

Peacebuilding Commission's annual session

Financing for peacebuilding

29 November 2021, 10:00-13:00 (New York)

Concept Note

Background

In line with its mandate on the important issue of financing for peacebuilding, as set in the founding resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council ([A/RES/60/180](#) and [S/RES/1645](#)) and further reinforced in subsequent resolutions [[A/RES/70/262](#) and [S/RES/2282\(2016\)](#); and [A/RES/75/201](#) and [S/RES/2558 \(2020\)](#)] the Commission has, since its inception, prioritized financing for peacebuilding throughout its country-specific, regional and cross-cutting work. The Commission has consistently called for adequate, predictable and sustained resources for peacebuilding, in particular at a time when COVID-19 has exacerbated inequalities and vulnerabilities. The Commission further pursued its engagement with the International Financial Institutions in country-specific, regional and cross-cutting work.

In its [2 July 2020 letter](#) to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General, the Commission highlighted that Member States need to further discuss the financing options formulated by the Secretary-General. The Commission also recommended that the donor base for peacebuilding should be broadened and diversified, encouraged Member States that have not contributed to the PBF to consider doing so, and suggested further exploration of innovative financing for the PBF.

To address these points, in November 2020, the Commission dedicated its annual session to the theme “Financing for peacebuilding”. At that meeting, the Commission expressed alarm at the sharp increase of global poverty due to the pandemic and its socioeconomic impacts and emphasized the need to ensure that efforts to promote economic growth also include efforts to reduce inequalities. The Commission stressed the need for a collective work of the international community on peacebuilding and it underscored that funding streams should be brought together in the spirit of “good peacebuilding donorship” in order to enhance coherence and coordination.

In December 2020, the General Assembly and the Security Council reaffirmed¹ their commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, welcoming the work of Member States and the United Nations system and underscoring the importance of providing coherent support to national peacebuilding priorities, including through stronger partnerships with regional and subregional organizations,

¹ Twin resolutions A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 (2020) on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

international financial institutions, civil society organizations, local peacebuilding stakeholders, and the private sector.

Expressing grave concern about the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world, especially in conflict-affected countries, and recognizing that progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could be hampered, the General Assembly and the Security Council also emphasized the need to integrate peacebuilding and sustaining peace into efforts to build back better. They noted that peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge and called for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at the seventy-sixth session to advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, affirming a commitment to pursuing action-oriented outcomes. In this regard, they invited the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to present inputs in advance for Member States' consideration and discussion at that meeting.

Most recently, the Secretary-General echoed these messages in his report on *Our Common Agenda*, where he proposed stronger commitments and investments in prevention and peacebuilding, including through additional dedicated resources to the Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission.

Purpose of the meeting

The PBC annual session offers the opportunity to reaffirm the centrality of peacebuilding and to explore and develop concrete options in response to the 2020 General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/RES/75/201](#)- [S/RES/2558](#)) as well as the Secretary General's report on [Our Common Agenda](#), with a view to inform the Commission's inputs to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly. The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Discuss with key partners relevant good practices and approaches for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.
- Share Member States' progress in implementing the proposals on financing put forward by the Secretary-General in his reports on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#); [A/73/890-S/2019/448](#); [A/74/976-S/2020/773](#)).
- Make concrete and substantive suggestions on the content of the PBC input to the General Assembly high-level meeting on financing.

Format

The annual session will take place as an in-person/virtual hybrid meeting. As per established practice in the PBC annual sessions, delegations are encouraged to participate with capital-based senior officials, including at the level of Directors/Directors General. Priority in the interactive session will be given to delegations participating with capital-based senior representatives.

Agenda

1. Opening Session

- Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
- Introductory remarks by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly
- Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General, DPPA, United Nations
- Ms. Soukeyna Kane, Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank Group
- Mr. Yero Baldeh, Director, Transition States Coordination Office (RDTS), African Development Bank Group
- Mr. Philippe Valahu, CEO, Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)

2. High-level interactive session with Member States chaired by the PBC Chair and moderated Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, President and CEO, UN Foundation.

3. Closing remarks by the Chair