Round Tables on 25 April 2022

in connection with the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding on 27 April 2022

Informal PBSO outcome summaries

Round table 1: Funding of Local Peacebuilding

Key messages:

- Many participants recommended expanding funding commitments for local peacebuilding. Current funding modalities are restricted to short-term interventions, with unrealistic donor expectations on impact.
- Eligibility, application and reporting requirements make it impossible for local peacebuilders to apply to funds. Addressing administrative and accountability barriers and adapting them to local contexts and capacities is therefore essential.
- Many participants highlighted the need for donors and funding mechanisms to commit a dedicated minimum percentage of funding for local peacebuilding.
- Most participants advocated for longer-term and more flexible funding mechanisms to directly support local peacebuilding efforts and actors. Flexibility of funding should allow local actors to address their needs.
- Many participants also stressed the need to invest in core funding of local organizations, including those led by youth and women, in a manner that allows for the institutional development of the organization and its sustainability.
- Some Member States recognized the need to commit adequate funding for the protection of peacebuilders, including women and young peacebuilders active at the local level. This could include the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism supporting safe and enabling environments for peacebuilders to carry out their work and through contingency lines in project budgets to respond to security threats.
- Most participants highlighted the need to increase transparency and diversity in selection of local peacebuilding partners to ensure representation of all actors and social groups who are relevant to local conflict dynamics and populations. Local actors should meaningfully shape the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of peacebuilding initiatives, in line with the United Nations Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.
- Some participants noted the importance of co-creating financing mechanisms for local peacebuilding together with local peacebuilders, including women and youth-led organizations, shifting from control to trust and from risk management to risk sharing.
- Most participants agreed on the need to build local-national linkages into peacebuilding interventions and provide sufficient resources at both levels.
- Participants stressed the important role that innovative financial models, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), philanthropy and the private sector can play to support and create an enabling environment for local peacebuilding efforts.

- Most participants stressed the need to close the data gap by investing in data systems and markers to track investments in local peacebuilding, both in terms of quantity and quality. Data should be disaggregated at minimum by gender and age.
- Some participants stressed that, when direct funding to local organizations is not possible, working with medium-scale CSOs and networks/platforms of local organizations as intermediaries should be encouraged based on mutually agreed principles regarding accountability, visibility and ownership.
- Local peacebuilding programming should be informed by human rights and gender-responsive participatory conflict analysis, and conceptualized, developed, designed and implemented through the meaningful engagement of relevant local-level actors, including women and youth.

Possible commitments:

- Commit to the allocation of a minimum percentage of funding for local peacebuilding.
- Ensure longer-term and more flexible funding mechanisms to directly support local peacebuilding.
- Commit adequate and dedicated funding that would allow local peacebuilders, including youth and women, to address their needs, such as protection concerns and institutional development, and the peacebuilding priorities which they identify in the context in which they operate.
- Ensure systematic and meaningful inclusion of local stakeholders, including women and young people, in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of local peacebuilding initiatives.
- Strengthen efforts to co-create financing mechanisms for local peacebuilding in partnership with local actors.
- Invest in data to track investment in local peacebuilding, women, and youth-led organizations, as well as in the outcome of their initiatives.

Round table 2: PBF results and resourcing

Key messages:

- There was broad consensus on the need to increase the availability and predictability of resources for investment in peacebuilding, including for the Peacebuilding Fund.
- Many participants stressed that the Fund has been a fast, flexible and effective tool to support nationally owned peacebuilding efforts and achieve concrete results with a positive catalytic effect but its current funding model does not generate enough resources to meet needs.
- Many participants welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to find increased, more predictable and more sustainable funding for peacebuilding, by pursuing all available options, with a significant number of Member States strongly supporting the Secretary-General's proposal to use assessed contributions for peacebuilding. Some Member States emphasized that such contributions should not take away from peacekeeping resources and stressed the importance of ensuring adequate oversight of any future assessed funding for peacebuilding while continuing to strengthen the transparency, flexibility and responsiveness of the PBF.
- Many Member States, including both recipients and donors to the Fund, emphasized the compelling peacebuilding results and impact achieved thanks to PBF funding, highlighting a broad range of peacebuilding-related themes, including truth and reconciliation,

transitional justice, inclusive dialogue and consensus-building, reducing forced displacement, as well as addressing climate security risks.

- Several participants emphasized the positive impact of the PBF in supporting the empowerment of women and youth to participate in political and peacebuilding processes. Participants welcomed the PBF's instrumental role in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas. Some CSOs called on the Fund to further increase its flexibility to ensure additional funding can be channelled through, for example, Women CSO networks at local level.
- Several participants encouraged continued engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission of Member States receiving PBF funding, to share experiences and lessons learned on Peacebuilding.
- Some participants welcomed PBF's continued efforts to identify lessons to inform future peacebuilding investments, including through thematic reviews, but also called for greater efforts to increase coherence in peacebuilding programming and strengthen the UN capacities of entities on the ground to deliver peacebuilding programmes.
- Throughout the discussion, there were repeated calls to ensure the high-level meeting on 27 April would lead to strong and action-oriented outcomes to increase peacebuilding investments.

Possible commitments:

- Member States committing to be first-time voluntary donors to the PBF or to increase their contributions.
- Member States currently contributing to the PBF to prioritize multi-year commitments to the Fund.
- Member States receiving PBF funding to increase engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission to share strategic orientation and lessons learned on Peacebuilding.
- Member States to express openness to the use of assessed contributions to the PBF.
- Member States to provide adequate resources for PBSO to strengthen capacities to develop initiatives on innovative financing for peacebuilding and to strengthen partnerships, including with International Financial Institutions.
- The PBF to find more ways to fund local organizations, including community organizations.
- Member States to commit to reaching the Secretary-General's proposed "quantum leap" of $500 million (also in Funding Compact).
- Member States to support consideration of all of the Secretary-General's proposed options to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, which can operate in tandem and are not mutually exclusive.

Round table 3: Peace-responsive Investing through the Private Sector

Key Messages:

- Representatives from private sector, UN entities, civil society, as well as Member States recognized that the private sector can be a valuable partner in peacebuilding.
- Recognizing that business can both contribute to, as well as potentially undermine peace, speakers called for the development of tools and frameworks to measure the impact of business on peace, insisting that these should be informed by local contexts to be meaningful.
- Speakers underscored the growing momentum towards peace-responsive investments in conflict-affected contexts, many of them citing examples of successful models of profitable

investments in such settings, and discussing how they can be scaled up and multiplied to provide economic stability in these areas.

- Many participants highlighted the need for increasing private investment in conflict-affected countries, which can be achieved by showing investors that investments can be peace-positive and profitable at the same time, and that peace investment is possible and instrumental in helping shoulder the high demand for funding for peacebuilding.
- Emphasis was placed on creating capital to serve humanity, with the prioritization of peace-positive development initiatives. Calls were made for the establishment of peace investment frameworks that encompass good practices for investment, research and social benefit for local communities.
- Increased collaboration between the UN and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), with local actors' contribution and community engagement, as well as the establishment of accountability frameworks for private investments, can increase stability, create greater trust in governments and build economically viable societies.
- Some of the participants stressed the need to make available to the private sector evidence-based reports and conflict-sensitive analysis that could help in their investment decision making processes, and help them be conflict sensitive and generate peace-positive outcomes. They noted that a vibrant private sector is a good indicator of stability and can be involved directly in conflict resolution, e.g., through peace initiatives, dialogue, mediation and youth programmes.
- The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is uniquely positioned to facilitate collaboration among the UN, IFIs and the private sector to invest in conflict-affected countries with a focus on peacebuilding, and in developing global norms for peace-positive investments. The PBC could also help connect peace initiatives with private sector actors in a way that benefits local communities, utilising peacebuilding tools at the local level.

Possible Commitments:

- Commitment to share various innovative approaches to promote private sector involvement in peacebuilding, such as peace bonds, peace renewable energy credit, fit-for-purpose credit markets and results-based financing, that can be further designed, implemented, and scaled in conflict-affected settings.
- Commitment to increase collaboration among different actors (including IFIs, private sector, UN entities) as well as to overcome barriers through the establishment of mechanisms and frameworks that can attract investors and turn private sector actors into peacebuilders.
- Commitment to sharing responsibility for measuring the peacebuilding impact of private sector investments, for example to strengthen existing principles, and create new principles, norms and standards that can be globally accepted but locally relevant.
- Commitment to further consolidation and integration of an evidence-based approach for effective strategies for peace-responsive investments and developing a common framework for assessing impact and the contribution of the private sector to peacebuilding.

Round table 4: Flexibility of funding for peacebuilding, including in transition settings

Key Messages:

- Participants recognized that transitions represent a critical period, during which investments in sustaining peace by national authorities and their international partners over the years could be lost, if the root causes of conflicts are not addressed and national stakeholders are left unprepared to assume greater responsibilities.

- The support by the international community for national efforts to prevent conflict and build resilience should therefore not wither but rather be redoubled at these crucial moments for the future of a country.
- Many participants insisted that preparing for transition needed to occur at the earliest stages of mission planning and that (in the words of one participant) peacebuilding should be "baked" into the mandates of peace operations.
- Participants stressed that adequate, sustainable and predictable funding for critical investments in peacebuilding should be available well in advance of, during and after transitions.
- Participants recognized that further efforts are needed to strengthen coherence of support for peacebuilding and to enable national ownership, including at local level.
- Member States and UN representatives noted that responding to the risks during and after UN transitions and overcoming the "financial cliff" requires flexible, catalytic and unearmarked funding for peacebuilding.
- They highlighted that programmatic funding in Mission budgets plays a critical role to retain flexibility to carry out mandated activities and to lay the ground for sustained peacebuilding efforts once the mission leaves, in particular in areas such as rule of law and security sector reform.
- Participants agreed that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has proven critical to overcome financial gaps and provide seed funding during transitions and many stressed that it must be adequately resourced. They also noted that the PBF window for transitions can provide only a fraction of what is needed to continue to address root causes of conflict.
- Participants reiterated that UN transitions involved an overall reconfiguration and strategic repositioning of the UN's presence. At the same time, engagement with national stakeholders had to happen at an earlier stage and had to focus on strengthening national capacities in areas that would be critical when the mission withdraws.
- Participants stressed the important role of the development actors during transitions, including through a strengthened presence in areas where missions are withdrawing.
- Participants stressed the need for developing financing strategies for the transition and post-transition period encompassing all relevant stakeholders and frameworks (e.g., national development plans, UN cooperation frameworks, IFIs country frameworks), as an integral part of preparing all key actors, including the UN Country Team, the host government and civil society organizations well before a mission's closure.
- Many participants stressed the importance of leveraging International Financial Institutions (IFIs) scaled-up investment in prevention to support national priorities critical for sustaining peace and encouraged strategic alignment at country level, pointing to emerging good practices such as collaboration in Public Expenditure Reviews, including of the security sector.
- Several Member States pointed to the Peacebuilding Commission's critical role in mobilizing support for nationally owned peacebuilding priorities of countries in transition. The Commission's convening, bridging and advisory role has proven to be effective in enhancing coherence amongst stakeholders. Member States called upon the Security Council to draw upon the Commission's bridging function and advisory role to facilitate and support national transition plans and financing strategies.
- Member States stressed the urgency to dedicate more funding to the integration of the Women Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security agendas in peacebuilding and transition contexts.

Possible commitments:

- Support an increase in programmatic funding for mandated peacebuilding activities of peacekeeping missions and special political missions, in particular in preparation for UN transitions in order to prevent a relapse into conflict.
- Commit to enhancing coherence of support to critical peacebuilding efforts, such as strengthening of national institutions and local level peacebuilding, in particular through the development of inclusive and comprehensive peacebuilding financing strategies as an integral part of planning for UN transitions.
- Commit to fostering strategic engagement with international and regional financial institutions in preparation for UN transitions.
- Commit to strengthening the critical role of the Peacebuilding Commission in mobilizing support for nationally owned peacebuilding priorities of countries in transition, and to ensuring close consultation of the Security Council with the Peacebuilding Commission.
- Commit to dedicate more funding to women- and youth-led civil society organizations in transition periods.
- Ensure that lessons are drawn from previous transitions to make peacebuilding financing for transitions more effective, practical, flexible and locally-led and -owned.
- Ensure that transition planning, in line with Security Council Resolution 2594, starts at the earliest possible stage and that mission mandates pay attention to conditions and capabilities necessary for transition, also by deepening UN Country Team field presences during UN transitions.
- Commit to integrating peacebuilding as part and parcel of mission mandates.

Programme

9:30-9:35	**Opening remarks: Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, delivered by Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**
9.35-11:00	**Round table 1: Funding of Local Peacebuilding** Chair/Moderator: Mariska van Beijnum, Special Adviser on Financing for Peacebuilding Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Director Clingendael Conflict Research Unit Speaker 1: Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA Speaker 2: Khaled Emam, Director, Justice Call Speaker 3: Asa Regner, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women Speaker 4: May Sabe Phyu, Director, Gender Equality Network Member States co-sponsors: Liberia, the Netherlands, New Zealand Participants besides Member States (will speak from the floor): UN entities: • UNHCR (Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Director, New York Office) • UNICEF (June Kunugi, Director, Government Partnership) • OROLSI (Kwame Poku, Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration Section) • Youth Envoy (Marija Vasileva-Blazev, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth) Civil society organizations: • Justice Without Frontiers (Brigitte Chelebian, Director, virtually from Lebanon) • LEGASI Dialogue Forum (Victor Abarshi, youth activist, virtually from Nigeria) • Life & Peace Institute (Aaron Stanley, Senior Policy Adviser) • Peace Direct US (Elana Aquino, Director)
11:15-12.:45	**Round table 2: Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) results and resourcing** Chair/Moderator: Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Speaker 1: H.E. Christian Mwando Nsimba Kabulo, Minister of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo Speaker 2: Usha Rao-Monari, Associate Administrator, UNDP Speaker 3: Marriët Schuurman, PBF Advisory Group Speaker 4: Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, UN DPPA Member States co-sponsors: Colombia and Sweden Participants besides Member States (will speak from the floor) UN entities: • IOM (Fernando Medina, Director, Department of Peace and Development Cooperation, connecting virtually) • WFP (Rebecca Reynolds, Programme Department, Humanitarian and Development, connecting virtually) • UN Women (Paivi Kannisto, Chief of Peace and Security) • UNFPA (Julitta Onabanjo, Technical Director) Civil society organizations: • Interpeace (Graeme Simpson, Director USA) • International Civil Society Action Network (France Bognon, Program Director) • URU (Kessy Ekomo Soignet, Director)

14:30-16.00	**Round table 3: Peace-Responsive Investing through the Private Sector** Chair/Moderator: Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, UN Capital Development Fund Speaker 1: Sherwin Das, Managing Partner, Energy Peace Partners Speaker 2: Christopher Egerton-Warburton, Co-CEO, Lionshead Capital Speaker 3: Samuel Tumiwa, Chief of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, Asian Development Bank Member States co-sponsors: Germany and South Africa Participants besides Member States (will speak from the floor) UN entities: • ILO (Beate Andrees, Special Representative to the UN, Director of ILO Office for the UN) • UN Global Compact (Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director) Civil society/private sector/multilateral organizations: • Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Carole Kariuki Karuga, CEO) • Instiglio, a Colombia-based non-profit (Sebastian Chaskel, Associate Partner) • International Organization of Employers (Shea Gopaul, Special Representative to UN) • New York University's Center on International Cooperation (Betty Wainaina Maina, Senior Programme Officer) • International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC (Anna Fendley, Chair of the ITUC Youth Committee) • Radical Flexibility Fund/Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (Riva Kantowitz, Founder/Senior Adviser) • Interpeace (Daniel Hyslop, Head of Research, connecting virtually)
16:15-17:45	**Round table 4: Flexibility of funding for peacebuilding, including in transition settings** Chair/Moderator: Karin Landgren, Executive Director, Security Council Report Speaker 1: Helen La Lime, Special Representative and Head of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) Speaker 2: Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) Speaker 3: Hon. Varney A. Sirleaf, Minister of Internal Affairs (Republic of Liberia), connecting virtually from Liberia Speaker 4: Sarah Cliffe, Director, New York University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC/NYU) Member States co-sponsors: Bangladesh and Ireland Participants besides Member States (will speak from the floor) UN entities: • Special Adviser of the Secretary General on Strengthening Programmatic Integration (Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General) • OHCHR (Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General) • United Nations Office for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (Robert Pulver, Chief, Justice and Corrections Service and Officer in Charge) • UNICEF (Genevieve Boutin, Director of Programmes) Civil society organizations: • Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (Marina Kumskova, Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser) • Nonviolent Peaceforce (Tiffany Easthom, Executive Director, connecting virtually) • International Peace Institute (Daniel Forti, Research Fellow) • Alianza para la Paz (Ana Glenda Tager, Director, connecting virtually)
17:40-17:45	**Closing remarks: Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**