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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council  
Seventy-ninth year

## Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its seventeenth session

### I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution [1646 \(2005\)](#). The report covers the seventeenth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

2. The report has also been prepared pursuant to identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolutions [70/262](#) and [75/201](#) and Security Council resolutions [2282 \(2016\)](#) and [2558 \(2020\)](#)), in which the Commission was encouraged to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to continue to strengthen its advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts. It also builds on the commitment<sup>1</sup> of Member States to strengthening the Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts. In that regard, the structure and content of the present report reflect the work carried out by the Commission in implementing relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session.

### II. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission

3. The Commission held a total of 20 meetings (see figure I), and its work was guided by the provisional programme of work for 2023, which it approved on 4 April. The Commission undertook four field visits: one to the African Union Commission, in Addis Ababa, by the Chair, the Vice-Chairs and three Chairs of the country

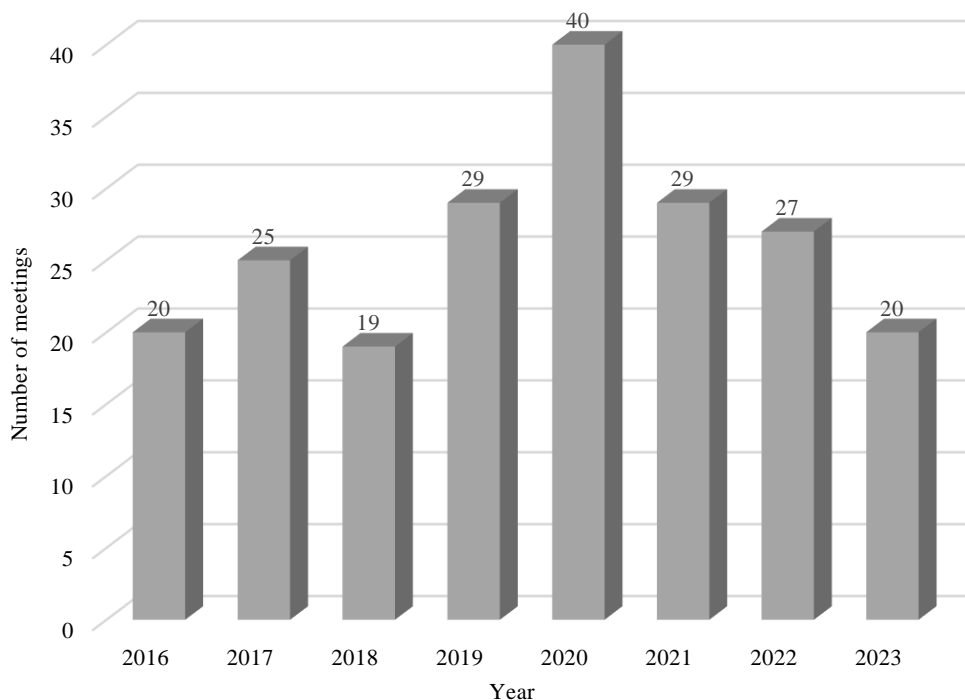
<sup>1</sup> Statement of the Peacebuilding Commission, 22 September 2023.



configurations, one to Mozambique by the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, and one field visit each to the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau by the respective Chairs of the configurations.

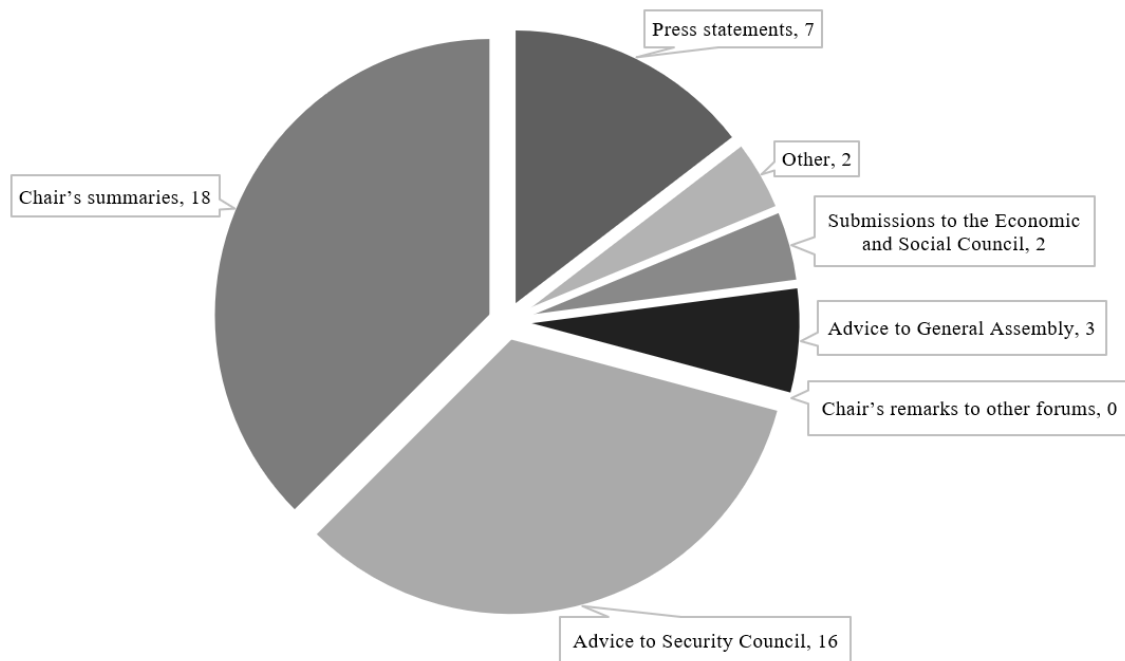
4. The programme of work, building on the forward-looking agenda contained in the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session and on relevant recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, included seven priority areas intended to ensure impactful Commission engagements: (a) a focus on broadening the geographical scope of work; (b) a focus on national ownership and inclusivity; (c) attention to United Nations coherence and follow-up; (d) effective partnerships; (e) advocacy for peacebuilding financing; (f) an enhanced advisory, bridging and convening role; and (g) an emphasis on accountability. Following a demand-driven and consultative process, the programme of work included a number of countries and regions, which the Commission stood ready to consider during the session.

Figure I  
**Number of Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016**



5. The Commission produced a total of 49 outcome documents (see figure II). The current session confirmed the positive trend in the quantity of advice that the Commission submitted to the Security Council (16 submissions), further testifying to the interest of the Council in benefiting from the advisory role of the Commission. In this connection, and with a view to improving the quality and utility of its advice, the Commission changed the format of its written submission to the Council, focusing on specific recommendations and making these documents more succinct. The Chair’s briefing and statements to non-United Nations forums continued on the same trajectory without an increase, in line with the trend of the previous session.

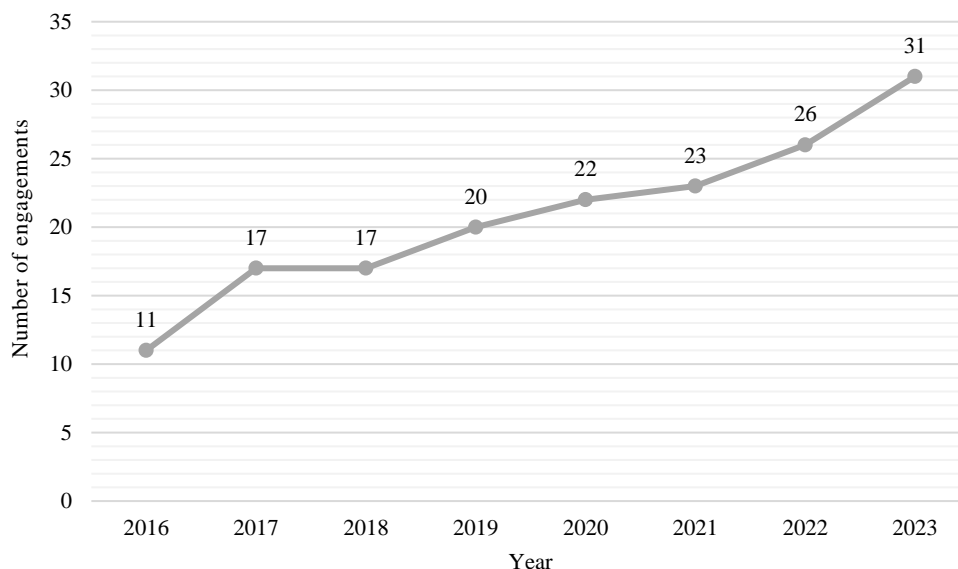
Figure II  
Number of Peacebuilding Commission outcome documents in 2023



### A. Country-specific engagements

6. In 2023, the Commission engaged in support of 10 separate country- and region-specific settings, broadening its geographical scope, including by holding meetings for the first time on Canada, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal and Norway. With these additions, the Commission has engaged with a total of 31 countries and regions since its inception (see figure III).

Figure III  
Peacebuilding Commission country and regional engagements since 2016



7. From 7 to 11 November, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration visited that country to better assess the challenges and opportunities facing the Central African Republic since the most recent visit, in 2020. During the visit, interlinkages between the political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges were examined, and efforts of the Central African Republic to combat impunity and strengthen the rule of law, as well as its reform of the justice sector, were assessed. The visit was also aimed at exploring opportunities for how the Commission’s mobilization and advocacy efforts could best be utilized in support of Central African Republic peacebuilding efforts, including continued support for the decentralization policy and the organization of the local elections, restoring State authority in all areas of the country, instituting the paradigm shift of lifting the country from a permanent humanitarian assistance posture to incremental economic recovery, and an investment in stability and development. During his visit, the Chair met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation, the President of the National Assembly, the President of the National Electoral Authority, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, European Union representative, African Development Bank and International Monetary Fund representatives and several members of the diplomatic corps and civil society, as well as the senior leadership of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations country team. The Chair of the configuration also undertook two field visits – one in PK5, Bangui, to visit a Peacebuilding Fund project and one in Bangassou, Mbomou Prefecture – to visit a community violence reduction project. Following the visit, the Commission provided advice to the Security Council, calling for continued support for the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and the disarmament and demobilization process as essential means of fostering greater security and stability in that country. The Commission noted that the upcoming local elections offered a unique opportunity to make further progress in the political and peace processes. It also noted the valuable role of the Fund in supporting projects that promoted the reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as community resilience, through the engagement of young people and women. Lastly, the

Commission underscored the enduring relevance of the deployment and mandate of MINUSCA.

8. Building on the Commission's prior meetings on Colombia, the Commission issued three advisories on that country to the Security Council in 2023. On 13 January, the Commission commended the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) for the resumption of negotiations towards lasting peace in Colombia and the strong representation of women on both sides. In its advice to the Council, on 11 October, the Commission welcomed advances in the Government's efforts to seek broader peace through dialogue in the framework of the total peace policy, in particular the peace negotiations with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional, and in that regard expressed appreciation for the Council's decision to mandate the Mission to verify the ceasefire between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional. On 13 April, the Chair of the Commission gave a briefing to the Council on Colombia and encouraged full and timely implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, including its ethnic provisions relating to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations, and reiterated the importance of the role of Colombian women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Chair commended the Government of Colombia for the progress made towards the National Development Plan and expressed support for the Government's efforts to implement the development programmes with a territorial focus and the comprehensive rural reform of the Final Agreement, welcoming efforts to strengthen the process of reintegration of former combatants, including the approval of a strategy to promote former combatants' access to employment. The Chair expressed the need to follow up on the protection of young people to ensure their full and effective participation in political processes and to continue to support their peacebuilding efforts. On 11 October, the Chair again gave a briefing to the Council on Colombia, calling upon the Council to support the Government of Colombia in ensuring that peace dividends reached all Colombians and welcoming the support provided by the United Nations in Colombia and the Peacebuilding Fund. Expressing concern over the continued violence that persisted against former combatants and social leaders, and underscoring the need for security guarantees for the maintenance of the reintegration processes in Colombia, the Chair called upon the Government to undertake concerted efforts to provide greater security and protection. The Chair encouraged further progress in reintegration to ensure the security and livelihoods of former combatants. The Chair appreciated the commitment by Colombia to the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in peace efforts and encouraged further international support. The Chair concluded by commending the progress in the pioneering work of the transitional justice system in Colombia and added that the Commission looked forward to the issuance of its first restorative sentences.

9. From 14 to 16 February, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited that country to explore ways to sustain progress towards the consolidation of democracy, including political dialogue and preparations for the 2023 legislative elections, and to exchange views on further advancing the peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau. The Chair was accompanied by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, the Officer-in-Charge and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations. Following the visit, the Chair of the configuration gave a briefing to the Commission on 13 March, reporting on the outcome of the meetings held with the President of Guinea-Bissau, ministers and senior government officials, as well as representatives of civil society, political parties and international financial institutions. Drawing on the outcome of the visit, the Commission reiterated the importance of bolstering its support for the stability of Guinea-Bissau, especially considering the current instability in the region. The Commission welcomed the

Government's efforts to finance the electoral budget for the June 2023 legislative elections and the willingness among stakeholders to participate in the elections, while stressing the need for inclusive political dialogue, including with civil society. The Commission acknowledged socioeconomic challenges in Guinea-Bissau, including difficulties regarding the provision of and access to basic services, as well as the lack of sufficient capacity to effectively combat drug trafficking, and called for strengthened international support.

10. On 26 June, the Commission convened for the first time a meeting on peacebuilding in Honduras. The Chair welcomed the engagement of the Government of Honduras with the Commission on efforts to secure a peaceful environment free from violence for all citizens and to strengthen the rule of law and human rights and the building of social cohesion for all stakeholders, especially women and young people, in Honduras. The Government highlighted the multiple actions and priorities that it was implementing to establish a "humanist" government based on solidarity and participatory democracy to build peace and fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the challenges faced in combating corruption and impunity. The Inter-American Development Bank gave a briefing on its efforts to support the Government in reducing social vulnerabilities and improving service delivery. The United Nations Resident Coordinator underscored the work of the United Nations system in Honduras in supporting the Government of Honduras through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and through eligibility for funding from the Peacebuilding Fund since 2020, with a portfolio of seven Fund projects, which represented an investment of nearly \$13 million. Civil society emphasized the need to protect women and ensure their education and political participation at all levels. The Commission welcomed the engagement of the Government of Honduras and its dedication to establishing an impartial, independent and autonomous international mechanism against impunity and corruption, and it encouraged the United Nations to support the Government in these efforts.

11. The Commission continued its support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in Liberia, cognizant of the country's October 2023 legislative and presidential elections. On 25 April, the Chair of the Liberia configuration convened a meeting with the participation of the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, the Executive Director of the Peacebuilding Office of Liberia, the Chair of the National Elections Commission, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Liberian civil society representatives. The Commission discussed measures for ensuring peaceful, free, fair, transparent, credible and inclusive elections to promote the inclusion of women and young people in the electoral process, as well as the prevention of electoral violence. The Commission noted the 30 per cent gender quota for political party leadership and party candidate lists. In March, the Chair of the Liberia configuration undertook a visit to Washington, D.C., to consult the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group on their support for peacebuilding priorities in Liberia and discuss the upcoming elections, reconciliation and the empowerment of women and young people, as well as opportunities for joint United Nations-international financial institution engagement in support of peacebuilding, in line with the Commission's ambition to strengthen partnerships with such institutions. Shortly before the October elections, the Commission met on 29 September and heard briefings by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Administration of Internal Affairs, representatives of the Liberia National Police, the National Elections Commission and civil society, as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator. The Commission highlighted the upcoming elections as being a crucial milestone towards consolidating peace, democracy, reconciliation and sustainable and inclusive development in Liberia and within the region. The Commission called for stakeholders to fully adhere to the rule of law and the Farmington River Declaration,

in which all stakeholders are committed to peaceful elections. The Commission underlined the important role of Liberian young people and women in electoral processes and encouraged their meaningful participation. The Commission issued two press statements in connection with the elections. In the second press statement, the Commission congratulated the people of Liberia on having successfully conducted elections in a generally peaceful manner, noting that the historic elections were the first ones organized and implemented by Liberian authorities since the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

12. During the reporting period, the Commission welcomed new engagement with Mozambique. On 29 March, the Commission convened its first meeting on Mozambique with the participation of the President of the Republic to hear from stakeholders about good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Maputo Peace and Reconciliation Accord and to have an exchange on the remaining peacebuilding challenges in the country. The President underlined national ownership, mutual trust and dialogue among the key success factors in the Maputo peace process and called for international support for current efforts to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the northern provinces. Additional briefers outlined the human-centred and gender-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration approach, as well as the decentralization process. The Commission commended the progress in implementing the Maputo Accord, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, and emphasized the importance of national ownership, trust and the inclusion of grass-roots organizations in all processes. Subsequent to the meeting, and at the invitation of the President, from 16 to 20 November, the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Commission visited Mozambique to explore opportunities to further advance the country's peacebuilding priorities and mobilize international political, financial and technical support. The delegation met with the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior government officials, the Permanent Commission of the Assembly of the Republic, representatives of regional and international financial institutions, United Nations entities, bilateral donors, the main opposition party, internally displaced persons and returnees in Maputo and Cabo Delgado Province. The delegation took note of the peacebuilding, recovery, reconstruction and development needs and challenges to better advocate support for Mozambique.

13. The Commission convened a meeting on peacebuilding in South Sudan on 31 January, following the visit of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chairs to South Sudan. The Commission heard a briefing by the Minister of Peacebuilding, a representative of the Special Envoy for South Sudan of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and two civil society representatives, as well as the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan. During the meeting, Member States recalled and agreed with the recommendations made by the Chair, following the visit to South Sudan in December 2022, to promote inclusive and timely implementation of the transitional road map, including by fully complying with the 35 per cent quota for women at the national and local levels, as provided under the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and as a measure of promoting the women and peace and security agenda, as well as the holding of elections in 2024. They encouraged the South Sudanese authorities to accelerate the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. Member States recognized that the 2024 elections would pave the way for the consolidation of democracy in South Sudan and underlined the importance of ensuring inclusivity, calling upon the Government to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the full, effective and meaningful participation of young people in the political and institutional framework of the peace

process. They called for a cross-pillar approach to peacebuilding and underlined the need for strategic follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations made by the Chair. In March, the Commission issued written advice to the Security Council on South Sudan, echoing the ideas put forth at this meeting.

## **B. Regional engagements**

14. On 19 May, the Commission convened a meeting on the subject of strengthening peacebuilding and the implementation of the regional maritime security framework in the Gulf of Guinea. The briefers at the meeting included the Director of Administration and Regional Coordination of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Head of Information Sharing and Communications of the Interregional Coordination Centre for the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Maritime Safety and Security in Central and West Africa, the Officer-in-Charge of the Western Africa Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs-the Department of Peace Operations, the New York representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Law and Security Africa and Lecturer in Sustainable Development of the University of Saint Andrews. Attendees of the meeting discussed the key achievements and remaining challenges of regional action to implement the framework and exchanged lessons learned on the national, regional and multilateral efforts. They underscored the importance of effectively implementing international instruments and leveraging mechanisms of the United Nations conventions on corruption and transnational organized crime. They also explored ways for the international community to strengthen its support for interregional efforts towards the full operationalization of the Yaoundé Architecture and tackling the root causes of maritime insecurity. In addition, they stated the need to address limited socioeconomic opportunities and cross-border transnational organized crime and to strengthen climate action in the region. The meeting drew attention to the importance of inclusive, gender-responsive approaches and community-based prevention efforts. In that regard, while acknowledging the progress achieved since the adoption of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, the Commission called for the adoption of comprehensive legal frameworks and greater enforcement of the rule of law, and it reiterated the importance of national, regional and international partnerships and collaboration to strengthen maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

15. Building on its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, the Commission provided advice to the Security Council in April and October 2023. In its April advice, the Commission reiterated its support for regional peace initiatives, including the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region-led Luanda process and the East African Community-led Nairobi process, as well as its Inter-Congolese Dialogue. Mindful of the fast-evolving situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including on the humanitarian front, the Commission reiterated its demand for all armed groups to lay down their weapons and cease hostilities. It also called for the implementation of commitments within the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and the strengthening of confidence-building measures. The Commission emphasized inclusivity as key to advancing peacebuilding objectives in the region and called for increased efforts to promote reconciliation, accountability, transitional justice, efforts to combat impunity, and the sustainable and transparent management of natural resources. It encouraged the continuation of efforts under way to strengthen the role of women in political and peace processes, and highlighted the importance of including young people. The Commission reiterated its support for efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict. With regard to conflict, and while reiterating



its previous recommendations, in its advice in October, the Commission placed particular emphasis on the issue of the illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources and noted that, unless curtailed, and unless those responsible, including the armed groups, were held accountable, the region would continue to suffer from a recurring cycle of violence, impinging on any prospect of lasting regional peace and development. The advice also reiterated the Commission's concerns regarding the unfolding humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the increased incidents of sexual and gender-based violence. It called for international and regional support to improve the capacity for elections and governance in the countries of the region and emphasized the importance of continuous inclusive dialogue and strengthened civic education. In the context of the MONUSCO transition, the Commission reiterated the importance of a strategic, integrated and coherent approach by the United Nations and stakeholders in the region, including the Office of the Special Envoy and United Nations country teams, to sustain peacebuilding gains. In both pieces of advice, the Commission reiterated its call for adequate funding for peacebuilding activities in the region.

16. On 23 June, the Commission convened a meeting on peacebuilding and addressing transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the Sahel. The briefers included the Regional Representative for West and Central Africa of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Vice-President of the Association of Women Heads of Households, a civil society organization in Mauritania. The members of the Commission noted with concern the contributions of transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism to the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and its spillover effects. Some Member States underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of these drivers of instability and insecurity in the region, including poverty, food insecurity, forced displacement and a lack of inclusive socioeconomic development. They also noted the need to address the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, drought, desertification and land degradation and to tackle challenges in the field of access to energy in the region. Beyond purely security responses, members of the Commission stressed the need to strengthen the social contract, governance, institution-building, reconciliation, socioeconomic opportunities and resilience to climate-related challenges. Furthermore, Commission members highlighted the importance of national and regional strategies and recognized implementation challenges as key obstacles to peace and sustainable development. They underscored the importance of context- and community-based approaches and inclusive and local solutions to preventing terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, as well as organized crime. The Commission reiterated these sentiments and recommendations in its advice to the Security Council in July.

### **C. Cross-cutting and thematic engagements**

17. During the current session, the Commission's cross-cutting and thematic engagements continued to be carried out within the framework of country-specific and regional discussions, which provided an opportunity for countries to share their experiences and good practices in peacebuilding.

18. On 30 January, the Commission convened a meeting on A New Agenda for Peace. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs gave a briefing to the Commission, recognizing A New Agenda for Peace as an opportunity to articulate a unifying vision to help to reaffirm the commitment of Member States to the collective security system and the values of the Charter of the United Nations. The Under-Secretary-General underscored the need for new approaches to

prevention, violence reduction and peacebuilding and called for a deeper focus on women's full, equal and meaningful participation, as well as the full, effective and meaningful participation of young people. She welcomed the expansion of the Commission's geographical and thematic engagements, as well as continued emphasis on inclusive approaches in support of national peacebuilding initiatives. Member States acknowledged the policy brief of the Secretary-General entitled "A New Agenda for Peace" as an opportunity to advance a coherent, comprehensive and holistic approach to peacebuilding. They also took note of the Secretary-General's proposal for expanded roles for the Commission and called for the full utilization of existing United Nations tools for mediation, prevention and peacebuilding, as well as improving the effectiveness of peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities.

19. On 22 September, the Commission convened a ministerial-level meeting to provide political guidance and build momentum for strengthened multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting provided an opportunity for members of the Commission to consider the recommendations in the policy brief "A New Agenda for Peace" that pertained to the work of the Commission. In a ministerial statement adopted by the Commission, Member States committed to strengthening the Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental peacebuilding advisory body, ensuring a strategic approach to and coherence in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. They expressed a willingness to continue to engage on A New Agenda for Peace and agreed to do so constructively to achieve consensus on peacebuilding-related issues in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025.

20. The Commission convened a meeting on transitional justice in Colombia, the Gambia and Timor-Leste on 28 April. The engagement facilitated exchanges of experiences, good practices and lessons learned regarding transitional justice, with a specific focus on guarantees of non-recurrence, in the spirit of South-South and triangular cooperation. The Commission heard a briefing by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Gambia, the President of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia, the Chief Executive Officer of the Nacional Centro Chega! in Timor-Leste, the Deputy Executive Director of the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Briefers highlighted the importance of inclusivity in transitional justice, guarantees of non-recurrence and the need to understand and provide support to civil society organizations involved in transitional justice. Member States welcomed this unique opportunity to learn from a variety of transitional justice experiences and commended the efforts of Colombia, the Gambia and Timor-Leste in advancing their transitional justice processes. They acknowledged the importance of establishing truth, ensuring accountability and combating impunity from a victim-centred approach, involving all sectors of society. Member States encouraged the three countries to continue to advance their transitional justice processes and called upon the Commission to continue to advocate inclusive and participatory approaches to transitional justice.

21. The Commission convened a meeting on Indigenous Peoples, peace and reconciliation in Canada, Colombia and Norway on 19 June. This multi-country engagement allowed the Commission to facilitate discussions among Member States and representatives of Indigenous communities in Canada, Colombia and Norway, who shared their own experiences in addressing Indigenous issues, reconciliation and amplification of Indigenous voices. The meeting heard a briefing by the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Director of the Cree Nation Government Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the Deputy Director for Collective Reparation at the Victims' Unit, a Sami social anthropologist

and member of the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The briefers from the three countries noted in particular the discrimination and marginalization faced by Indigenous communities, including Indigenous women and young people, and discussed ways to reduce violence and ensure inclusive peacebuilding efforts that took Indigenous rights into consideration. Member States underscored the importance of establishing truth and remembering the past through transitional justice processes and preserving and guaranteeing the rights of Indigenous Peoples. They emphasized the diversity of Indigenous Peoples and the importance of ensuring their participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes, as well as acknowledgement and respect of their rights and traditional knowledge, languages and practices, and noted that the three countries underscored the universality of peacebuilding. Many Member States speaking at the meeting shared their experiences. They also expressed their support for continuing to engage on the subject of Indigenous issues on the Commission's platform, upon countries' request.

22. Pursuant to its gender strategy (2016) and its action plan (2021), in 2023, the Commission continued to place women and peace and security at the centre of its work, including in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. Gender dimensions of peacebuilding were systematically integrated into the Commission's country, regional and thematic discussions and engagements, including during country visits. In 2023, with a participation rate of 42 per cent, women peacebuilders<sup>2</sup> at meetings of the Commission shared perspectives and priorities regarding a wide range of issues relevant to peacebuilding, including progress and remaining challenges in fostering women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and in sustaining peace processes at the local, national and regional levels (see figure IV). Furthermore, in country and regional meetings, the Commission's discussions helped to shed light on the varied experiences of women, inter alia, in peace and transitional justice processes, highlighted the role of Indigenous women and underscored the critical importance of women's economic empowerment and political participation. On the basis of its continuous engagement with women peacebuilders, the Commission was able to provide substantive advice through a gender lens to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. The Commission included gender considerations in 19 out of 20 of its submissions to the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, reaching 95 per cent, compared with 92 per cent in 2022. In its advice, the Commission called for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making and political processes, and also stressed their critical role in addressing the root causes of conflict in local communities, advancing inclusive security sector reforms, delivering transitional justice and implementing recovery efforts as part of peacebuilding and sustaining peace processes. The Commission also placed an emphasis on the strengthening of regional frameworks and ensuring the effective implementation of existing instruments on women's empowerment and gender equality, as well as promoting women's full, equal and meaningful participation in regional dialogues.

23. In line with its Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding (2021), the Commission has continued to support the critical role played by young people and youth-led organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The rate of participation of youth representatives in meetings was 10 per cent in 2023. On 7 June, the Commission convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss regional efforts in advancing youth, peace and security and the linkages between regional, national

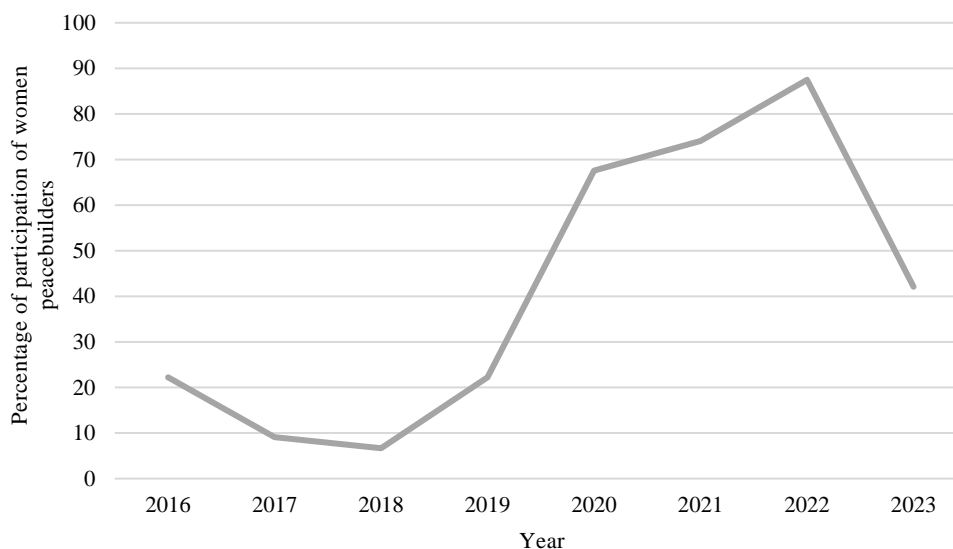
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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of the present report, the term "women peacebuilders" refers to women representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia or think tanks and women independent experts who lead and contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

and local efforts. The briefers included the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the African Union Youth Envoy, the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the International Political Affairs Sector of the League of Arab States and a representative of ASEAN Youth Organization, a youth-led civil society organization. The meeting presented an opportunity for exchanges on the importance of regional efforts in advancing the institutionalization of the youth, peace and security agenda and supporting national and local efforts to align with their policies on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Member States emphasized the role of the Commission in supporting young people and their organizations in peacebuilding and in mainstreaming the youth, peace and security agenda in all processes related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. They encouraged all relevant actors to continue efforts and strengthen partnerships to advance the youth, peace and security agenda at the regional, national and local levels. Member States called for the protection of young people working on peacebuilding, the provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for youth-led peacebuilding efforts, and support for education, capacity-building and employment. They also emphasized the importance of implementation of and follow-up to the youth, peace and security agenda and advised the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to take action in this regard, as appropriate.

24. On 14 September, the Commission convened a meeting on the role of education in building peace in Nepal and Sierra Leone, in the context of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack (9 September). The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone and the Chief Executive Officer of the Education Above All Foundation from Qatar gave a briefing to the Commission. Member States commended the efforts of Nepal and Sierra Leone in achieving peace and social cohesion through promoting education and recognized the leading role of host countries in such efforts. They highlighted the role of education as a prevention and resilience-building mechanism and key component for building and sustaining peace and called for ensuring the provision of education to all children and young people, especially girls and women, as an essential tool for protection and empowerment. They called upon the Commission to continue to focus on the link between education and peacebuilding and to work with relevant actors in support of the role of education in building peace. Some Member States called for support for the adoption and follow-up implementation of the revised 1974 recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms. Member States urged the international community to scale up its support for national efforts to build peace through the provision of transformative, inclusive and equitable quality education.

Figure IV  
Participation of women peacebuilders in Peacebuilding Commission meetings



25. Following the unanimous adoption of the General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding in September 2022, in 2023, the Commission continued its consideration of financing for peacebuilding, which emerged as an important theme in several country-specific and regional discussions, as well as through dedicated sessions with the World Bank (14 March) and with the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group (17 November).<sup>3</sup> On 22 December, the Assembly formally adopted the resolution on investing in prevention and peacebuilding (resolution [78/257](#)).

### III. Towards a more flexible and effective Peacebuilding Commission

#### A. Advisory and bridging role of the Commission

26. During its seventeenth session, the Commission continued to enhance its advisory and bridging role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council, and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

27. In 2023, the Commission provided advice to the Security Council 16 times and to the General Assembly 3 times, including through letters and formal briefings. The Commission also provided two submissions and briefings to the Economic and Social Council-focused on thematic and regional issues.<sup>4</sup> The President of the Economic and Social Council gave a briefing to the Commission during one meeting. On 20 June, the Chair delivered a statement to an Economic and Social Council meeting on the transition from relief to development in the context of South Sudan.

28. The Economic and Social Council and the Commission convened a joint event on 29 June. The event was focused on ways to identify and address linkages between

<sup>3</sup> See paragraphs 30 and 33, respectively.

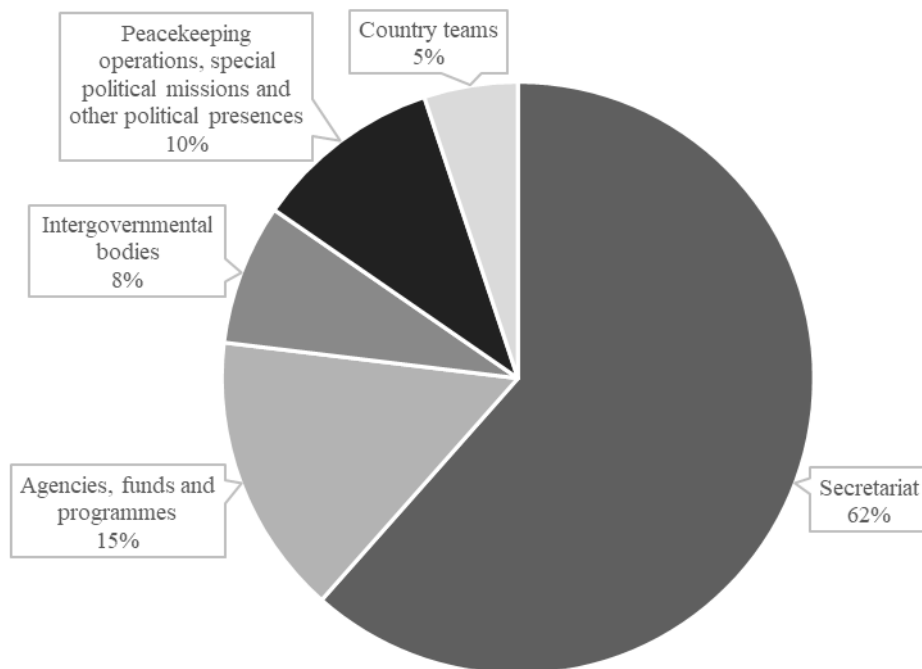
<sup>4</sup> All documents are available on the Commission website.

peace and development on the ground, with a view to promoting coherence and impact for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, the Regional Director for Africa of the Development Coordination Office, the Acting Special Representative of the World Bank Group to the United Nations and the Acting President and Chief Operating Officer of Interpeace gave a briefing to the Economic and Social Council and Commission members. Member States stressed that addressing the root causes of conflict and strengthening prevention efforts could be supported by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They called for the United Nations to find new ways to overcome obstacles to sustainable development and peace. The role of the resident coordinators in facilitating collaboration between actors on the ground was emphasized. They noted the value of collaboration between the Economic and Social Council and its segments and the Commission, including through the opportunity for additional joint meetings. They called for flexible, adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding and development and highlighted the need for increasing contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. Furthermore, Member States called for enhanced synergies with the international financial institutions, in accordance with their mandates, and regional organizations to operationalize the linkages between peace and development, especially in support of localized approaches. While noting the disproportionately gendered impact of conflicts on women and girls, they stressed inclusion as a prerequisite for positive change and sustainable impact to achieve peaceful and resilient societies. In 2023, the Commission also had attention to informal engagements in context of the Commission-Economic and Social Council relationship in support of planning, coordination and the promotion of coherence.

## **B. Promoting United Nations system-wide coherence**

29. In 2023, the Commission continued to promote system-wide coherence of the United Nations, bringing together a broad range of United Nations entities at the field and Headquarters levels. In addition to holding a dedicated joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council as detailed above, the Commission engaged with a wide range of humanitarian, development and peace actors. The Commission continued to hear from representatives in the field, especially of peacekeeping operations, special political missions and other United Nations political presences, who accounted for 10 per cent of all United Nations briefers at its meetings. The Commission called for greater coherence and integration in the context of United Nations transitions, in particular in its advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, representatives of United Nations country teams accounted for 5 per cent of all United Nations briefers at the Commission's meetings in 2023 (see figure IV).

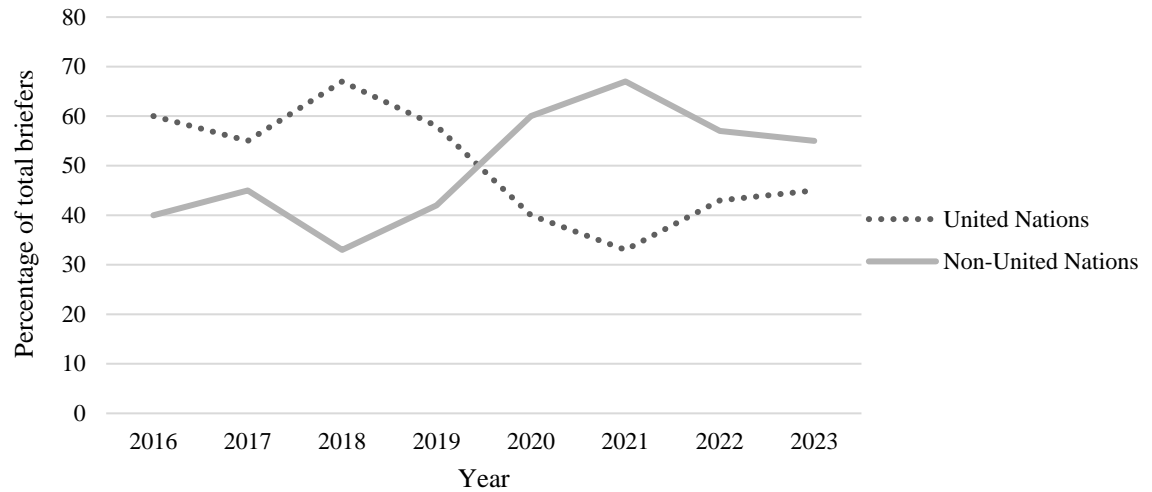
Figure V  
United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings in 2023



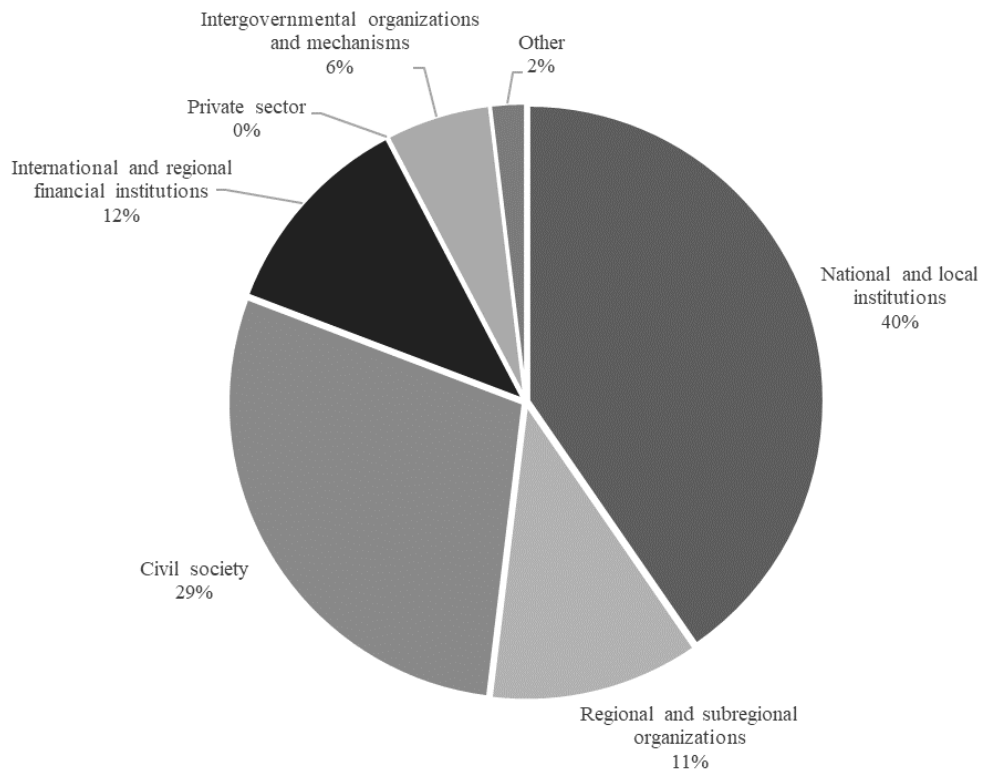
### C. Fostering partnerships

30. In an effort to continue to strengthen partnerships with partners outside the Organization, the Commission convened a meeting on 14 March to hear a briefing from the Managing Director of Operations of the World Bank Group on the activities of the Group, in particular its Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence. Along with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and Member States, the Managing Director highlighted work under the Strategy and related instruments while noting the widening gap between needs and resources. Member States called for further collaboration between the World Bank and the United Nations, with more concerted and complementary efforts, beginning with joint analysis. They called for more regular country-specific exchanges with the World Bank and other international financial institutions in the future with respect to the existing mandates, through Commission meetings (see figures VI and VII).

**Figure VI**  
**United Nations and non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016**



**Figure VII**  
**Types of non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings as a percentage of total non-United Nations briefers in 2023**



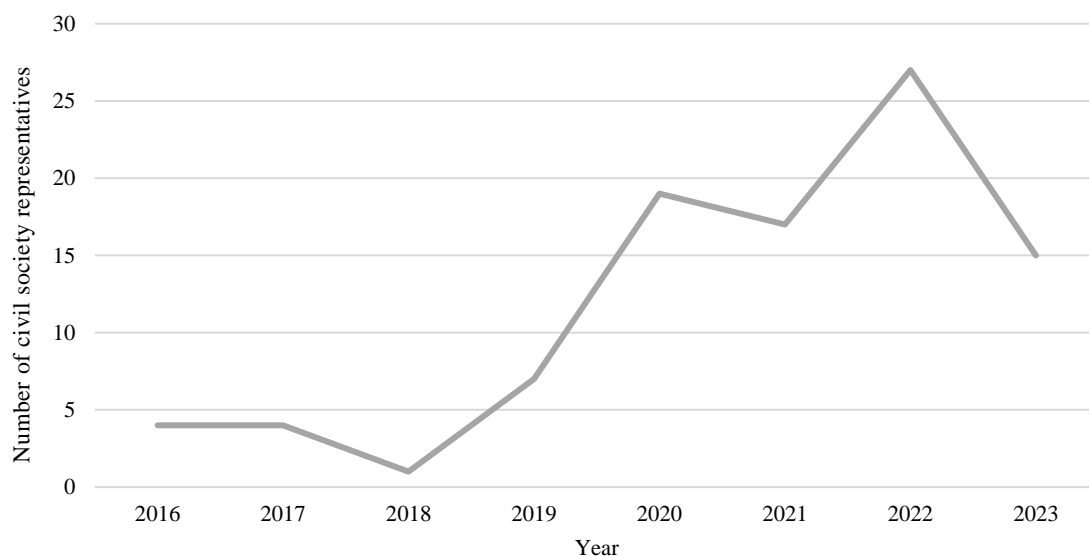
31. The Chair of the Commission visited the African Union Commission, in Addis Ababa, together with the Vice-Chairs, the Chairs of the country configurations and



the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, to explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation between the Commission and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union convened the sixth annual informal consultative meeting of the two bodies. The meeting provided an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership between the Commission and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in support of peacebuilding efforts in Africa, building on the review of the African Union Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and the policy brief “A New Agenda for Peace”, and in anticipation of the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025. The meeting heard a briefing by the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Participants welcomed the progress made in the collaboration between the two bodies and called for further strengthening of the partnership through strategic and concrete actions, such as joint support for national prevention strategies, joint country visits and joint engagement with key stakeholders in the region. They shared ideas for strengthening support for regional and national peacebuilding efforts in Africa, emphasizing a comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approach in line with the principle of national ownership and leadership; enhancing inclusivity with meaningful participation of civil society actors, especially women and young people; ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding activities and enhancing collaboration among key peacebuilding actors. After the meeting, the Commission and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued a joint statement in which they recalled their agreement from the meeting to institutionalize the holding of the annual joint consultative meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Commission.

32. In 2023, the Commission continued to encourage the contribution and participation of civil society in all stages of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, noting that, in 2023, there were 15 briefers from civil society (see figure VIII).

Figure VIII  
**Number of civil society representatives participating in Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016**



#### **D. Strengthening synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund**

33. In 2023, the Peacebuilding Support Office continued to update the Commission regularly on the work of the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular on programmatic activities as they pertained to the Commission's country, regional and thematic engagements. On 17 November, the Commission held its first meeting with the full Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group. Meeting attendees explored opportunities for further synergies between the Commission and the Fund in the context of A New Agenda for Peace, the Summit of the Future and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025. Proposals by Member States and Advisory Group members in that regard included to have more regular interaction, Commission strategic advice to the Fund, joint visits to countries, to encourage more Fund recipient countries to share experiences with the Commission and adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for the Fund, including through voluntary, assessed and innovative sources of funding. In the course of the discussion and, more broadly, participants recognized the increased urgency to invest in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the current global context and to support populations affected by conflict, especially women and girls.

#### **E. Rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission**

34. The Commission continued its review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods initiated during its tenth session in order to make its work more flexible and effective. In that regard, the Commission, building on the recommendations contained in the annex to its report on its fifteenth session (A/76/678-S/2022/89), convened a number of expert-level consultations that culminated in the annex of the present report. The annex also reflects suggestions made by Member States in the annual retreat of the Commission, which was held on 29 and 30 June. In 2023, and as mentioned above, the Commission restructured the format of its advice to the Security Council with a view to making more targeted recommendations to the Council. The Commission also began to consider options to expand the composition of its leadership in order to make it more inclusive of all regional groups.

#### **F. Visibility and communication**

35. In line with the recommendation contained in its report of the last session, the Commission continued to explore opportunities to further strengthen its visibility and showcase its work to a wider audience within and beyond the United Nations. The Peacebuilding Support Office continued to support those efforts, improving its website and regularly sharing information on the Commission's activities through its social media platforms and through Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peacebuilding Support Office newsletters. The Commission also continued to issue press releases.

#### **G. New initiatives**

36. In line with its programme of work, the Commission has undertaken a number of new initiatives to strengthen its role in accordance with its mandate, including:

(a) Engaging with five new countries from all regions (Canada, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal and Norway), thus underlining the universality of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and emphasizing that all countries can both benefit from and contribute to the work of the Commission;

(b) Focusing on context-specific root causes of conflict, including through country experiences;

(c) Considering support for the preparation of national strategies for conflict prevention and their implementation both in line with national ownership;

(d) Forging closer ties with regional and subregional organizations, which culminated in the visit to the African Union Commission and institutionalizing regular meetings between the Commission and Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Member States could consider expanding this initiative to other regions;

(e) Establishing more structured cooperation with international financial institutions by including them in all relevant meetings of the Commission and in the Commission's field visits, as well as a visit of the Chair to relevant parts of international financial institutions;

(f) Improving working methods by giving more succinct, targeted and better-informed advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as proposing better regional representation and follow-up by expanding the number of vice-chairs.

## H. Forward-looking agenda

37. Pending follow-up requests by concerned Member States and the availability of the resources required within the Peacebuilding Support Office to meet increasing demand, during its eighteenth session, the Commission is expected:

(a) To continue to work on the basis of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(b) To continue to work on the basis of the principle that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

(c) To continue to expand geographical scope to countries and regions to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, and to underline the universality of peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(d) To reflect, to the extent possible, those countries and regions in the Commission's 2024 programme of work, which, once approved, will be shared with the General Assembly and the Security Council to enhance the predictability of the Commission's calendar;

(e) To continue to improve its advisory role in relation to the General Assembly and the Security Council, and its bridging role in relation to the Economic and Social Council. In relation to its advisory role, the Commission will build on the new, more succinct and strategic format of its advice and will work towards further improving the timing and utility of its submissions. It will continue to strengthen its cooperation both with the Assembly and the Security Council to utilize its comparative advantage as a convener and a bridge to the Economic and Social Council to inform impactful discussions and decisions of the two main bodies. This could include informal meetings and joint briefings on relevant peacebuilding issues with the Security Council, as well as the Assembly, to increase impact;

(f) To continue to foster greater coherence in the United Nations system, utilizing its role to convene United Nations bodies;

- (g) To draw attention to following up and assessing impact on the ground;
- (h) To continue to encourage greater United Nations coherence and coordination in transition contexts, including to support peacebuilding objectives and build sustainable peace;
- (i) To continue to place the women and peace and security agenda at the centre of its work, including to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- (j) To continue to strengthen its partnerships with key stakeholders from all regions, including regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, and deepen its engagement with the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group;
- (k) To continue to strengthen the delivery of its advisory, bridging and convening mandate in support of financing for peacebuilding and resource mobilization;
- (l) To continue to be guided by and to report progress in the implementation of its gender strategy and action plan, as well as its strategic action plan for young people and peacebuilding. In this respect, the Commission will continue to use its convening and advisory role to provide a platform for women peacebuilders and young people to share their experiences and provide recommendations that add value to peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- (m) To ensure and strengthen participation by civil society representatives in its meetings, considering gender parity;
- (n) To continue to advocate adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. It will also explore ways to encourage flexible funding for local peacebuilding organizations and innovative financing for peacebuilding;
- (o) To further its work and its consistent advocacy of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding through voluntary, innovative and assessed contributions, as well as to continue to implement General Assembly resolutions [76/305](#) and [78/257](#);
- (p) To engage in preparations and processes for the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025;
- (q) To explore opportunities to continue to enhance its visibility and showcase its work;
- (r) To contribute, as relevant and appropriate, to ongoing consultations on the Summit of the Future.

## Annex

### Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

The present annex contains recommendations whose objectives and outcomes have been established as good practices, and that can be addressed through an informal process. It includes additional action areas whose implementation can contribute to the efficiency and flexibility of the Commission. The Commission can implement all these actions without the need to amend its provisional rules of procedure and within the mandate of the founding resolutions of the Commission, General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), as well as Assembly resolutions [70/262](#) and [75/201](#) and Council resolutions [2282 \(2016\)](#) and [2558 \(2020\)](#). The review of the Commission's working methods is an ongoing process, and this informal document will be reviewed periodically through the Commission's annual reports in order to assess the added value of the recommendations to the work of the Commission.

#### Recommendations

1. **Leadership:** the Commission should improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

#### Actions

I. As mandated in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), in which the Assembly and the Council encourage the Commission to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice Chairs, and building upon the established practice of having the outgoing Chair serve as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support for its leadership, the Commission will continue to explore ways to further strengthen the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, including through a better representation from regional groups. Any informal arrangement will not prejudice the change in the membership of the Commission, which takes place every two years and will operate within regional rotation of Chairs, as detailed in annex I to the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. The decision to endorse a candidate for each post remains a prerogative of the respective regional groups for action by the Organizational Committee.

II. Make greater use of the Vice-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair, in the organization, and conduct of and follow-up to Commission meetings.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** while recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission in all its configurations and meetings, the Commission should continue to consider flexible options for other forms of engagement in accordance with its mandate, including a more engaged role of the Organizational Committee.

#### Actions

I. Make greater use of the Organizational Committee as a platform to convene country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, in accordance with its founding resolutions. When convening regional discussions, references to country-specific situations shall be made with the consent of those countries, which shall be shared with the members of the Committee.

II. Promote a Commission that can work in a form of "variable geometry", in which the character, focus and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis, with the consent of all countries considered and with the consent of

its Member States, in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility, as well as its mandate to assist Governments partnering with the Commission in their peacebuilding priorities, as appropriate.

III. Strengthen the convening role of the Commission by inviting additional partners including development partners, as applicable, to participate in its meetings. Such partners, to be invited with the consent of the country considered and that of the Commission's member States, may include Member States that are not members of the Organizational Committee, representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including from the country teams, international and regional financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, including youth and women's organizations, and, where relevant, the private sector.

3. **Role of the membership:** the Commission has a very diverse membership, bringing together seven members from the General Assembly, seven members from the Security Council, seven members from the Economic and Social Council, five members from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and five members from the top 10 financial contributors. Therefore, stronger and more coherent engagement of all members of the Commission will further enhance its efficiency.

#### **Actions**

I. Make greater use of the perspectives of the organs that elect or designate the members of the Commission: in addition to country-specific interests, Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to bring the perspectives of those bodies into the deliberations of the Commission. For example, members can offer advice on the working methods of their constituencies and can highlight relevant ongoing thematic issues in their respective organs that will add value to the work of the Commission and reinforce synergies between the Commission and the Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, while respecting the mandate of each body. Members elected from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and the top 10 financial contributors are also encouraged to reinforce the synergies of those constituencies with the Commission.

II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the Commission on priority areas that are relevant for the work of their respective organs or groups and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This will add to the visibility of the Commission and enhance clarity on the work of the Commission. Similarly, establishing a predictable workplan (see recommendation 4 below) and summarizing results on a regular basis including through press releases can lead to a more regular flow of information between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

III. Members of the Commission are encouraged to actively engage and support the work of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs while avoiding duplication of work and enhancing the idea of one Commission.

IV. The Commission could continue its practice of appointing informal coordinators for its relations with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The appointment of informal coordinators for relations with troop-contributing countries, financial contributors could also be considered.

4. **Workplan:** a more predictable and longer-term workplan that would allow broader participation of Member States in the meetings of the Commission.

## Actions

I. The Commission is to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report, reflecting the Commission's country-specific, regional and thematic priorities, as well as on regular discussions with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. As a continuation of good practice, the Chair is encouraged to hold informal consultations with the members of the Commission, as well as the countries and intergovernmental organizations that engage with the Commission ahead of drafting the annual workplan. The workplan should include a provisional annual calendar, specifying as many concrete dates as possible for the Commission's meetings during the year in question. By the middle of each month, the Chair will circulate the provisional calendar for the following month with a view to receiving inputs and suggestions from members of the Commission. Additional previously unscheduled meetings could be added, if required, with adequate lead time.

II. The workplan is to take into account the relevant calendar of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in particular when it comes to activities where the advisory role of the Commission may be sought, such as when requested by the Security Council to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates (see [S/PRST/2017/27](#)). In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.

III. The workplan is to include more regular engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.

IV. The workplan is to include specific focused meetings at which diverse countries (including Peacebuilding Fund recipients and/or applicants) can share their national peacebuilding plans.

V. Once approved by the Commission, the annual workplan should be officially transmitted to the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

VI. The date and theme of the Commission's annual session are to be decided well in advance in order to encourage Member States to participate with capital-based representatives.

VII. Visits to the field undertaken by the Chair, the Vice-Chairs and other members of the Commission, as applicable, are to be reflected in the workplan; concept notes of visits should be circulated at least one week before the date of the visit.

5. **Bridging role:** in General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and, inter alia, in serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities is stressed. In the resolutions, it is also recognized that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

## Actions

I. The Commission is to better utilize its membership to strengthen its links with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social

Council (see also actions 2.I and 2.II) to efficiently address issues regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

II. Dialogues between the Chair of the Commission and the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be sought, as necessary, as well as informal meetings of the Commission with those bodies.

III. In connection with the Commission's advisory role in relation to the Security Council, in addition to its engagement thus far, when invited to give a briefing to the Council, it should prepare its briefings by aligning its workplan with relevant Council meetings (see action 3.II). The activities of the Commission in preparation for these briefings may include internal thematic discussions in anticipation of issues to be discussed in the Council, visits to the field, including, when invited by the Council, joint visits with the Council to advance peacebuilding perspectives and the organization of meetings to engage with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. In addition to such formal briefings, the Commission could provide its advice in writing and through informal interactive dialogues, as appropriate.

IV. Through this advanced preparation, and the uniqueness of the Commission's convening power, it can have sustained interactions and enhance its efforts to provide the Security Council with substantive advice, upon request, for example, in matters relating to the synergies between security and development. The advisory role of the Commission in relation to the Council is recognized, in particular in the context of the Council's consideration of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, during which the Commission is uniquely positioned to provide clear, realistic, applicable and qualitative, peacebuilding perspectives to the Council, if requested. Similarly, regular exchanges between the Commission and other subsidiary organs of the Council should be further enhanced.

V. Prior consultation between the Security Council presidency, the Commission Chair and the informal coordinator is encouraged to improve the timeliness of requests and submissions. While preparing advice for the Council, at its request, the Commission is encouraged to hold the widest possible consultations, including with the penholders, countries and regions in question, and, if needed, with all members of the Commission to ensure the quality and complementarity of the advisories.

VI. The Commission is to advocate a coherent, predictable and traceable use of resources for peacebuilding activities with the use of the Secretary-General's peacebuilding funding dashboard,<sup>1</sup> including with international and regional financial institutions, and for innovative financial instruments.

VII. The Commission should also continue to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations including the agencies, funds and programmes, with appropriate emphasis on activities undertaken on the ground.

6. **Synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund:** while preserving the agility, flexibility, effectiveness and independence of the Peacebuilding Fund, examine ways to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund with a view to further enhancing the transparency of the

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/secretary-generals-peacebuilding-funding-dashboard](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/secretary-generals-peacebuilding-funding-dashboard).



Fund and to ensure that Member States remain informed of the ongoing projects of the Fund.

#### **Actions**

- I. The Commission is to hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular when countries have been declared eligible for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility.
- II. The Commission is to invite the Chair and the members of the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group to meetings of the Commission, when relevant.
- III. The Commission is to request regular briefings from the Peacebuilding Support Office on the activities of the Fund at the meetings of the Commission and more regular circulation of Fund documents to the Commission.
- IV. The Commission is to convene an annual meeting to be informed of the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and increase the visibility of the Fund.

7. **Preparation, format, conduct and outcome of Commission meetings:** meetings of the Commission should be prepared well in advance with a view to ensuring substantive discussions and facilitate concrete outcomes. A balance between transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations must be ensured when deciding if a meeting should be open or closed. The Commission, in all its meetings and formats, and with the consent of Member States, should enhance inclusivity and ensure that participation reinforces an integrated organizational committee and the concept of a unified Commission. The Peacebuilding Support Office is to continue to ensure that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place. The Office is also to ensure that there is a balance between time allocated to presentations by briefers and to interventions from the floor with a view to promoting interactive discussions.

#### **Actions**

- I. The Commission should make greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.
- II. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will circulate a concept note at least one week before the date of the meeting.
- III. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with the countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed and this may be reflected in the monthly programme of work where possible and updated as such.
- IV. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will ask briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.
- V. In the conduct of the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will remind briefers to limit their interventions to three to five minutes. The Chair will also encourage speakers from the floor to limit their interventions to three minutes.
- VI. When inviting participants from the floor to speak, the Chair, upon advice from the Secretary, will prioritize countries from the region and give due consideration to protocol and order of registration.
- VII. In addition to Chair's summaries, the Commission is to consider relevant documents to strengthen the outcome of its meetings. These should include, as appropriate, press statements and letters to be agreed upon by the Commission.

To strengthen national ownership, when considering outcome documents, particular importance shall be given to national or regional representatives of a geographical situation under consideration.

VIII. The Commission, with respect of national ownership, is to explore possibilities for follow-up to meetings with the membership and various briefers.

IX. Documents to be approved by the Commission are to be circulated early enough, and at least three working days before any deadlines, to allow Member States to provide substantive input and suggestions.

X. Periodic follow-up meetings are encouraged in the country- and region-specific contexts to inform the Commission of outcomes of its engagements.

8. **Visibility and communication:** there is a need to address the lack of awareness, both within and outside the United Nations, of the work of the Commission and on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

#### **Actions**

I. The Commission is to explore ways to increase the visibility of its open meetings, in particular high-level events, such as the annual session, to attract more attention from the media and the United Nations system. For example, the Commission should issue press releases, as appropriate, after such events. The Commission could also consider developing a communications strategy, in consultation with the Department of Global Communications.

II. The Commission is to explore ways to increase ongoing activity on the Internet and on social media with regard to all its meetings and country visits.

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