

**High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes**  
**Session on Financing the YPS Agenda: Towards more Equitable and Sustainable Peace**  
20 January 2022

Remarks by the Chair of the PBC

Excellencies,

Friends and young peacebuilders everywhere,

At the outset I wish to thank Colombia, Finland and Qatar for organizing this timely initiative.

This session on Financing the YPS Agenda is very relevant for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission which, following its adoption of a Strategic Action plan on Youth and Peacebuilding last year, is increasingly focusing on the critical role of youth in peacebuilding in general, and the necessity for better financing their peacebuilding activities in particular.

But we need to do more to place young people, who make up a majority of many conflict-affected countries, at the centre of strategies for financing peacebuilding and prevention.

Through its convening role, the Commission has provided a platform for young people to help make their voices heard and, in so doing, has afforded them an opportunity to be part of the discussion shaping funding priorities and helped them to build stronger partnerships with relevant peacebuilding actors.

In our meetings, many youth leaders have shared powerful testimonies on their essential and positive roles and contributions to building and sustaining peace, both locally and at the national level. But not a few have also expressed frustration at the inaccessibility of flexible and relevant financing for their work, in particular for youth-led organizations and for smaller organizations at the local level.

The Peacebuilding Fund, is currently the largest dedicated funding measure in support of youth peace and security and its work has helped to address the scarcity of funding in this key area. The Fund supports young people's contributions to peacebuilding at the local and national levels through the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative. Since its establishment in 2016, it has invested a total of over 79 million US dollars in 64 different projects with a focus on youth, peace and security, spread across 18 countries. In addition to the Fund's essential work, however, we need to explore ways to complement catalytic PBF project financing with a diversity of longer-term financing mechanisms. Working towards strengthening system-wide coherence as well as complementarity and cooperation with IFIS, not the least the World Bank, will be a priority.

Throughout its country-specific, regional and cross-cutting engagements, the Commission will continue to underscore the need for inclusive and varied modes of financing which meet the needs of young peacebuilders and is diversified, flexible and tailored to young people's priorities.

Two months ago, we met at the Commission's annual session and held an interactive discussion on financing for peacebuilding. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on peacebuilding financing which the Commission could transmit to the General Assembly High-level meeting.. This will be an opportunity to suggest ways in which we can secure a more adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, including youth-focused and youth-led peacebuilding and prevention efforts.

Today's session provides important insights as to how we can better contribute to young people's peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts and affirms the critical importance of placing young people at the core of strategies for financing peacebuilding and prevention.

Thank you.