



Documentation of the work of the
Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) NMUN simulation*



Radical empathy,
—
Peace reimagined

NMUN•NY 2023
Conference A
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Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

Committee Staff

Director	Matthias Burtscheidt
Chair	Abigail Dizon

Agenda

1. Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security
2. Improving Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Situations

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
PBC/1/1	Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security	27 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Summary Report

The Peacebuilding Commission held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security
- ii. Improving Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Situations

The session was attended by representatives of 27 Member States and no Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning a discussion on the topic of “Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 4 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including funds, climate displacement, and education. Deliberation on the funding of creative and innovative programs in order to aid in the alleviation of the issues before the committee sparked debate amongst member states. As such, delegates worked diligently to ensure that all Member States were able to input their ideas into working papers.

On Wednesday, 1 draft resolution had been approved by the Dais, 0 of which had amendments. The committee adopted 1 resolution following the voting procedure, which received unanimous support from the body. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including climate change mitigation, funding, education, and peace and security efforts. In order to ensure that the merged working paper reflected the views of all Member States and in order to avoid any exclusionary practices, Member States discussed amendments to the working paper collectively in a moderated informal session. While there was contentious discussion on how exactly to merge all working papers, it ultimately led to the creation of a single and cohesive resolution approved by all attending Member States.



Code: PBC/1/1

Committee: Peacebuilding Commission

Topic: Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security

The Peacebuilding Commission,

Acknowledging the work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) on this topic and its growing role in supporting fragile climate and security situations,

Fully alarmed by the lack of substantive, specific funding directed toward both preventative measures and measures addressing current climate-related security and peace issues, advocating for Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to the PBF,

Recognizing the expertise and success of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) country-specific configuration (CSC) framework for ensuring the success of peacebuilding and transitioning out of conflict,

Acknowledging with grave concern the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss,

Deeply disturbed by the millions of individuals who have been displaced, injured, or killed as a result of climate-related conflicts,

Alarmed that 70% of conflict-affected Member States are the most vulnerable to climate change,

Deeply concerned by the Security Council's December 2021 decision to exclude climate change from their mandate and peacekeeping agenda,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Joint UN Development Programme (UNDP) - UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention which enhances the support from the United Nations to national stakeholders on conflict prevention and sustainable peace,

Appreciating the efforts made by the United Nations Community of Practice on Climate Security which holds forums for information exchange and knowledge co-creation,

Underlining the work done by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), and the UNCC, and emphasizing a need to work together regarding climate change, the economies of developing nations, and security,

Supporting fully the decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on worldwide ecological policies and global environmental law,

Acknowledging the work of UN Women and the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW),

Recalling Mexico's 2012 "Ley General de Cambio Climático (LGCC)" policy development in the reduction of emissions affecting climate change, thus battling disparities in peacebuilding and security by mandating the obligatory registry of all gas emissions and all actions regarding the greenhouse effect,

Acknowledging the UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 54/122 (2000) on "A United Nations literacy decade: education for all" which addresses the value of equal access to education and its impact on protecting the safety of human rights,

Referring to the 2020 UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) Report on Gender, Climate and Security, particularly Section III and Annex 1, with its acknowledgment that water scarcity and food insecurity, with the ensuing increased competition for resources and climate-associated loss of livelihood and displacement, disproportionately affects women,

Deeply conscious of the fact that the disproportionate effect of climate-induced conflict on women is fundamentally incompatible with SDG 5,

Fully aware that without a specific framework for protecting and empowering women and girls in relation to climate-induced conflict, it is inevitable that they will be left behind in the pursuit of progress that this committee aims for,

Noting the Council on Foreign Relations' research which presents evidence for the conclusion that women's participation in peace negotiations and peacebuilding work is conducive to longer-lasting, sustainable peace,

Remembering SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), and SDG 13 (climate action),

Alarmed and concerned by the lack of policies in place at the national level to reduce peace and security risks related to natural resource management and the sustainable transition to renewable technology to decrease greenhouse gas emissions while increasing clean air supply,

Recognizing Portugal's Framework Climate Law 98/2021 as a pioneer step towards developing climate justice policy that ensures the protection of vulnerable communities and eliminates the use of coal, ensuring peace through climate policy,

Emphasizing Article 9 Section 1 of the *Paris Climate Accord* (2015) in which developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change through the UN system, in addition to other financial pathways,

Confident of the vital role that can be played by non-governmental organizations and non-state actors in the peacebuilding process,

Understanding that peacebuilding must be included in any sort of nation-building or post-conflict support facilitate long-term, sustainable peace,

Aware that the PBC is uniquely situated to provide comprehensive advice and recommendations to various United Nations bodies in the sphere of peacebuilding,

Drawing attention to the limited current advisory capacities of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC),

Recognizing the human suffering caused by climate change,

Highlighting the large number of people forced to leave their homes when faced with disasters brought about by climate change,

Emphasizing that the United Nations has already recognized climate refugees as a distinct class of refugees,

Noting with concern the increased likelihood of exploitation and other disproportionate harms faced by those vulnerable people displaced by climate change,

Understanding that in times of desperation such as when facing climate-induced displacement, there is a significantly higher likelihood of people turning to crime and terrorism, increasing instability in already fragile regions,

Acknowledging that climate change-induced displacement is a major risk to global peace and security,

Further acknowledging the expertise of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative and the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees on the subject of climate change-induced displacement,

Realizing that any steps to address the issue must include clear, actionable, effective, and timely guidelines in order to be successful,

Understanding that successful solutions will require timely, localized, and up-to-date data in order to be effective,

Encouraging additional bilateral and multilateral collaboration beyond the bounds of this resolution, between Member States, UN Agencies, supranational organizations, including the African Union, non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, academia, the private sector, and other stakeholders, to engage in shared interests and best practices as it relates to climate change-induced displacement, sharing this knowledge with countries whose security, stability, and development so often depend on improving approaches to climate change and migration,

1. *Recommends* the appointment of a UN special representative for climate-related security risks to:
 - a. Mandate the connection of all actors, reestablish trust and ensure the resilience and efficiency of peacebuilding efforts, assess the demand for technological knowledge-sharing, empower NGOs as well as local organizations in collaborative efforts, connect all entities and Member States on the matter of climate-related threats to peace and security;
 - b. Implement multiple bilateral partnerships between Global North and Global South Member States aiming to meet a specific demand for technology and knowledge for a better understanding of climate change in order to create conflict-preventative measures;
 - c. Give an annual report exposing the effects of climate change on peace and security, including a 10-year prognosis addressing the risks, problems, and successes of the bilateral partnership program, and suggesting efficient measures to prevent as well as adapt to climate-related risk;
 - d. Coordinate the variety of funds and international aid throughout Member States in order to invest in long-term solutions and keep in mind the necessity of autonomy of all Member States in post-conflict situations;
 - e. Provide technology solutions, capacity building, and advice on policy and legal frameworks with the help of the CTC which are tailored to the needs of individual Member States to build sustainable peace by using expertise and knowledge of an international network service;
 - f. Propagate information and scientific evidence about climate's effects on security among Member States of the UN;
 - g. Encourage multilateral collaboration to enhance peacebuilding;
2. *Recommends* the incorporation of climate change's specific impact on international peace and security within the UN Security Council's mandate and peacekeeping agenda, with the UNSC maintaining regular exchanges and briefings with the aforementioned Special

Representative for climate-related security risks to update the Council at each formal session, without encroaching on state sovereignty;

3. *Recommends* that 30% of contributions to the PBF are specifically allocated for climate change-related security risks:
 - a. Suggesting these funds will be used specifically for the purpose of preventative measures, and current crises related to climate change that affect peace and security within the existing mandate of the PBF;
 - b. Asking the Security Council to provide oversight and to ensure the implementation of the solutions embedded in this resolution, and that the funds are securely and safely allocated;
4. *Urges* the Green Climate Fund to create 'Climate, Peace, and Resilience Fund' (CPRF) that works with the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Regional Commissions of the United Nations to fund climate adaptation projects in high-risk, climate-impacted conflict areas, expanding upon the success of partnerships such as Costa Rica's Resilience and Sustainability Facility in collaboration with the IMF, to strengthen the infrastructural capacity and resiliency of these states in order to promote stability-producing projects in the face of conflicts produced by resource scarcity or other climate security issues by funding projects such as but not limited to:
 - a. The creation of renewable energy, parks, and resources;
 - b. Hydroponic initiatives, and sustainable agriculture projects;
 - c. Initiatives relating to green transport facilities and systems;
 - d. Food and water security promotional programs;
 - e. Working with the Loss and Damages Fund to aid in mitigating climate disasters and capacity-building programs to limit security threats;
 - f. Investing in early warning systems, and flood barriers;
5. *Suggests* Member States work closely with the World Bank and its regional integration initiatives to bolster international and regional cooperation and facilitate the redistribution of excess resources such as food items, water, energy assets, minerals, and construction materials among Member States in need;
6. *Expands* the country-specific configuration (CSC) framework to include climate-specific considerations by:
 - a. Ensuring that throughout the entire peacebuilding process, the impact of climate change on peace and security, as well as the impact of conflict on climate change, is considered;
 - b. Building upon the membership of the Organizational Committee, the Member State under consideration, regional countries engaged in the post-conflict process, major financial, troop, and police contributors, and relevant UN and financial institution representatives by:

- i. Ensuring a climate-specific representative is part of the requesting Member State's delegation;
 - ii. Requesting advice from the aforementioned UN special representative on climate-related security risks;
7. *Recommends* the ECOSOC and the UNEA to create a knowledge-sharing initiative titled "Achieving Diversified and Circular Economies for Conflict Prevention" that would be responsible for advising governmental agendas and initiatives to achieve economic resilience in areas that exacerbate the risks and damaging impacts of conflict through:
 - a. Creating bi-annual reports covering identifying patterns of impacts of climate disasters on peace and security;
 - b. Establishing a voluntary digital platform for private sector players sharing their best environmental practices and business models;
8. *Encourages* the establishment of voluntary regional cooperative networks between local authorities and non-governmental organizations which is tasked with:
 - a. Coordinating policy reform among climate experts and regional government officials;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to discuss policy developments on cooperative networks for the benefit of their respective governments;
 - c. Organizing effective response plans to climate disasters among regional actors;
 - d. Encouraging the utilization of all resources available to government agencies and non-governmental organizations for the immediate maintenance or re-establishment of access to essential resources like water, food, and electricity;
 - e. Reminding the UN to keep on working as locally and culturally adapted in all measurements proposed in this resolution in order to achieve long-lasting peace;
9. *Promotes* the enforcement of the United Nations Community of Practice (CoP) on Climate Security which helps in the consolidation of a global UN community to connect modern science and policy practices under the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) which would help to advance conflict prevention and sustain peace in vulnerable areas included within the climate-security nexus by:
 - a. Opening access to various actors other than collective United Nations entities such as Member States, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations;
 - b. Encouraging all Member States to join the forum, including those Member States at risk of climate change presently, as well as those not at present risk, as all Member States have the potential to be a victim of climate change;
 - c. Promoting the establishment of a system for observing and evaluating the progress of regional authorities in the fields of climate change response and disaster preparedness;
 - d. Encouraging cooperation between local authorities and non-governmental organizations to address regional climate policies and response capabilities;

- e. Exchanging each region's experiences on the progress of the work toward climate change response including both successful and unsuccessful examples;
10. *Endorses* specific focus on the disproportionate impact of climate-induced conflict on women, proposing the following framework:
- a. Ensuring gender parity in leadership of the implementation of the PBC's recommendations, and ensuring gender parity throughout the practical and organizational levels of the implementation of the PBC's recommendations, because:
 - i. Research shows that women's participation improves outlooks for long-term peace, which is vital for the successful achievement of a key anchor point of the peacebuilding agenda;
 - ii. Peacebuilding, and developing sustainable solutions for a less conflict-ridden future, must always be created with women in mind if the United Nations hopes to further our women-centered agenda areas;
 - b. Recommending and encouraging further research into the specific and unique ways that women are impacted by climate-induced conflict rather than framing our recommendations around generalized and flattened statistics which do not reflect the individualized experiences;
11. *Welcomes* the implementation of empathy-minded education from a young age to encourage global citizens to facilitate a mindful, understanding, and open-minded environment with an understanding of other peoples' needs, which in turn will aid in diplomatic conversations, mediations, and negotiations during times of resource strain due to climate change:
- a. Providing teaching both virtual and in-person to establish exchanges with different cultures, remaining mindful that virtual meetings may be more environmentally friendly;
 - b. Fostering peacebuilding and peacekeeping skills in society, starting in early educational contexts to allow the development of an empathetic landscape;
12. *Affirms* the importance of creating a voluntary international data pool on climate-related migration, including hydrological information, to be used by governments, non-governmental organizations, and any UN organs or committees:
- a. Emphasizing that the data pool will be used to get a better understanding of the interconnections of climate change and migration and its effects on peace and security, therefore ensuring stability and Peacebuilding by helping in taking measures to combat instability;
 - b. Calling upon the PBF to fund the data pool and servers;
 - c. Recommending the creation of locations for the servers, to hold and accumulate the data in The Hague, Mexico City, and Beijing:
 - i. Recalling the host countries' neutrality concerning the information;
 - ii. Asking all host countries to provide the highest possible data and internet security standards;

- d. Proposing to include the data pool in the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD);
 - e. Upholding the sovereignty of Member States by withholding said information from the public unless there is explicit approval from the Member State concerned within the data;
13. *Considers*, more generally, that the UNSC approach peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions in a more holistic manner, as executed in UNSOM, including:
- a. Attaching environmental security advisors tasked with bringing specific expertise to existing UN peacekeeping missions on regional climate effects, disaster potential, and environmental risk factors;
 - b. Extending environmental sensitivity training for mission personnel;
 - c. Adopting long-term environmental risk analysis into the strategic analysis of existing and new missions;
 - d. Adopting preparedness plans for natural disaster and climate events to better adapt mitigation capacities of mission personnel;
 - e. Maintaining the adequate accessibility to and function of resource production sites such as farmland, water treatment facilities, and energy production facilities;
 - f. Having individual missions collect more concrete and reliable data regarding vulnerable spaces in respect to climate change and conflict potential and sharing it with the UN statistics office in order to make the cooperation on natural disaster relief and climate-conflict prevention policy more efficient;
14. *Further invites* Member States to give new impetus to climate advocacy education campaigns aiming to raise international awareness regarding the impacts of climate change on peace and security, modernize the handling of climate-related security risks, and empower actors to advocate for the prioritization of a green agenda in all Member States:
- a. Creating educational exchange programs to study abroad while creating partnerships that will facilitate employment upon return, allowing individuals to gain expertise in diverse fields and supporting knowledge-sharing and human resources with actors of the African Continent, recognizing its needs and potential, in the pursuit of creating an independent dialogue to advance education of peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities;
 - b. Facilitating cross-border international understanding through the academic and practical exchange of experts, scholars, and professors in order to empower youth worldwide, as well as African entrepreneurs on the development of new innovative technologies related to climate security risks;
 - c. *Urges* to keep in mind the most vulnerable groups regarding climate change-related security risks, especially women and the youth by:
 - i. Working on emergency strategies that keep in mind the most vulnerable like women and children with the help of UN-Women and UNICEF;
 - ii. Collecting data and expanding the data set on how women suffer from climate change security risks;

15. *Strongly encourages* Member States to participate in effective technological capacity-building as a means of addressing the climate-related threats to peace and security through an annual global summit, complemented by regional seminars, allowing a multiplicity of actors to:
 - a. Work on the implementation of early warning systems and contingency plans in order to increase preparation for extreme weather events posing a threat, to prevent climate-driven conflict;
 - b. Address technologies to build infrastructure that could prevent and also stop inundation, rising sea levels, and extreme flooding, e.g. early warning systems for coastal inundation, and maintaining shoreline protections, in order to prevent a migration crisis which pressurizes local stability and security;
 - c. Share technologies, reliable data, developments, experiences, and best practices for the purpose of improving efficiency and meeting the demand for knowledge which encompasses sustainable technology directly targeting the relief of climate-related conflict;
 - d. Invest in the creation of a water system for a better and equal distribution of filtered and uncontaminated water to prevent droughts, health issues, migration, and food scarcity;
 - e. Realize fully the technological platforms collecting data about rising sea levels in the most critical areas of our State and sharing with government and non-government organizations to create awareness and take more specific actions;

16. *Proposes* the creation of a program that addresses the vulnerability of areas depending on agriculture and livestock presence in order to prevent food scarcity and resource-related conflict and:
 - a. Advises the improvement of technologies surrounding the addressing and prevention of water scarcity to minimize the effects of droughts on agriculture and livestock;
 - b. Minimizes the intensity of conflicts linked to the pressure on resources to establish and then maintain peace;
 - c. Establish an international helping fund on resources to help the most vulnerable countries during conflict and post-conflict situations;
 - d. Exchanging technologies such as warning systems, sustainable buildings amongst various means of infrastructure to prevent natural disasters and to ensure stability and peace;

17. *Proposes* that the Peacebuilding Support Office, in consultation with the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICI) Initiative, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) create a “United Nations Framework for Peacebuilding in Response to Climate Displacement” (UNFPRCD):
 - a. This framework includes a recognition of the link between the displacement of people caused by climate change and social instability which has numerous adverse consequences for peace and security, and that steps must be taken to ensure that the cause of peacebuilding is upheld by paying special attention to the needs of those vulnerable groups whose condition offers specific challenges for peace and stability:

- i. Including recognition of the reality that individuals facing displacement due to climate change are put in desperate situations where they are more likely to turn to terrorism, extremism, and crime, which has the potential to present a challenge to UN Peacebuilding missions;
 - ii. Further recognition of the disproportionate impact that the consequences of climate have on women and girls, in particular the increased risk of sexual violence when experiencing displacement, exacerbating social instability which makes peacebuilding efforts more difficult;
 - iii. Further recognition of the increased risk of exploitation faced by children experiencing displacement, particularly those separated from their families;
 - iv. Further recognition of the impact that the climate change crisis has on Indigenous people, whose forced displacement can adversely impact their way of life;
- b. This framework also includes guidelines that ensure fair treatment and preserve the human dignity of all those displaced by climate change. These specific guidelines should recognize the importance of economic and social opportunity for persons displaced by climate change as a way to ensure that these desperate people are less likely to turn to crime or terrorism, threatening stability and peace in affected regions;
- c. The framework also includes mechanisms through which Member States implicated in, or adjacent to, climate change-induced displacement crises can ensure the welfare of migrants, and thus facilitating peacebuilding efforts in affected regions. These mechanisms would include:
 - i. Facilitation of migration processes for displaced persons from affected areas to other regions or other Member States with the willingness and ability to receive them;
 - ii. Guidelines and best practices for the contribution of monetary and institutional aid to affected Member States from other Member States, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector;
 - iii. Recommendations for the creation of economic and social, legal, and reintegration opportunities for displaced persons to reduce the risk of them turning to terrorism, extremism, or crime as a result of their desperate situation;
 - iv. Guidelines for the specific interventions of governments and non-governmental organizations necessary to protect women and children from violence and exploitation;
- d. Upon the conclusion of the creation of the UNFRCD, the Peacebuilding Support Office should initiate a process of research into the specific regional needs and challenges faced by different regions whose populations are facing climate change-induced displacement. This research should produce quarterly reports, which should be publicly available, to inform Member States, local governments, and non-governmental organizations about the current status of the current climate change-induced displacement issue;

18. *Supports* a Security Council and General Assembly reconsideration of the PBC's advisory responsibilities:

- a. As within the United Nations, the PBC's advisory role could be formalized in regard to committees and organizations which are currently advised on an *ad hoc* basis:
 - i. For example, in light of the climate change focus of this paper's recommendations for future peacebuilding, it can be established that ECOSOC would benefit from regular formalized exchange with PBC;
 - ii. The widening of access to peacebuilding advice would also support the UN's wider agenda, both in terms of founding principles and current priorities;
- b. Outside the United Nations, the PBC's advisory role to organizations and governments could benefit from reiteration and formalization, with the understanding that:
 - i. The PBC should have the capacity to engage with governments both national and local (as conflict is not always nationwide), wherever its expertise is required to reestablish the fundamental foundations of peace;
 - ii. PBC's expertise can be useful to all levels, sizes, and forms of governance who are invested in building long-lasting peace, including engagement with non-state actors and non-governmental organizations as this may be the most appropriate in some peacebuilding situations;
 - iii. It is important to acknowledge that peacebuilding must take different forms based on the specific requirements of each situation in order to implement sustainable peace;
 - iv. In order for the PBC to thrive in the face of new global threats, we must use a varied, flexible, and realistic toolkit.