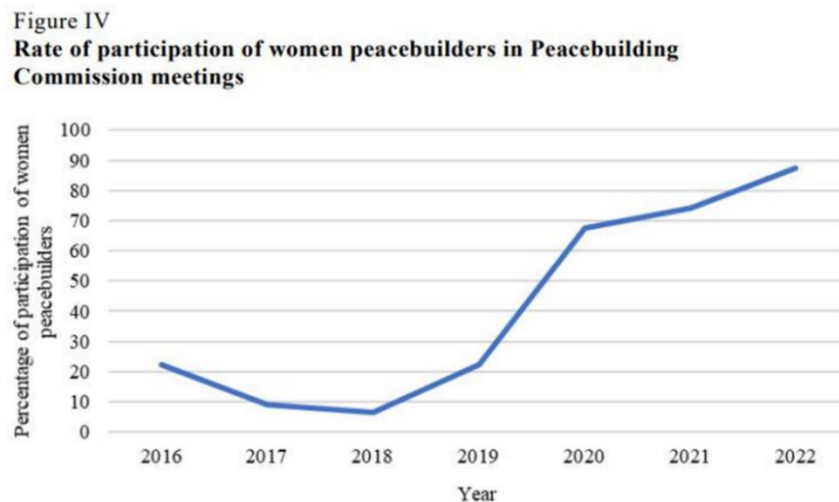
- 40 out of 65 outcome documents (62 per cent compared with 46 per cent in 2021) called for the elimination of discriminatory practices against women and/or promoted gender equality and women’s empowerment measures.
- 9 out of 17 (52 per cent) of the Security Council advice, 19 out of 27 (70 per cent) of the Chair’s summaries, and 6 out of 8 (75 per cent) of the press statements called for the elimination of discriminatory practices against women and/or which promoted gender equality and women’s empowerment measures.
- An example of a good practice include:
 - The written advice to the Security Council on ‘Integrating Effective Resilience-Building in Peace Operations for Sustainable Peace’ (3 November 2022): “The Commission recognizes the importance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in contributing to peace operations that create conditions for stability and lasting peace. Facilitating the participation of local women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping settings can help address the barriers to women’s participation in such processes, including the structural and attitudinal aspects of political, social, and economic sectors of society. The Commission recognizes that the combined contributions of women peacekeepers and local women

networks and organizations, ensure that women’s concerns are part of conflict prevention and resolution efforts. As highlighted in SCR 2594 (2021) the Commission encourages the Council to continue ensuring that comprehensive gender analysis and technical gender expertise are included in all stages of mission planning, mandate implementation and review and transitions.”

Indicator 1.3: # of relevant PBC outcome documents which call for women’s economic empowerment and advocates for the equal participation of women in socio-economic development.

- 25 out of 65 outcome documents (38 per cent compared with 33 per cent in 2021) called for women’s economic empowerment and advocated for the equal participation of women in socio-economic development.
- 35 per cent (6 out of 17) of the Security Council advice, 44 per cent (12 out of 27) of the Chair’s summaries, and 37 per cent (3 out of 8) of the press statements called for women’s economic empowerment and advocated for the equal participation of women in socio-economic development.
- An example of a good practice include:
 - The written advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes (26 October 2022): “The Commission also welcomes the activities currently underway to support efforts aimed at advancing the inclusion, participation and empowerment of women and young people, particularly the operationalization of the Great Lakes Women Entrepreneurs Network as part of efforts to support the participation of all segments of society in regional economic cooperation, and the commitment to strengthen legislative measures to ensure gender equality and accelerate women’s participation in political processes.”

Indicator 2.1: % of relevant PBC Ambassadorial-level country-specific, regional, and thematic meetings and field visits where women peacebuilders are invited to brief PBC members.



- The rate of participation of women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission continued to grow, reaching 87.5 per cent in 2022, which is a notable increase from 22 per cent in 2019 and 74 per cent in 2021.

- In total 21 women peacebuilders briefed the PBC in 2022. However, only 14 out of 24 (58 per cent) of the PBC meetings had a woman peacebuilder as a briefer.
- Both field visits (Liberia and South Sudan) included meetings and exchanges with women peacebuilders and women-led organizations.

Indicator 2.2: # number of relevant direct or indirect follow-up engagements by the PBC, in line with its mandate, in support of the work of women peacebuilders who briefed the PBC.

- In terms of relevant direct or indirect follow up engagements by the PBC in support of the work of women peacebuilders who briefed the PBC, 19 out of 65 of PBC outcome documents (29 per cent compared with 39 per cent in 2021) included references to information provided by women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission.
- 14 Chair’s summaries, one Security Council advice (the Great Lakes of 26 October 2022), two press statements (the Lake Chad Basin press statement of 22 April 2022 and the WPS press statement of 16 November 2022), one assessment (YPS assessment), and one report (Annual report) included relevant direct or indirect follow up.
- An example of a good practice include:
 - The press statement on ‘Women leadership for Women, Peace and Security agenda and the role of women in the context of climate change’ (16 November 2022): “The Commission welcomed the engagement of the Women Leaders’ Caucus of Central Asia (CAWLC) in its effort to bolster the support of regional women associations and networks, rendering core issues pertinent to women’s political, social and economic participation a priority in regional cooperation in Central Asia. In this regard, the Commission encouraged the CALWC to continue its efforts to create opportunities for meaningful women’s political participation and leadership in the region.”
- 62 per cent of the respondents of the survey informed of follow-up to their briefing, mainly via email. One of the respondents engaged with the UN and/or other actors as a result of briefing the Commission. However, the respondents underscored the limited concrete support and impact on the ground in regard to the engagement with the Commission.

Indicator 3.1: % of PBC advice and briefings to the Security Council, General Assembly, and ECOSOC, upon request, which contains gender responsive peacebuilding recommendations.

- 92 per cent (22 out of 24) of the PBC’s advice and briefings to the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC gender responsive recommendations (compared to 94 per cent in the 2021 review).
- 12 documents (54 per cent) contained references/language combining women and youth. Moreover, various documents contained generic language on the ‘importance of women’s participation in peacebuilding’ without more specific recommendations.
- An example of a good practice include:
 - The written advice to the Security Council on WPS (8 March 2022): “Additional measures to increase role of women in social and economic development in many conflict-related settings should be taken. Measures are needed to strengthen women’s economic capacity and to expand

women's access to opportunities, education, financial and material resources, markets and modern technology.”

Indicator 3.2: % of PBC engagements with relevant partners, in accordance with its mandate, that promote the importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding.

- 8 out of 14 (57 per cent compared with 89 per cent in 2021) outcome documents relating to engagements with IFIs, regional organizations and sub-regional organizations promoted the importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding.
- 45 out of 65 (69 per cent) of all outcome documents promoted the importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding.

Indicator 4.1: Annual reporting to track progress on action plan indicators

This review is part of the annual reporting to track progress on PBC Gender Strategy Action Plan indicators. The previous review covered the period from October 2020 to October 2021. This review covers the period of 1 January 2023-31 December 2022.

The PBC's Annual Report of its 16th Session released in February 2023 include a notion of the Commission's commitment to continue to be guided by and to report progress in the implementation of its Gender Strategy and Action Plan. In this respect, the Commission will continue to use its convening and advisory role to provide a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share their experiences.

Indicator 4.2: # of meetings held to review progress of gender strategy implementation and to share good practices within the PBC and by Member States and relevant partners, including relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, and international financial institutions, in accordance with its mandate.

In 2022, no meetings were held to review the progress of the Gender Strategy implementation.

4. Survey results to representatives of women peacebuilders who briefed the PBC

A survey regarding the work of the PBC were sent to women peacebuilders who briefed the Commission in 2022. 8 out of 22 (36 per cent) women peacebuilders who briefed the PBC in 2022 responded the survey. The key observations based on the respondents' answers are as follows:

- 75 per cent of the respondents considered the Commission's engagement with local peacebuilders as very important and 25 per cent as somewhat important. The respondents underscored the importance of engaging with women peacebuilders and grassroots actors to identify and discuss local peacebuilding challenges and solutions, as well as conflict prevention and the root causes of conflict. In that regard, they highlighted their expertise on local contexts and practical solutions as instrumental. They also stressed the significance of having a platform in which a variety of issues, such as human rights, inequalities, reconciliation, and climate change, as well as alternative and traditional conflict prevention approaches can be discussed and advocated.

- 50 per cent of the respondents considered that the engagement had a significant impact, and 50 per cent considered some impact. The respondents appreciated that their comments and recommendations were noted. However, some of the respondents expressed that the engagement remained political and high-level with limited impact on the ground.
- The respondents recommended the Commission: 1) **to enhance the follow-up**, including through follow-up visits in the countries and regions as well as regular contact and dialogues with the briefers; 2) **to promote and support the work of women peacebuilders**, including through capacity-building and financial support and to connect the briefers with the UN, donors, and other stakeholders.

5. Recommendations

The 2021 review of the PBC Gender Strategy Action Plan recommended four focus areas for the Commission to consider building on the progress achieved and to address the ongoing implementation challenges and gaps. Building on the 2021 review recommendations, the 2022 review recommendations are the following:

1. Ensuring the systematic integration of gender dimensions into all thematic, country, and regional engagements and the Commission's outcome documents.
2. Strengthening the integration of gender analysis based on sex aggregated data to ensure more impactful engagement and promotion of gender-responsive peacebuilding efforts.
3. Ensuring improved follow-up to the Commission's engagements with women peacebuilders, including through the promotion of the recommendations of women peacebuilders in the Commission's advisory role to the UN Security Council, General Assembly, and ECOSOC, and in its engagement with IFIs and regional organizations.
4. Continuing to expand on the breath and diversity of women peacebuilders invited to engage with the PBC.
5. Continuing regular stocktaking exercises regarding the PBC Gender Strategy and Action Plan.