

United Nations  Nations Unies
PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

21 April 2022

Mr. President,

The present letter is being submitted pursuant to the adoption of twin resolutions A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 (2020) on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in which the General Assembly invited the Peacebuilding Commission to present inputs in advance of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly at the seventy-sixth session to advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

The submission is in support of the General Assembly's high-level meeting on peacebuilding financing and follows informal consultation with the Chair and members of the Advisory Group of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund and relevant discussions convened by the Commission in 2021 at the expert and ambassadorial-levels, including the Commission's meeting on "women, peacebuilding and sustaining Peace" that took place on 13 October, the briefing by the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda on 22 October, and the Commission's annual session that took place on 29 November under the theme "financing for peacebuilding" as well as series of other events listed in the annual report of the Commission (A/76/678-S/2022/89).

The submission also takes into account the options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, as articulated in 2018, 2019 and 2020 reports on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43, paras. 39-52; A/73/890-S/2019/448, para. 30; and A/74/976-S/2020/773, paras. 45-47) at the request of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) and subsequent updates from the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the options.

In its deliberations on financing for peacebuilding, the Commission acknowledged that the term includes international financing of local and national peacebuilding efforts through multilateral or bilateral channels; international financing of peacebuilding activities of relevant United Nations entities, including peacekeeping and special political missions and agencies, funds and programmes; and domestic contributions to peacebuilding efforts by national authorities or other local actors, such as, civil society or the private sector.

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid
President of the General Assembly
United Nations

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Throughout its engagements in 2021, the Commission recognized that adequate, predictable and sustained financing remains a critical challenge, noting with concern the fact that financial flows to conflict-affected countries have been under severe pressure, particularly Official Development Assistance devoted to peacebuilding. The challenge is particularly acute in the contexts of United Nations transitions. The Commission discussed at length the risk of the trend worsening as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated strain on public funds. Considering the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, particularly on conflict affected countries, the Commission reiterates the need to ensure that recovery and sustainable development efforts are conflict-sensitive and promote peacebuilding, including by focusing more on prevention and reducing inequalities.

Building on its work in support of the women, peace and security agenda and the youth, peace and security agenda, the Commission stresses the importance of enhancing efforts aimed at promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, and for greater youth engagement to peacebuilding.

In its deliberations, the Commission recognized that peacebuilding and sustaining peace is central to the work of the United Nations, and it includes a wide set of activities aligned with nationally identified peacebuilding priorities. The Commission took note of continuing efforts to enhance United Nations coherence, as called for in General Assembly and Security Council resolutions A/RES/70/262- S/RES/2282 (2016). The Commission stresses the importance of continuing to prioritize coherent support to national peacebuilding priorities and maximizing impact through confluence of various funding streams towards shared objectives, in the spirit of “good peacebuilding financing.” This should include where and as relevant, stronger partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, regional and international financial institutions, such as, World Bank, bilateral partners, traditional and non-traditional donors, civil society organizations, local peacebuilding stakeholders and the private sector. The Commission commits to continue to offer its platform for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by identifying creative peacebuilding financing, and non-financial contributions, such as capacity building and technical cooperation.

In its pursuit to enhance peacebuilding financing, the Commission considered the possibilities offered by a wide array of innovative financing instruments for the mobilization of private and public funds, such as blended finance, impact bonds and guarantees. Recognizing its potential catalytic and cost-effective nature, the Commission encourages further efforts to better understand how innovative financial instruments, working alongside other sources of funding, can catalyze public and private resources to contribute

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directly to peacebuilding. The Commission encourages donors, host governments, UN stakeholders, as well as regional and international development finance institutions to further explore such approaches. Recognizing the importance of leveraging private capital through public resources for development and peacebuilding, the Commission stresses the importance of setting impact standards for the wider development finance community, including by clearly defining, in collaboration with relevant local actors, what constitutes “peace-positive” investments in specific contexts.

In its engagements in support of United Nations transitions, the Commission recognized that United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions remain critical tools for reducing the risk of violence within and between states, which has recently become more effective as a result of deepening linkages between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Commission has also recognized the need to enhance financial support for countries in transition phases, where United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions are scaling down to avoid national authorities and local communities losing funding at a time when they assume greater responsibilities. The Commission stresses the need to ensure smoother transitions through a continuous focus on consolidating peace and building nationally owned, effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, which will also help to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as regional development frameworks.

In view of increasing demand for engagements by the Commission in support of national peacebuilding priorities, the Commission stresses the need for greater political engagement, better coordination, effective strategic partnerships as well as adequate, predictable and sustained financing for comprehensive and inclusive approaches to building and sustaining peace.

The country, regional and cross-cutting/policy discussions of the Commission benefit from analysis from across the United Nations system, including evaluations of the Peacebuilding Fund’s results and impact that are regularly brought to its attention. The Commission stresses the importance of further efforts to enhance its synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund’s catalytic interventions and longer-term development cooperation efforts by UN Country Teams that address root causes of conflict and prevent relapse of conflicts. The Commission recognizes that, working in complementarity with other funding mechanisms and partners, the Peacebuilding Fund is uniquely positioned to serve as an important instrument of the United Nations, through rapid disbursement of funds, a catalyst for comprehensive peacebuilding programming in specific contexts that are not adequately served by other sources of funding. Noting with concern that demand for support from the

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Peacebuilding Fund significantly outpaces available resources, the Commission recommends that the donor base for peacebuilding should be broadened and diversified in recognition of the importance of support for building and sustaining peace as a core mandate of the United Nations, and encourages additional contributions, to the Fund.

The Commission fully supports the efforts to pursue an action-oriented outcome of the high-level meeting, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. The Commission encourages the General Assembly to consider all options, including voluntary, assessed and innovative in its high-level meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration



(Rabab Fatima)
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission