

**Peacebuilding Commission Virtual Consultation on the
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture:**

“Financing and Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”

8-15 June 2020

Chair’s Summary

1. From 8-15 June 2020, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened a virtual consultation on financing and partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The consultation was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of the PBC. The objective of the consultation was to inform the formal phase of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture and provide input for the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the 2020 review, the consultation was open to all UN Member States.
2. In his opening remarks, the Chair underscored that investing in prevention to reduce the human and financial cost of conflict required strong and effective partnerships as well as adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding efforts. However, the volatility and unpredictability of financing continued to drive fragmentation, harm partnerships and undermine effectiveness by weakening planning and creating competition for funding among UN entities and other partners. The Chair underlined that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) had demonstrated innovation and impact, and highlighted that demand for PBF support outpaced new funding. He noted that the PBF was only one piece of the bigger financing puzzle and stressed that action by Member States was required to address the Secretary-General’s call for increased, restructured and better prioritized funding dedicated to UN peacebuilding activities in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
3. Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director of the World Bank’s Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Group, recognized that two thirds of the world’s extremely poor population were expected to be living in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence by the end of 2030, and underscored that support to these countries was central in ending extreme poverty. In this regard, he highlighted the World Bank’s Strategy for FCV (2020–2025) and underlined the importance of the partnership with the UN in its implementation. In addition, the World Bank would be supporting low-income FCV countries with US\$20 billion through the 19th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA19). The support through IDA19 and the FCV strategy was focusing on: i) prevention; ii) development support; iii) strengthening institutions to provide service delivery to all citizens; and iv) addressing spillover effects across borders. The World Bank was also focusing on support to the private sector in

fragile markets as 80% of jobs in FCV settings was generated in the private sector. He emphasized that World Bank support in these countries was underpinned by strong partnerships across the peace, development and humanitarian nexus with the UN, regional organizations and development banks, bilateral partners and civil society through joint diagnostics or operational support. He concluded by stressing that leveraging the comparative advantages of the World Bank and the UN had proved to be effective in maximizing collective impact on the ground, including in COVID-19 response.

4. H.E. Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, noted that the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture coincided with the African Union's decisive push for Silencing the Guns and the revitalization of the AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development. He highlighted that the review offered an opportunity for Member States to renew their commitment to peacebuilding by reaching consensus on the proposals for financing for peacebuilding presented by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He underlined that the AU would do its part by leveraging its peace fund to ensure timely and predictable support to peacebuilding initiatives, while noting that it was imperative to optimize complementarity between existing financing instruments to scale up collective efforts and address existing gaps. He stressed the importance of further strengthening the partnership between the AU and the UN in peacebuilding, with particular emphasis on efforts aimed at addressing root causes of conflict and instability. In addition, he highlighted that deepening the partnership between the AU Peace and Security Council and the PBC through closer collaboration and coordination would be crucial in developing an interlocking global peacebuilding architecture.

5. Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, recalled the continued efforts by the PBC to help mobilize resources for peacebuilding priorities and highlighted the new approaches piloted by the PBF to explore innovative and non-conventional sources of funding. However, the ASG underlined that substantive progress had not been made towards the options presented by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace to improve predictability and sustainability of financing via voluntary, assessed and innovative sources, apart from in the area of voluntary contributions. He noted that voluntary contributions to the PBF had increased from US\$191.4 million during the 2014-2016 period to US\$362.5 million between 2017 and 2019, and informed the Commission that the PBF aimed to mobilize US\$175 million in 2020. The ASG reiterated the Secretary-General's call to Member States to make a quantum leap in support to the PBF to meet its goal of US\$500 million per year and urged Member States to consider the options to secure predictable funding to the PBF presented by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Group of Experts. He further recognized that partnerships were key in financing for peacebuilding and was encouraged by the PBC's strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) and with regional and sub-regional organizations. He noted that partnerships were

particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, which presented an additional layer of risk, and stressed the need for the UN and the World Bank to focus more strategically on support for field partnerships in conflict-affected countries.

6. Ms. Libby Hoffman, Founder and President of Catalyst for Peace, shared insights on how to foster locally owned and community-centered processes for peacebuilding and development at a national scale, building on the organization's 12 years of engagement in Sierra Leone. She underlined that it was imperative to focus on strengthening the capacity of local communities for absorbing support, which often also improved capacity to tap into already existing resources within local communities to address peacebuilding challenges. Furthermore, it was central to support collaboration across the different levels of society to leverage community-based plans to the national scale and use international support to promote a system of wholeness through an inside-out model for peace and development, with local leadership at the center. She proposed that the international community should further explore how to strategically use the comparative advantages of each available funding instrument to support these efforts while also promoting cross-national learning experiences to magnify successful community-centered national-level programs.
7. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:
 - They reiterated their call for adequate, predictable and sustained financing of UN peacebuilding efforts. They reiterated that increasing support to the PBF remained a critical objective and commended the initiatives to explore innovative and non-conventional sources of funding, while highlighting the importance of expanding the donors base of the PBF.
 - They stressed the need to further discuss the options on financing for peacebuilding presented by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including examining the obstacles hindering action on these options. They also stressed the need to consider additional options aimed at reducing fragmentation and increasing efficiency in the use of peacebuilding funds.
 - In this connection, several Member States recommended continuing to explore the option of using new or unspent assessed contributions for peacebuilding activities while others noted that they should be funded through voluntary contributions. Some also encouraged the further exploration of non-conventional funding sources and noted that the PBC should continue highlighting how innovative financing, including individual donations, private or public foundations, faith-based donations, impact investing or remittances and diaspora investments, have specifically contributed to peacebuilding efforts.

- They recognized the need to further encourage international assistance from non-traditional partners, including the private sector. They noted that diversified international assistance could help mitigate the risk for otherwise reluctant commercial investors in conflict-affected contexts to mobilize new financing sources. They underlined that beyond considering the private sector as a source of funding for peacebuilding, the private sector should be seen as a partner in conflict-affected settings that could support entrepreneurial action in communities and lead to a new and common vision of society.
- They underscored that the PBC should continue to use its platform to mobilize resources and convene partners in discussions on funding priorities and alignment with national peacebuilding priorities, including during transition processes.
- They stressed the continued importance of providing necessary resources to peacekeeping missions to enable them to continue to implement the peacebuilding aspects of missions' mandates.
- They underlined the importance of supporting locally-led and community-centered peacebuilding efforts and emphasized that increased funding for civil society remained a priority, particularly for women-led and youth-led peacebuilding organizations at the local and grassroots level.
- They stressed that financing for peacebuilding must be part of broader efforts to help conflict-affected countries attain the Sustainable Development Goals. They suggested that funding dedicated to peacebuilding activities should be more regularly tracked within the context of broader financing for development, for example through the use of a peacebuilding marker.
- They emphasized that partnerships between national stakeholders, the UN, regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs, bilateral donors, civil society and the private sector should be further strengthened to advance complementarity and coherence among various actors in support of nationally identified peacebuilding priorities. They also called on the PBC to further strengthen partnerships with regional economic communities such as ECCAS, ECOWAS, and SADC.
- They further highlighted the need to continue exploring South-South and Triangular cooperation in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

- They underlined the importance of identifying practical ways to advance synergies and complementarities between different financial mechanisms of the UN and the African Union and recognized the need to also strengthen collaboration between the UN and the African Development Bank. They noted that the PBC could help pursue these objectives by leveraging its bridging and convening role.