

Peacebuilding Commission

Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission*

22 September 2023

Chair's Summary

On 22 September 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission met at Ministerial level to provide political guidance and to build momentum for ambitious outcomes that bolster multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting discussed how to elevate the Commission's role, building on the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace. The Commission was briefed by the President of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Bank Group, and the President and CEO of International Crisis Group. Participants, in a ministerial statement, adopted by the Commission, committed to strengthening the Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring a strategic approach and coherence to peacebuilding efforts. They expressed their willingness to continue engaging on the New Agenda for Peace. They agreed to engage constructively to achieve consensus on peacebuilding and sustaining peace 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.

1. On 22 September 2023, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, convened a Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission*, to provide political guidance and seek to build momentum for ambitious outcomes that bolster multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting discussed how to elevate the Commission's role, building on the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace.
2. In his opening remarks, the PBC Chair emphasized the importance to focus on prevention, based on trust, solidarity and universality, as articulated in the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace and the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. He stressed the need to strengthen the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing root causes of instability and promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, based on a principle that security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. He proposed to equip the Commission with decision-making powers and establish a "Sustainable Peace Network", which would include regional peacebuilding actors, with a view to contribute to the Commission's advisory role. Emphasizing the universality of prevention, he urged the Member States to prepare national prevention strategies and have them be periodically peer reviewed by the Peacebuilding Commission. He called for forging more systemic ties with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks. He shared an idea of a possible role of the Commission in overseeing "a new generation of peace operations", which are light footprint, civilian missions focused on rebuilding trust and the

rule of law and addressing root causes of conflict which would be dispatched upon invitation and agreement by host government either after a peacekeeping missions ends or to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Calling for ensuring adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding, he noted his hope that an agreement to finance peacebuilding from a regular budget will be reached. He also called for further strengthening the role of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office. He announced the adoption of a PBC Ministerial statement, which testifies to the strong commitment of Member States to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

3. **H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly**, reminded the vital mission of the United Nations is to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Noting the emergence of new and evolving threats to global peace and security, he called on the Commission to have a central role in addressing the cascade of crises, with a focus on prevention. He stressed the need to recognize warning signs of conflict, such as human rights violations, poverty and exclusion, gender inequality, food security, and climate vulnerability, and take a proactive role in preventing conflict. Calling for political leadership of the Commission members, he urged the Commission to strengthen its convening role with a coordinated, collaborative, and dialogue-oriented whole-of-UN approach and to continue to work with people in vulnerable situations. He appealed to the Member States to utilize regular and assured means of funding for peacebuilding, emphasizing the critical importance of investing in prevention. He noted that the Secretary-General's vision on prevention, contained in his policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, presents an important step to achieve a strong outcome for the Summit of the Future in 2024.
4. **Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs**, underscored that, in the face of the deepening divisions, the Secretary-General's vision for a more effective collective security system is grounded in a recommitment to multilateralism, in line with the principles of trust, solidarity, and universality. She noted that A New Agenda for Peace makes the case for a new approach to prevention and peacebuilding, through (1) recognizing that the scourge of violence affects lives and livelihoods not only within but also outside of conflict settings, (2) approaching prevention as a universal goal and calling for the development of national prevention strategies and investment in national peace infrastructures; and (3) underlining the critical importance of national leadership and ownership. She underlined that A New Agenda for Peace calls for a stronger role for the Peacebuilding Commission and urges the Commission to establish a mechanism to garner support for the implementation of the national and regional prevention strategies and formalize the Commission's relationship with IFIs and regional development banks and the participation of regional organizations. She underlined the importance for the Security Council and other relevant bodies to consult with the Commission. She also emphasized the importance for the Commission to advance South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding. Stressing the need for more sustainable and predictable financing for peacebuilding, she urged the Member States to consider the Secretary-General's proposal on the allocation of assessed contributions to the PBF and wished a successful conclusion of the Fifth Committee deliberations to this end. In conclusion, she underscored that the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture will be a

vital opportunity to act on the recommendations contained in A New Agenda for Peace and the outcome of the Summit of the Future.

5. **Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Bank Group**, noted that more than half of the world's extreme poor are projected to live in countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) by 2030. She underscored the complex landscape of overlapping and mutually reinforcing risks, such as chronic instability, conflicts, the pandemic, and an existential climate crisis, which are not only affecting low-income countries but also middle-income countries. She noted that the 2020 World Bank Group FCV Strategy remains fit for purpose and has led to the World Bank's enhanced focus on conflict prevention and more proactive stance in conflict situations. The Strategy also contributed to increased level of financing for fragile and conflict affected situations, notably through the Prevention and Resilience Allocation, aiming to support governments to address the risks and grievances that could lead to conflict and violence. She reflected the evolved and expanded collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank, building on the 2017 UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations, including through the flagship UN-World Bank report "Pathways for Peace" and strategic and operational collaboration in over 40 FCV countries through joint analytics, operational engagement at the country level, and joint effort to strengthen humanitarian-development-peace continuum. Stressing the critical importance of collective action and partnerships to achieve sustainable development impact at scale, she underscored the World Bank's commitment to engaging with the UN and the Peacebuilding Commission on the New Agenda for Peace.
6. **Ms. Comfort Ero, President and CEO, International Crisis Group**, stressed the need to link peace and security efforts to economic stabilization efforts in vulnerable countries, as highlighted by the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace. Pointing out that there are different decision-makers addressing problems in different policy centers, she called for better coordination among them. Pointing to the Secretary-General's call for the formalization of the Commission's relationships with IFIs and development banks, she expressed her hope that the 2024 Summit of the Future will be an opportunity to systematize cooperation between the Commission and IFIs, building on the recent progress made to this end. Noting that climate change is causing effects that may create conditions for conflict and conflict-affected countries struggle to get climate financing, she called for supporting a flagship "global call to action", planned to be launched during COP28, which would encourage donors to offer dedicated pledges to conflict-affected countries. In concluding, she emphasized the importance to bring together economic, development and security policies to help countries to achieve lasting peace.
7. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following remarks:
 - They underscored the critical importance of prevention, particularly in the face of the current global challenges to international peace and security, and called for a recommitment to multilateralism, based on the principles of trust, solidarity and universality. They stressed the importance of preventive diplomacy and called for strengthened early warning systems.
 - They supported the Secretary-General's recommendations on strengthening the focus on prevention and enhancing the role of the PBC and its impact contained in his policy brief on

A New Agenda for Peace and called for operationalizing these recommendations, ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

- They called for the development of national and regional prevention strategies. Many participants underscored the central role played by the Commission in support of prevention while a view was expressed that the Commission does not have a prevention mandate.
- They emphasized the importance of national ownership and leadership and the involvement of local stakeholders in peacebuilding effort. They stressed the need to ensure inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and called for the participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as well as civil society actors in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- They called for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach across peace and security, humanitarian and development actors. They emphasized the interlinkage between peace and development and called for focusing of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. They stressed the need to address root causes of conflict, uphold human rights, and promote social cohesion.
- The majority stressed the need to address the adverse effects of climate change in peacebuilding and sustaining peace while a view was expressed that impact of climate change on peacebuilding must be considered on a case-by-case basis and discussion of climate change must be held by specialized agencies with relevant experts and tools and in a depoliticized manner.
- They reiterated their call for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. Many Member States called for reaching consensus on the allocation of assessed contributions to the PBF during the current session of the Fifth Committee. Meanwhile, a view was expressed that it is essential to establish mechanisms for strict control over the distribution of funds from assessed contributions.
- They put forward the following ideas to further strengthen the Commission:
 - Strengthen the Commission’s advisory and bridging roles vis-à-vis the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.
 - Encourage the intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Security Council, to consult with the Commission regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace related issues.
 - Elevate the Commission’s convening role, including through strengthening its partnerships with IFIs and regional development banks and regional organizations.
 - Further collaborate with the UN agencies, funds and programmes to ensure a coordinated, coherent and integrated UN system-wide approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
 - Continue the Commission’s effort to promote South-South and triangular cooperation and facilitate exchanges of experiences, good practices and lessons learned and to collect and accumulate knowledge regarding peacebuilding.
 - Call on the Commission to support the development and implementation of national and regional prevention strategies.
 - Continue the Commission’s effort to advance both the Women, Peace and Security and the Youth, Peace and Security agendas.
 - Place sustainable development at the forefront of the Commission’s agenda and continue to draw attention to human rights as a basis of peaceful societies.
 - Integrate climate considerations into peacebuilding and sustaining peace approaches.

- Enhance synergies between the PBC and the PBF and continue to advocate for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.
- Allocate more resources to the Commission to elevate its work.
- Equip the Commission with effective decision-making power. Some participants called for a more flexible decision-making process to allow the Commission to produce more outputs while other participant underscored the critical importance to maintain decision-making by consensus to maintain unity, commitment and accountability of the Commission members.

Chair’s recommendations

Recommendations ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture:

- Urge the Member States and regional actors to develop national and regional prevention strategies.
- Encourage the United Nations system to build more robust capacities to support the Member States in their efforts for prevention, including conflict analysis and knowledge management.
- Urge the Member States to reach consensus on the allocation of assessed contributions to the PBF at the current session of the Fifth Committee and further encourage the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of peacebuilding activities.
- Enhance support capacities within the UN Secretariat to allow for the Commission to strengthen its effectiveness and impact.

Recommendations for the strengthened role of the Commission:

- In order to elevate its role, call on the Commission to:
 - Take concrete steps to operationalize the Secretary-General’s recommendations regarding the elevated roles of the Commission in support of prevention, ~~and~~ peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as universality of prevention, ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.
 - Encourage its members to advocate for elevated advisory, bridging and convening roles of the Commission within the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and beyond.
 - Initiate a process to formalize relationships with the IFIs and regional development banks.
 - Capitalize collaborations and systematic consultations not only within the United Nations system but also with regional and other organizations.
 - Continue the Commission’s effort to facilitate exchanges of experiences, good practices and lessons learned and champion South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding.
 - Consider concrete modalities of a mechanism within the Commission to support the development and implementation of national and regional prevention strategies including through periodic reviews, in line with national ownership and inclusivity.
 - Take concrete actions to bolster inclusivity of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through championing the women, peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas and promoting the participation of civil society actors and Indigenous Peoples.

- Scale up its effort to address the adverse effects of climate change in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Elevate the Commission's relationship with the PBF and enhance the Commission's advocacy for investment in prevention and peacebuilding.
- Explore effective working methods of the Commission.

Annex

Summary of Civil Society Organizations' Written Submissions

1. In the context of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission* on 22 September 2023, the Chair of the PBC invited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and non-Peacebuilding Commission Members to submit written statements.
2. In response to the Chair's call, the PBC received 63 response from CSOs that have ECOSOC Consultative Status.
3. The following is summary of key issues raised by CSOs pertaining to the work of the PBC:
4. Key Issues:
 - They stressed the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation for conflict prevention and peacekeeping by calling for transparent multilateralism, trust-building among Member States, and upholding human rights and the rule of law.
 - They advocated for reforms in international frameworks, including the UN Security Council, to ensure impartial peace initiatives, prevent unilateral military actions and vetoing of peace initiatives.
 - They urged a focus on prevention and disarmament, calling for early prevention initiatives and emphasizing the importance of a human-centered approach to disarmament, acknowledging the human cost of conflicts.
 - They called for inclusivity and local engagement, urging active involvement of local leaders, women, youth, and civil society groups in peacebuilding efforts through inclusive dialogues, partnerships, and grassroots community engagements.
 - They advocated for gender equality and called for the empowerment of women in peacebuilding processes, recognizing their unique perspective and vital role in peacebuilding.
 - They acknowledged the nexus between sustainable development and peacebuilding and emphasized the importance of aligning peacebuilding efforts with Sustainable Development Goals strategies and equitable practices.
 - They called to address climate change as a significant factor affecting conflicts and advocated for environmental protection as a fundamental human right.
 - They stressed the need for an equal access to quality education, resources, and opportunities to empower youth while underlining their pivotal role in peacebuilding.
 - They advocated for humanitarian aid access, especially for vulnerable populations such as children, and called for counter-terror measures that do not hinder humanitarian access.
 - They emphasized the significance of integrating emerging technologies and innovation to advance conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

5. Recommendations:

- Conduct an evaluation of the Commission’s work in conflict prevention across the political, funding, and coordination components to adopt responsive work formats and provide a strong basis for designing relevant reforms in the context of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, prioritizing multilateral cooperation, sustainable development, gender equality, and youth inclusion.
- Further elevate the Commission’s role in fostering partnerships and facilitating open cross-pillar dialogues on global challenges related to peacebuilding and innovative prevention methods. Empower the Commission’s Chair and strengthen its ties with other UN bodies to enhance multilateral commitment through strategic foresight, collaboration and coordination for impactful outcomes in peace, security, and sustainable development.
- Call on the Commission to ensure inclusive decision-making processes, involving marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples, women, youth, and conflict-affected populations, and promote dialogue, reconciliation, and reparative processes at the grassroots level.
- Enhance the Commission’s focus on early warning systems to identify potential conflicts and concentrate on preventive measures to avoid escalation.
- Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction into peacebuilding strategies and promote sustainable development goals and environmentally friendly practices as part of conflict prevention efforts.
- Focus on education and training initiatives, especially for women and youth, including the establishment of formative training centers and the empowerment of vulnerable communities. Collaborate with educational institutions, Member States, and civil society to promote education as a fundamental tool for peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

6. The following is the list of Civil Society Organizations with ECOSOC Consultative Status that submitted written statements in response to the PBC Chair’s call:

1. Achievers Mission Foundation
2. Action contre les Violations des Droits des Personnes Vulnérables
3. Adolescent Breast and Pelvic Cancer Awareness Initiative
4. Africa Child Foundation Mission of Tanzania
5. Africa Faith and Justice Network
6. Afrikaans Forum for Civil Rights (AfriForum)
7. Agro-Pastoral Group for Development of Yongoro
8. AIM Education & Research Society
9. Andaa Vijana Initiative
10. Argentine Foundation to the Nations Path to the Truth
11. Association of the Bar of the City of New York (NYC BAR Association)
12. Association of War-Affected Women
13. Athletes United for Peace (AUP)
14. Bonaire Human Rights Organization
15. Business Innovation Research Dev (BIRD)
16. Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research (C4HR&CCR)
17. Community Economic And Environmental Rights Initiative (CEERI)

18. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF)
19. Endeavour Forum
20. EPI asbl (Education Prénatale - Information)
21. European Large Families Confederation
22. For All Moonkind
23. Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research
24. Foundation for the Care, Health Care and Social Integration for the Disabled (C.A.S.I.D.)
25. Fundación Luz María
26. Gender Equality Network
27. Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (The G4 Alliance)
28. Global Education and Development
29. Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
30. Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
31. Global Peace Institute - Brazil (Instituto Global da Paz)
32. International Communities Organisation (ICO)
33. International Federation of Social Workers
34. International Historians Association for Culture, Development and Social Sciences
35. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development
36. International Native Tradition Interchange
37. International Psychoanalytical Association Trust
38. Ken. G. Morka Foundation
39. Knowledge Mill International Foundation (KMIF)
40. Millennium Child Support Group
41. Natural Disasters Research Institute
42. Never Again Rwanda
43. Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)
44. Peace Direct
45. Pompiers humanitaires
46. Progressive People of Yorubaland Worldwide Association
47. Quaker UN Office (QUNO)
48. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan
49. Rondine Citadel of Peace (Associazione Rondine Cittadella Della Pace)
50. Rural Development Partnership (Partenaires pour le développement rural (PDR))
51. Save the Children International
52. Sonke Gender Justice
53. Sonmaz Mashall Cultural Relations Public Union
54. Subjective Physics Sciences
55. The American Pakistan Foundation
56. The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW)
57. Vista Organisation for Education and Social Development in Africa
58. Widows for Peace through Democracy
59. Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)
60. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

61. Yakutia - Our Opinion
62. YCAB Foundation
63. Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

The full-length statements submitted by the above-listed organizations can be accessed on the PBC [website](#).