

# **Written Assessment of the Implementation of the Peacebuilding Commission Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding**

**From 1 January to 31 December 2022**

## **1. Introduction**

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) made a commitment to mainstream youth considerations into its efforts and to advocate, support and promote the crucial role that young women and men play in peacebuilding. In February 2021, the Commission approved a Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding with five focus areas to guide and monitor progress. The first assessment of the implementation of the PBC was conducted to examine the progress during the year since the adoption of the Strategic Action Plan. This second assessment examines the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, based on a desk review of 65 outcome documents and 23 concept notes, as well as on a survey sent to representatives of youth organizations and initiatives, who briefed the Commission in 2022.

## **2. Progress in 2022**

- The Commission continued its consistent efforts to address youth-related issues, through its meetings and visits. The vast majority of the outcome documents contained references to youth. 96 % of ambassadorial-level meetings highlighted youth-related issues.
- There were systematic efforts to include recommendations on youth related issues in its advice and briefings and submissions to the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). 96 % of the PBC's advice and briefings/submissions to the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC included references and recommendations in support of youth in peacebuilding.
- The Commission continued to engage with representatives of youth organizations and initiatives.

## **3. Implementation Challenges and Gaps in 2022**

- Despite consistent references to youth in outcome documents, the messaging on youth and peacebuilding was often generic in these documents. As the Commission's outcome documents are becoming increasingly concise, it is necessary to strike a balance between length and content.
- There was a slight decline of the participation rate of representatives of youth organizations and initiatives in meetings (37.5 % from 44.4 %). Continuous efforts and advocacy for inclusion of youth in meetings are necessary.
- Respondents of the survey emphasized the importance of follow ups to meetings of the Commission and emphasized the importance for the Commission to provide concrete support for youth organizations and initiatives.

#### **4. Indicators of Progress for the PBC’s Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding**

##### **Data from PBC Outcome Documents reviewed (1 January to 31 December 2022)**

- 65 outcome documents reviewed:
  - 27 Chair’s Summaries
  - 8 Press Statements
  - 17 Advices to the Security Council
  - 4 Advices 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)
- Only 6 of the 65 outcome documents had no reference to youth (9 % compared with 21 % in the previous assessment period).
- 23 concept notes of PBC ambassadorial-level meetings were also reviewed.

##### **Indicator 1a: “# of relevant PBC outcome documents that advocate for strengthened engagement with youth and youth-led organizations”**

- 41 out of 65 outcome documents advocated for strengthened engagement with youth and youth-led organizations (63 % compared with 76% in the previous assessment period).  
Examples of good practice include:
  - Advice to the Security Council for the open debate on “integrating effective resilience-building in peace operations for sustainable peace” (3 November 2022)
    - The Commission stressed that youth can play a critical role in conflict prevention, and it has been proved that when young people are fully, effectively and meaningfully engaged in peace processes the outcomes are usually more lasting and sustainable. The Commission encouraged the Security Council to consider the perspectives of youth in its deliberations. The Commission also underscores the importance of ensuring that peace operations develop and implement context-specific strategies on youth, peace and security, in line with the Security Council resolution 2535 (2020).
  - Advice to the Security Council for the briefing on Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea (22 November 2022)
    - In line with its Youth Strategic Action Plan, the Commission called for the prioritization of youth inclusion and meaningful participation in the peacebuilding process in national strategies and plans, development programs, and youth-led community-based activities.

- 11 out of 65 outcome documents referenced information provided by young briefers (17 % compared with 13 % in the previous assessment period). Examples of good practice include:
  - The Chair’s remarks at the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes (20 January 2022)
    - The Chair echoed the testimonies of young briefers at PBC meetings, as well as their positive contributions to building and sustaining peace, both locally and at the national level. The PBC Chair also underlined the frustration expressed by many young briefers at the lack of flexible and relevant financing for their work, in particular for that of youth-led and local organizations.
  - The Chair’s summaries of ambassadorial-level meetings with participation of youth representatives, such as the meeting on the Sahel (22 March 2022), the meeting on the Lake Chad Basin (20 April 2022), the meeting on Youth, Peace and Security (10 May 2022), the meeting on Guinea-Bissau (29 November 2022) and ECOSOC-PBC Joint Meeting (2 December 2022), referenced information provided by youth briefers with details.
- Many outcome documents addressed young people’s (1) participation and empowerment and (2) employment and livelihood. Other youth-related issues addressed in the outcome documents were (3) access to funding, (4) partnership with youth-led organizations, and (5) youth as positive force. Some outcome documents also addressed (6) protection of youth, (7) education, (8) disadvantaged youth, and (9) negative stereotypes of youth.
- Regarding the concept notes, 2 out of a total of 23 made no reference to youth. Participation/empowerment and employment/livelihoods were the two major youth issues cited.

**Indicator 1b: “Percentage of PBC ambassadorial-level meetings and visits that include engagement with youth representative(s), in line with the principle of national ownership”**

- Five out of 24 country-specific, regional, and thematic ambassadorial-level meetings featured engagement with youth representatives, in line with the principle of national ownership (21 % compared with 22% in the previous assessment period).
- During the Chair’s visit to South Sudan in December 2022, the Chair heard from and exchanged views with youth-led organizations in the country.
- During the Chair of the PBC Liberia configuration’s visit to Liberia in June 2022, the Chair met with civil society representatives and discussed youth related issues.
- In total, 9 representatives of youth organizations and initiatives were invited to brief the Commission at the five meetings. The participation rate of representatives of youth organizations and initiatives was 37.5 %, compared to 44.4 % in the previous assessment period and a significant increase from 5.4 % in 2020. Representatives of youth organizations and initiatives briefed at the meeting on the Sahel (22 March 2022), the meeting on the Lake Chad Basin (20 April 2022), the meeting on Youth, Peace and Security (10 May 2022), the

meeting on Guinea-Bissau (29 November 2022) and ECOSOC-PBC Joint Meeting (2 December 2022).

**Indicator 1c: “Percentage of ambassadorial-level PBC country/region-specific and thematic meetings (including on WPS) highlighting youth-related issues and innovative approaches”**

- 96 % (23 out of 24) of ambassadorial-level meetings (PBC country/region-specific and thematic) highlighted youth-related issues (compared to 93% in the previous assessment period).
  - The PBC has enhanced its engagement on youth and peacebuilding in the countries under its consideration by holding country-specific and regional meetings with a focus on youth.

**Indicator 2: “Percentage of PBC advice and briefings to the Security Council, General Assembly, and ECOSOC (written, oral and informal) that contain analysis and recommendations in support of youth in peacebuilding”**

- 96 % (23 out of 24) of the PBC’s advice and briefings/submissions to the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC included references and recommendations in support of youth in peacebuilding (compared to 87 % in the previous assessment period).

**Indicator 3: “Percentage of total joint ECOSOC-PBC and GA/PBC events/activities that highlight youth related issues”**

- One joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting took place in 2022 and highlighted youth related issues.
  - At the joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting on “Peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development: Towards coherence and impact on the ground” (2 December 2022), Member States heard from a youth briefer’s views on the role of the UN in strengthening youth inclusion and leadership and called for strengthening the active participation of youth in peacebuilding.

**Indicator 4: “Percentage of the total number of collaborative PBC engagements with IFIs and regional/sub-regional organizations that highlight relevant youth issues”**

- 100% (3 out of 3) of the collaborative PBC engagements with IFIs and regional/sub-regional organizations highlighted relevant youth issues:
  - The Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session: Partnership with regional development banks (22 November 2022)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual informal consultative meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission on climate and peacebuilding (28 November 2022)
  - Visit of the Chair of the PBC Liberia Configuration to Côte d’Ivoire (10 June 2022)

**Indicator 5: “PBC reports through its annual report and holds an annual meeting to assess PBC engagement in support of the role of youth in peacebuilding.”**

- The annual report of the PBC on its sixteenth session assessed and reported the progress of the work of the PBC in support of youth in its country-specific, regional and thematic engagements throughout the year. The Commission also committed to continue to use its convening power to offer youth peacebuilders a platform to share their experiences, guided by the Strategic Action Plan. On the occasion of the PBC meeting on YPS (10 May 2022), Member States acknowledged the progress made by the Commission in support of youth and called for increased commitment to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan.

**5. Survey results to youth representatives who briefed the PBC in 2022**

A survey regarding the work of the PBC on youth and peacebuilding were sent to representatives of youth organizations and initiatives who briefed the Commission in 2022. The main points raised by respondents of the survey are as follows.

- Several respondents called on the Commission to enhance follow ups to the Commission’s meetings in support of youth briefers and concrete support for youth organizations and networks, including capacity-building and protection, to ensure participation of youth at all levels.
- Respondents called for strengthening the PBC’s role in support of hearing voices of young people, mentoring and guiding young people, creating condition for participation through resource mobilization and protection, facilitating the sharing of information with youth regarding relevant programmes and projects, assisting the work of youth coalitions and networks and monitoring and evaluation of support for youth in peacebuilding.
- Respondents called on the Commission to cover various youth-related issues such as quality education, empowerment and employment of young people, especially young women and girls, as well as resource mobilization.
- Respondents called on the Commission to continue to engage with young people in civil society, especially those working at local level.

**6. Recommendation**

- Ensure to highlight youth-related issues and advocate for participation of youth in a more substantial manner, while maintaining concise formats of outcome documents.
- Continue to make efforts to systematically include youth, especially those working at local level, in the work of the Commission, including through their participation in meetings and visits and reflect their views and recommendations in outcome documents.
- Explore ways to follow up to meetings, including to the recommendations provided by youth, and to provide concrete support for youth.

- Continue stocktaking exercises with regard to the Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding.