

Peacebuilding Commission

Ambassadorial-level meeting with the Advisory Group of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

17 November 2023

Chair's summary

On 17 November 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission convened a meeting with the Advisory Group of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to explore synergies in the context of the New Agenda for Peace, the Summit of the Future, and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review 2025. The meeting, held during the Third Meeting of the Seventh Advisory Group, marked the first joint session of the Advisory Group and the PBC. Key points emphasized included the timeliness of collaboration to have more coherent peacebuilding activities, achieve more adequate, predictable, and sustained funding for the PBF, showcasing success stories, and addressing challenges. Participants advocated for greater synergies, regular exchanges, and integration of PBF lessons into the PBC's work. They also emphasized the PBF's agility its role in supporting vulnerable groups, and the importance of addressing climate, peace, and security. The discussions highlighted the importance of national ownership in the PBF's approach, smart investments, and a stronger multilateralism, with an emphasis on the upcoming Summit of the Future and the 2025 Review of the peacebuilding architecture as opportunities to renew commitment.

On 17 November 2023, the Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse, convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting of the Commission with the Advisory Group of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund. The objective of the meeting was to explore synergies between PBC and PBF in the context of the New Agenda for Peace, the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review in 2025. This meeting was held within the context of the Third Meeting of the Seventh Advisory group which took place between 16 and 17 November 2023 and constituted the first joint meeting of the Advisory Group and the PBC.

1. In her opening remarks, **the Vice-Chair** stressed the timeliness of the meeting and the opportunity it provides to discuss ways to strengthen synergies between the Commission and the Fund and to explore ways to achieve progress on the shared objective to achieve more adequate, predictable, and sustained funding for peacebuilding. She welcomed the increased interest of countries to receive PBF support and noted that more should be done to showcase the PBF success stories with the PBC. In this regard, she noted that, as the PBF is facing challenges to meet the increased demand for its funding, Member States should consider ways to enable the PBF to meet this demand and support national peacebuilding efforts.
2. **The Chair of the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group (AG), Ms. Sara Pantuliano**, acknowledged the need for greater efforts within the framework of the new Agenda for Peace, emphasizing the collaborative approach required for its effective implementation. Emphasizing the pivotal role of the AG, she highlighted a notable shift in its composition

towards greater geographic diversity. She expressed appreciation for the transparency of the Fund, highlighting its uniqueness. She further outlined four key priority areas identified by the AG and endorsed by the Secretary General: (1) supporting the PBF's role in enhancing coherence within the UN system; (2) optimizing the Fund's impact; (3) advancing discussions on assessed contributions, with gratitude for the PBC's support; and (4) recognizing the potential role of the PBC facilitating a dialogue between Member States and the Fund.

3. **The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar,** welcomed the first meeting between the PBF Advisory Group and PBC, expressing a desire for such interactions to become a regular occurrence. She voiced her support for the key points put forth by the PBF AG chair, underscoring their alignment with the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace. She emphasized three pivotal roles in connection with strengthening the PBC's functions: (1) Recognition of the PBC as a convener for substantive thematic discussions; (2) Proposal for the PBC to establish a mechanism for mobilizing political and financial support for the implementation of national and regional strategies addressing various drivers of conflict and enhancing national infrastructures for peace; and (3) Advocacy for formalizing relations with IFIs and regional development banks to ensure alignment of financing instruments with national priorities. She stressed the potential for the PBF to play a valuable role in all three areas.
4. Member States of the PBC and the Members of the PBF AG welcomed the briefings and made the following remarks:
 - They underscored the importance of greater synergies between the PBC and PBF, emphasizing the need for more frequent exchanges, at both ambassadorial and expert levels, to institutionalize collaboration. They recommended systematically integrating lessons learned from the PBF into the PBC's work and enhancing the Commission's role in facilitating thematic discussions based on concrete experiences of conflict-affected countries. They suggested to establish regular channels of communication between the PBC and PBF AG, including reports on the work of the PBF AG, and discussions on the PBF annual report in the Commission to ensure coherence of policy and programmatic activities.
 - Several Member States, including PBF recipients, shared their own experiences, recognizing the PBF's comparative advantage, highlighting its flexibility and adaptability to meet the needs of changing and unpredictable contexts, as well as its pivotal role in bringing together the UN system. They suggested leveraging the PBC's influence to raise awareness of the PBF's impact on the ground and suggested that the PBC could serve as a valuable platform for PBF recipient countries to share best practices as well as ongoing challenges. Member States welcomed the idea of joint visits to raise awareness on how the Fund concretely responds to nationally identified peacebuilding challenges.

- They encouraged the PBF and PBC to collaborate in strengthening the participation of women and youth, as well as other vulnerable groups, by ensuring meaningful inclusion in the PBC proceedings and fostering, through the PBF, direct partnerships with women based and youth led civil society organizations. Highlighting consultation and close partnership with local actors to ensure sustainable solutions and national ownership, Member States stressed the importance of prioritizing bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding challenges.
 - Several Member States recommended placing a greater emphasis on climate, peace and security as well as cross-border programming and noted that the PBF thematic review on climate, peace and security presents a key opportunity for increased collaboration with the PBC. Some Member States suggested establishing a new priority window for climate, peace and security.
 - They reiterated the importance of national ownership and leadership in both the Commission and the Fund, noting that the PBC could draw from the PBF's experience in engaging local actors at the country as a way to further improve its advice to the Security Council.
 - They emphasized the importance of integrating perspectives from the global south in the PBC and promoting South-south and Triangular Cooperation.
 - They emphasized the importance of smart investments in peace, focusing on effective results, strategic impact, accountability and value for money. The upcoming launch of the peacebuilding Impact Hub was welcomed as a tool to optimize investments through measuring and analyzing results.
 - They welcomed the ongoing discussions in the 5th Committee and expressed their hope for a positive outcome. They also emphasized the need to continue exploring innovative financing and partnerships with IFIs, as well as prioritizing multi annual investments as ways to foster more adequate, predictable and sustained resources for peacebuilding. In this regard, they stressed that the PBC could help facilitate such discussions.
 - They stressed the need to work with all actors within the system, highlighting the pivotal role of the RC/HC. Some Member States encouraged the PBF AG to provide briefings to presidents of the UN Security Council on countries on the Council's agenda.
 - They recognized the severity of the global crises as evidence of the fact that multilateralism needs to be strengthened. In this regard, they recognized the Summit of the Future and the 2025 Review of the peacebuilding architecture as opportunities to lead to a renewed commitment to multilateralism.
5. In response to interventions from the floor, the briefers welcomed the interest of Member States and Members of the PBF AG in having increased synergies and collaboration between the PBC and the PBF. They reaffirmed the Fund's commitment to supporting national strategies and ensuring national ownership. They agreed that the Commission can play a critical role in bringing visibility for PBF investments, both through its advice to the Security Council and when engaging relevant stakeholders. They applauded the

transparency and accountability of the PBF, noting the great amount of publicly available details on how funds are spent. In this regard, the Chair of the AG noted that the PBF was “one of the most transparent and accountable UN instruments she has come to know in her career”. They stressed the complementarity of the PBF with peacekeeping missions, particularly after the conclusion of such operations. In relations to climate, they informed of discussions to include climate, peace and security as an additional priority window, emphasizing that the PBF’s investments align with national priorities and ownership and thus, for countries where climate is a significant concern, this will be prioritized. They emphasized the importance of exploring opportunities for innovative funding and for stronger relations with IFIs. They reaffirmed the catalytic nature of the Fund and its relevance in fostering greater cooperation and integration among the UN system, including Agencies, Funds and Programmes, with a view to strengthening coherence and impact on the ground.

Chair’s recommendations:

- Explore concrete opportunities to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund. These can include regular participation of PBC members to PBF country visits, and a regular opportunity for the PBC to interact with the Advisory Group, perhaps annually.
- Continue to convene PBC discussions on countries that are receiving PBF support to allow those countries to share their peacebuilding experiences and to raise awareness for the work of the PBF.
- Continue to explore ways for the PBC to discuss South-South and Triangular Cooperation.