

Peacebuilding Commission Submission to UN Security Council Arria Formula Meeting

Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace through Comprehensive Approaches

- Investment in People, including Empowerment of Women –

Monday, 22 January 2024

The Peacebuilding Commission welcomes the convening of this Arria Formula meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace through Comprehensive Approaches with a focus on investment in People and the Empowerment of Women.

The Commission recognizes the importance of effective national, international and regional coordination, as appropriate, including through United Nations Resident Coordinator System, to implement comprehensive approaches to peacebuilding and sustaining peace that address root causes of conflicts and drivers of instability at all stages of the conflict, and contribute to lasting peace and sustainable development.

To this end, the Commission continues to work towards stronger and long-term partnership with regional and subregional organizations and with international financial institutions. In November last year, it convened the sixth Annual Informal Consultative Meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council. The meeting provided an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership between the PBC and the AUPSC in support of peacebuilding efforts in Africa.

The Commission stressed that peacebuilding and sustaining peace is anchored in national ownership. Nationally owned and identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace needs must be the framing elements around which coherent international support, including finance, should be built. The Commission, therefore according to its mandate, continues to provide a space for conflict-affected and post-conflict countries to share their peacebuilding and sustaining peace experience and seek support.

The Commission, building on its continuous engagement with women and youth, recognizes that promoting inclusion and equality, is vital to peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

The call for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes as well as in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict at local, national, regional and global levels needs to continue.

Member States have over the years taken concrete steps towards the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. However, gaps still exist and persist in some contexts with women still excluded from meaningful participation in peace and security processes and decision making. On this basis, the Commission would like to highlight the following as important measures to be supported by Member States:

- The importance of Member States' support to enhancing women's access to capacity building and funding for their direct participation in peace processes.

- Women's political, social, and economic empowerment, including through the advancing of gender equality, strengthening women's participation in security sector, elimination of discrimination and violence against women as well as providing the education, employment and development opportunities for women, is critical for their full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes, preventing conflicts and rebuilding societies.
- The Commission takes note of the important work of the Peacebuilding Fund as an example of funding that prioritizes gender equality, achieving 47% of its annual investment to support greater investment into women's inclusion, participation, economic empowerment and security in conflict-related and post-conflict situations, and urges Member States to consider increasing substantially their funding including for programmes that further gender equality and women's economic empowerment, their security and protection.
- Support efforts to ensure that young women are empowered to contribute to peacebuilding initiatives, including through support to grassroots peacebuilding initiatives, youth leaders, and youth organizations.
- Promote prevention of and responses to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected situations. Encourage enhanced partnerships, including cooperation with international and regional financial institutions, that are critical in ensuring women's economic inclusion in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.
- Promote engagement with and support to women peacebuilders¹ and their networks and organizations at local, national, and regional levels, and support to protecting women peacebuilders, taking into account intersectionality and the synergies between the women, peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas.

¹ For the purposes of the document, "women peacebuilders" means 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.