

**PBC Expert-level meeting on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on-Youth,  
Education and Peacebuilding**

**17 July 2024**

On 17 July 2024, the PBC held an Expert-level meeting on **the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on Youth, Education and Peacebuilding**. The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the role of youth and education in peacebuilding and provided inputs into the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review. Youth briefers were invited to share good practices and lessons learned on the topic, and they emphasized the critical roles of youth in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace based on their experiences.

1. **Mr. Carlo Castro, President and Founder of the Youth Service Philippines**, emphasized the role of youth in addressing conflicts. He highlighted the implementation of the National Action Plan for Youth, Peace, and Security in the Philippines, and stressed the need for education, negotiation, and collaboration with youth to achieve long-lasting peace and Sustainable Development Goals.
2. **Ms. Monicah Malith, Education Advocate from South Sudan**, underscored that education is a fundamental human right for everyone. Recalling her challenges in accessing education while in a refugee camp, she highlighted the importance of the universality and inclusiveness of education. Ms. Malith stressed the need for developing integrated education systems to prevent conflicts, where different communities in conflict can come together and build mutual understanding. Criticizing the often-limited communication between national governments and youth, Ms. Malith also emphasised the importance of involving youth from the early stages of policy making and programming and continuing the close partnership throughout implementation of initiatives. She highlighted the need for impactful efforts and actions to rebuild trust in systems and resonate on the ground.
3. **Ms. Nehiesmy Navarro, Advisor for the UN Youth Advisory Group in Costa Rica**, stressed the importance of inclusion of youth and women in the peace processes, expressing her concern about the growing marginalization of youth and human rights violations under authoritarian regimes and gender discrimination. Ms. Navarro stressed that youth increasingly lack trust in today's leaders, calling for young people to not only be included as advisors at the periphery of policy making, but rather considered as equal partners to bridge this trust deficit and build resilient communities. She also highlighted the importance of including Indigenous Peoples, recognizing the need to respect their justice systems and rules for peace. Noting Costa Rica's successful project in preventing hate speech and discrimination, she underlined the significant impact of funding on conflict prevention.
4. **Mr. Jacob Blasius, Executive Director of Global Student Forum from Denmark**, underscored the critical role of education, noting that the voice and agency of youth starts in the classroom. He further noted that young people are showing an impressive ability to come together and self-organize. While supporting and partnering with these youth organizations, Mr. Blasius argued, we must be mindful of preserving their independence and respecting their diversity. Mr. Blasius stressed the importance of ensuring access to quality education to

facilitate democratic participation and enhance their engagement and cooperation in peacebuilding processes.

5. **Participants** welcomed the briefings and, in their interventions, highlighted the following issues:

- They welcomed that the PBC continues to implement its youth action plan and to prioritize the role of youth in peacebuilding.
- They welcomed the role of the PBF in support of youth priorities and youth organizations.
- Noting that a lack of education and violence against youth can influence neighboring countries, they stressed the need for developing regional action plans and comprehensive frameworks on Youth and Education to address cross-border conflicts.
- They pointed out that there are often insufficient funds to develop sound conflict prevention programs, in addition to challenges in integrating the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda into those programs. In this regard, they reiterated the important role of PBAR in providing opportunities to explore ways to narrow the funding gap and ensure sustainable financing. They also noted that the PBAR should hear the voice of the youth.
- They stressed the role of education as a facilitator of youth engagement from the local level to the regional and global levels, noting the need for youth to be engaged in peacebuilding processes from a very early stage.
- They highlighted that inclusivity- including Youth, Women, and Indigenous Peoples- is a key to eliminating conflicts and building resilience in society and community.
- Noting that peace and education are closely interlinked, they agreed on the challenges of accessing education systems amid the normalization of violence. They underscored the need to enhance engagement with youth and peace actors to address conflicts and facilitate rapid transformation from violence.
- The critical role of education in facilitating social cohesion and preventing conflicts was emphasized, such as protecting youth from organized crime and extreme groups.
- They noted that, as education goes beyond YPS, an agenda on education could be developed. This issue could be considered by ECOSOC and PBC.

6. **Conclusion**

The Chair thanked the briefers and all participants for their contributions and reiterated the PBC's commitment to this topic. The Chair informed that the findings of this meeting would be shared with Member States ahead of the formal phase of the 2025 Review process.