

Peacebuilding Commission

Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission*

22 September 2023

On 22 September 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission met at Ministerial level to provide political guidance and to build momentum for ambitious outcomes that bolster multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting discussed how to elevate the Commission's role, building on the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace. The Commission was briefed by the President of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Bank Group, and the President and CEO of International Crisis Group. Participants, in a ministerial statement, adopted by the Commission, committed to strengthening the Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring a strategic approach and coherence to peacebuilding efforts. They expressed their willingness to continue engaging on the New Agenda for Peace. They agreed to engage constructively to achieve consensus on peacebuilding and sustaining peace related issues in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025.

1. On 22 September 2023, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Gordan Grli Radman, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, convened a Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission*, to provide political guidance and seek to build momentum for ambitious outcomes that bolster multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting discussed how to elevate the Commission's role, building on the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace.
2. In his opening remarks, the PBC Chair emphasized the importance to focus on prevention, based on trust, solidarity and universality, as articulated in the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace and the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. He stressed the need to strengthen the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing root causes of instability and promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, based on a principle that security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. He proposed to equip the Commission with decision-making powers and establish a "Sustainable Peace Network", which would include regional peacebuilding actors, with a view to contribute to the Commission's advisory role. Emphasizing the universality of prevention, he urged the Member States to prepare national prevention strategies and have them be periodically peer reviewed by the Peacebuilding Commission. He called for forging more systemic ties with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks. He shared an idea of a possible role of the Commission in overseeing "a new generation of peace operations", which are light footprint, civilian missions focused on rebuilding trust and the

rule of law and addressing root causes of conflict which would be dispatched upon invitation and agreement by host government either after a peacekeeping missions ends or to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Calling for ensuring adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding, he noted his hope that an agreement to finance peacebuilding from a regular budget will be reached. He also called for further strengthening the role of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office. He announced the adoption of a PBC Ministerial statement, which testifies to the strong commitment of Member States to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

3. **H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly**, reminded the vital mission of the United Nations is to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Noting the emergence of new and evolving threats to global peace and security, he called on the Commission to have a central role in addressing the cascade of crises, with a focus on prevention. He stressed the need to recognize warning signs of conflict, such as human rights violations, poverty and exclusion, gender inequality, food security, and climate vulnerability, and take a proactiSt3F519 Tmu1 0 0 1 257.93 529.39 Tm501.7.93 5W*6r1 0 0 1 72.024 584COTQ31gc gt wa

- Enhance synergies between the PBC and the PBF and continue to advocate for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.
- Allocate more resources to the Commission to elevate its work.
- Equip the Commission with effective decision-making power. Some participants called for a more flexible decision-making process to allow the Commission to produce more outputs while other participant underscored the critical importance to maintain decision-making by consensus to maintain unity, commitment and accountability of the Commission members.

Recommendations ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture:

Urge the Member States and regional actors to develop national and regional prevention strategies.

Encourage the United Nations system to build more robust capacities to support the Member States in their efforts for prevention, including conflict analysis and knowledge management.

Urge the Member States to reach consensus on the allocation of assessed contributions to the PBF at the current session of the Fifth Committee and further encourage the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of peacebuilding activities.

Enhance support capacities within the UN Secretariat to allow for the Commission to strengthen its effectiveness and impact.

Recommendations for the strengthened role of the Commission:

In order to elevate its role, call on the Commission to:

- Take concrete steps to operationalize the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the elevated roles of the Commission in support of prevention, ~~and~~ peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as universality of prevention, ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.
- Encourage its members to advocate for elevated advisory, bridging and convening roles of the Commission within the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and beyond.
- Initiate a process to formalize relationships with the IFIs and regional development banks.
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- Scale up its effort to address the adverse effects of climate change in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Elevate the Commission's relationship with the PBF and enhance the Commission's advocacy for investment in prevention and peacebuilding.
- Explore effective working methods of the Commission.

Annex

Summary of Civil Society Organizations' Written Submissions

1. In the context of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) Ministerial-level meeting on *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in an Era of Geopolitical Transition: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission* on 22 September 2023, the Chair of the PBC invited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and non-Peacebuilding Commission Members to submit written statements.
2. In response to the Chair's call, the PBC received 63 response from CSOs that have ECOSOC Consultative Status.
3. The following is summary of key issues raised by CSOs pertaining to the work of the PBC:
4. Key Issues:

They stressed the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation for conflict prevention and peacekeeping by calling for transparent multilateralism, trust-building among Member States, and upholding human rights and the rule of law.

They advocated for reforms in international frameworks, including the UN Security Council, to ensure impartial peace initiatives, prevent unilateral military actions and vetoing of peace initiatives.

They urged a focus on prevention and disarmament, calling for early prevention initiatives and emphasizing the importance of a human-centered approach to disarmament, acknowledging the human cost of conflicts.

They called for inclusivity and local engagement, urging active involvement of local leaders, women, youth, and civil society groups in peacebuilding efforts through inclusive dialogues, partnerships, and grassroots community engagements.

They advocated for gender equality and called for the empowerment of women in peacebuilding processes, recognizing their unique perspective and vital role in peacebuilding.

They acknowledged the nexus between sustainable development and peacebuilding and emphasized the importance of aligning peacebuilding efforts with Sustainable Development Goals strategies and equitable practices.

They called to address climate change as a significant factor affecting conflicts and advocated for environmental protection as a fundamental human right.

They stressed the need for an equal access to quality education, resources, and opportunities to empower youth while underlining their pivotal role in peacebuilding.

They advocated for humanitarian aid access, especially for vulnerable populations such as children, and called for counter-terror measures that do not hinder humanitarian access.

They emphasized the significance of integrating emerging technologies and innovation to advance conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

5. Recommendations:

Conduct an evaluation of the Commission's work in conflict prevention across the political, funding, and coordination components to adopt responsive work formats and provide a strong basis for designing relevant reforms in the context of the 2025

18. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF)
19. Endeavour Forum
20. EPI asbl (Education Prénatale - Information)
21. European Large Families Confederation
22. For All Moonkind
23. Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research
24. Foundation for the Care, Health Care and Social Integration for the Disabled (C.A.S.I.D.)
25. Fundación Luz María
26. Gender Equality Network
27. Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (The G4 Alliance)
28. Global Education and Development
29. Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
30. Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
31. Global Peace Institute - Brazil (Instituto Global da Paz)
32. International Communities Organisation (ICO)
33. International Federation of Social Workers
34. International Historians Association for Culture, Development and Social Sciences
35. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development
36. International Native Tradition Interchange
37. International Psychoanalytical Association Trust
38. Ken. G. Morka Foundation
39. Knowledge Mill International Foundation (KMIF)
40. Millennium Child Support Group
41. Natural Disasters Research Institute
42. Never Again Rwanda
43. Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)
44. Peace Direct
45. Pompiers humanitaires
46. Progressive People of Yorubaland Worldwide Association
47. Quaker UN Office (QUNO)
48. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan
49. Rondine Citadel of Peace (Associazione Rondine Cittadella Della Pace)
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