

The Peacebuilding Commission

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding in the New Agenda for Peace

30 January 2023

Chair's summary

1. On 30 January 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on Peacebuilding in the New Agenda for Peace, chaired by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith. to discuss the Secretary-General's initiative to develop a New Agenda for Peace and to complement the ongoing consultation process with peacebuilding-specific ideas, including on a strengthened and more strategic role of the Peacebuilding Commission.
2. In his introductory remarks, the Chair noted that the idea for a New Agenda for Peace comes at a time when the world is faced with multifaceted, interconnected and cascading global challenges, such as the devastating impacts of the pandemic, a global economic downturn and widening inequalities, ongoing wars and conflicts, escalating food insecurity and energy crisis, adverse effect of climate change, and rising threats of terrorist attacks and violence. He also noted that the Commission has sought to shape the responses by the United Nations to multidimensional threats to development, peace and security through an inclusive approach and based on the principle of national ownership, and helped create space for a wide range of partners, including international and regional financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations and private sector, to engage in peacebuilding efforts. In view of this unique mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission in leading the United Nations' efforts on prevention and peacebuilding, the Chair called for the need to recognize the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in the New Agenda for Peace.
3. **The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo**, noted that in the face of the deteriorating global peace and security environment, deepening divisions among Member States, increasing inequalities and exacerbating socioeconomic conditions, the New Agenda for Peace presents a unique opportunity to take stock and change course. She said that the New Agenda for Peace seeks to articulate a unifying vision to help reforge the commitment of Member States to the collective security system and the values of the United Nations Charter. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are at the heart of the New Agenda for Peace, she emphasized. While underlining the importance to invest both politically and financially in preventing conflict and sustaining peace and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, she also stressed the need for new approaches to prevention, violence reduction and peacebuilding that recognize the centrality of national efforts to sustain peace. She noted that the New Agenda for Peace will explore the prominent role of regional actors in peace and security, emphasizing the need to strengthen,

rebuild or develop new frameworks that promote regional security cooperation. She noted that the New Agenda for Peace will call for Member States to adopt new norms, regulations and accountability mechanisms to strengthen the multilateral system and explore ways to fully utilize the diplomatic toolbox of the Charter. She stressed the need for the New Agenda for Peace to focus on women's full, meaningful and effective participation and the meaningful inclusion of youth. She underlined that helping countries build more inclusive societies, based on trust, social cohesion, and human rights, requires a coherent approach, which addresses all drivers of conflict, from the adverse effects of climate change to weak governance and human rights challenges. Highlighting the invaluable contributions of the Commission, she welcomed the expansion of the Commission's geographical and thematic engagements as well as the continued emphasis on inclusive approaches in support of national peacebuilding initiatives. She underscored that the Commission's convening role continues to be instrumental in bringing the UN system and its partners together and facilitating the sharing of experiences across regions.

4. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:
 - Member States expressed their support to the Secretary-General for the development of the New Agenda for Peace as an opportunity to strengthen the focus on prevention and advance coherent, comprehensive, and holistic approach to peacebuilding. Many called for investing in prevention and strengthening prevention capacity of the United Nations.
 - They emphasized the critical importance to focus on sustainable development and called for implementing the 2030 Agenda to address socioeconomic drivers of conflict. Many members recognized the rule of law and human rights as key to lasting peace and called for strengthening their promotion.
 - They emphasized the importance of inclusivity and people centered approach in support of peacebuilding. They underlined the critical importance of full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the involvement of youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
 - They recalled challenges to peacebuilding, including poverty, inequality, exclusion, climate change, food insecurity and violence, as well as terrorism, violent extremisms and transnational organized crimes, and called for the New Agenda for Peace to address these challenges. They also underlined the importance of strengthening institutions and infrastructure and ensuring basic service delivery in support of peacebuilding.
 - They emphasized the importance of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, especially to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), referring to the General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding. Many members expressed their support for the allocation of assessed contributions to the PBF and some called for strengthening the link between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund.

- Member States saw the New Agenda for Peace as an opportunity to strengthen role of the Commission. Many members expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposal for expanded roles of the Commission to more geographical and substantive settings, addressing the cross-cutting issues of security, climate change, health, gender equality, development and human rights. Welcoming the Commission's focus on national ownership, they recognized the flexible and voluntary nature of the Commission as its comparative advantage. They also recognized the critical importance of inclusion, especially the participation of women and youth, as a cornerstone of the Commission.
- They put forward the following ideas to further strengthen the Commission:
 - Strengthen the Commission's advisory and bridging mandate vis-a-vis other UN bodies, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council;
 - Deepen the cooperation and synergies between the Security Council and the Commission, including
 - through requests by the Council to the Commission for more frequent, focused and operational advice of the Commission to the Council especially on mandate renewals and transitions of peace operations from the peacebuilding perspective;
 - enhanced working methods between two bodies including through better alignment of programs of work and closer coordination with penholders; and
 - enhanced role of the Commission to bring situations at risk to attention of the Council, including through informal interactive dialogues
 - Acknowledging the universality of peacebuilding and prevention, encourage countries and regions to engage with the Commission, including through innovative formats, to share their experiences and priorities in peacebuilding and prevention;
 - Mobilize the membership of the Commission by introducing new ways to share the burden of the work of the Commission.
 - Seek to increase the visibility of the Commission and showcase the Commission's impact on the ground;
 - Fully utilize the Commission as a pool of knowledge, information and data and a platform for sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned on peacebuilding to allow for cross-regional learning;
 - Fully implement the Commission's gender strategy and action plan on youth, peace and security, including ensuring the perspectives of local actors, especially civil society organizations, are shared in the Commission on a regular basis; and
 - Continue the Commission's effort to bring together a wide range of peacebuilding actors, including regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, and private sector, as well as the UN field presence and agencies, funds and programmes.
- In addition, Member States made the following recommendations to strengthen the United Nations' overall support prevention and peacebuilding through the New Agenda for Peace.

- Evaluate and fully utilize the United Nations’ existing tools for mediation, prevention and peacebuilding, including the Chapter VI mechanisms, and explore the development of new tools for greater impact;
 - Strengthen monitoring and early warning mechanisms to enable timely and effective response to emerging risks, including through strengthening of analytical capabilities within the Secretariat;
 - Improve the effectiveness of peacebuilding activities, including through a creation of a Peacebuilding Impact Hub;
 - Establish a comprehensive knowledge base for the New Agenda for Peace, in collaboration with local actors, building on the Secretary-General’s data strategy;
 - Strengthen the linkage between peacebuilding and peacekeeping, including through incorporating peacebuilding perspectives and activities in peacekeeping settings through the full peace continuum;
 - Strengthen partnerships of the UN with international and regional financial institutions and regional organizations and support prevention and peacebuilding efforts in their respective regions;
 - Enhance focus on women, peace and security agenda and youth, peace and security agenda and ensure the systematic integration of gender analysis and perspectives into prevention and peacebuilding activities; and
 - Further address the adverse impacts of climate change on peacebuilding, including through utilizing existing efforts to collect climate data, incorporating climate related indicators in the nationally owned peacebuilding efforts and supporting adaption measures at the local and national level.
5. In conclusion, the Chair recalled the recognition among the Member States of the critical role of the Commission in the UN system, owing to its unique advisory, bridging and convening roles, which bring together all actors and support national efforts for prevention and peacebuilding, and expressed keen interest to continue supporting the Secretary-General in the development of the New Agenda for Peace and for a robust role for the Peacebuilding Commission in its realization.