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Peacebuilding Commission Background Guide 2021

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2021 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). This year's staff is: Directors Kyle Roberts (Conference A) and Marielisa Figuera Saggese (Conference B). Kyle has a B.A. in Philosophy and English and is completing his M.A. in Statistics. Currently he works as an Anti-Money Laundering Associate at K2 Intelligence. Marielisa Figuera Saggese is from Venezuela and has a B.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the University of Texas, Austin. She currently works for a non-profit web design firm and lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The topics under discussion for the Peacebuilding Commission are:

- I. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding
- II. Sustaining Peace through Partnerships

Acting as an advisory body for the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and the Security Council, the PBC plays a unique role in supporting peace efforts in conflict-impacted countries around the world. As such, the PBC is responsible for bringing together relevant actors and proposing strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery efforts. The PBC fills a unique role in the UN system in the relief-to-development continuum, bringing together the government of a particular country with all appropriate international and national actors to establish long-term peacebuilding strategies.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2021 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers](#) website.

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Peace and Security Department, Natalie Keller (Conference A) and Estefani Morales (Conference B), at usg.pbc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

Kyle Roberts, *Director*

Conference B

Marielisa Figuera Saggese, *Director*

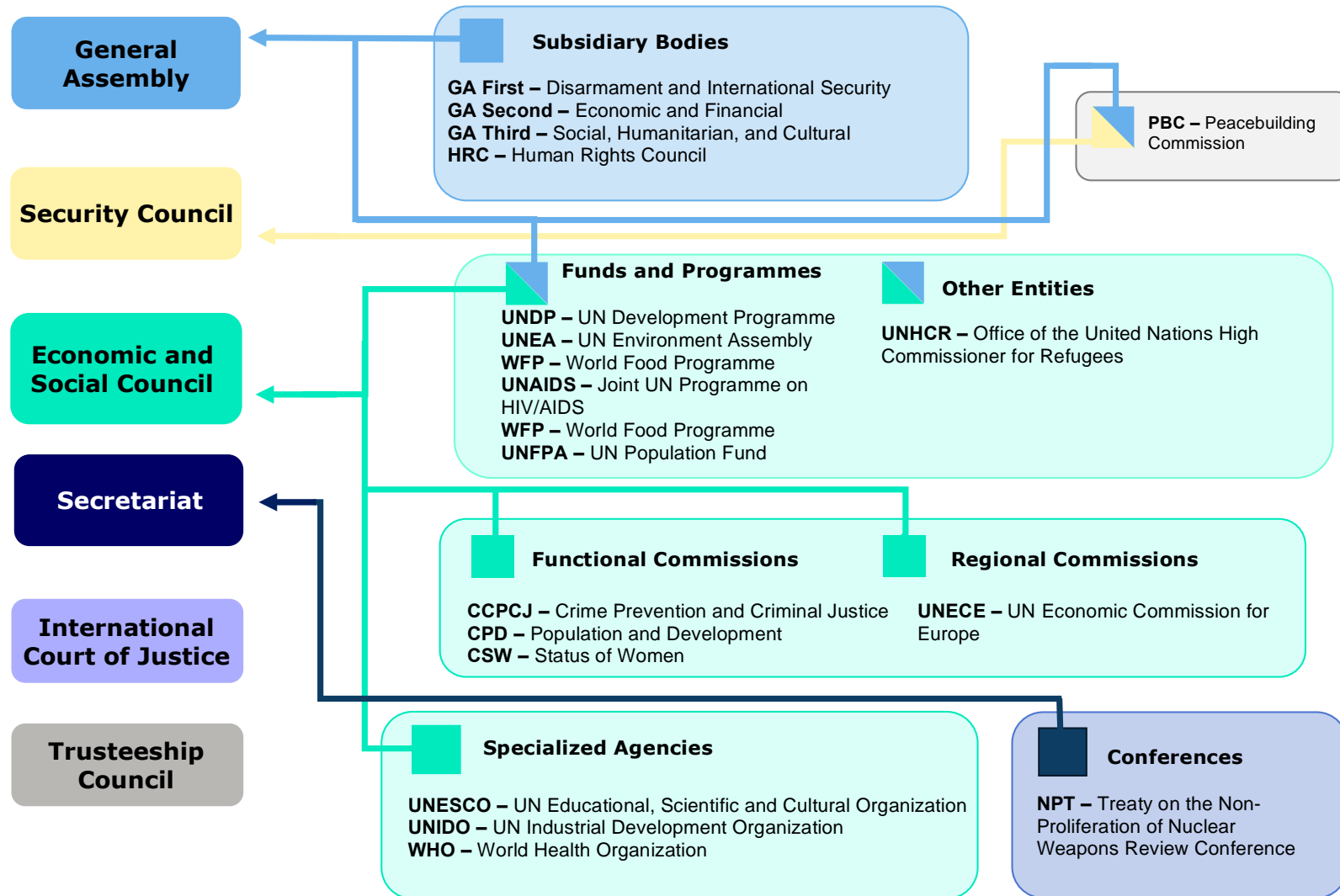


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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

Peacebuilding as a concept first emerged in the 1970s with Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung, who urged for the creation of peacebuilding structures that remove causes of conflicts to promote sustainable peace.¹ In a report issued in 1992 by former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, “An Agenda for Peace”, peacebuilding is defined as the “action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.”² Boutros-Ghali emphasized that in cases where preventive diplomacy fails and conflict erupts, the UN must respond through the combined mechanisms of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.³

The definition of these concepts was further detailed in the 2000 *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations*, referred to as the Brahimi Report, which outlined the findings of a high-level panel chaired by former Algerian foreign minister Lakhdar Brahimi to review UN peacekeeping and security activities.⁴ According to the report, peacemaking focuses on attempting to end conflicts through diplomacy and mediation, while peacekeeping refers to a “primarily military model” of ceasefires as well as military and civilian cooperation to build sustain peace in the aftermath of conflict.⁵ Peacebuilding, meanwhile, denotes rebuilding the foundations of peace and providing the tools to do so in post-war environments.⁶ The report notes that the scope of peacebuilding activities should be: holding “free and fair elections” to ensure the legitimacy of a post-conflict government, building governmental institutions, “upholding the rule of law and respect for human rights,” and promoting national reconciliation.⁷

In response to calls from both the Brahimi Report and the 2004 *Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change* to develop a body to facilitate and streamline peacebuilding activities, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established in 2005 through General Assembly resolution 60/180 (2005) and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).⁸ Created during the General Assembly’s reform process initiated in its 60th session as part of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the PBC acts as an intergovernmental advisory body for the promotion and support of peacebuilding efforts and the broader international peace agenda.⁹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The work of the PBC is carried out by the PBC Organizational Committee, a consensus building body which includes 31 Member States.¹⁰ Seven Member States are elected by the UN General Assembly, seven are elected by the Security Council, and seven are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹¹ The remaining ten Member States are comprised of five of the top providers of military personnel and civilian police to UN missions, as well as the five top providers of assessed contributions to

¹ Peacebuilding Initiative, *History*, 2013.

² UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *An Agenda for Peace: Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peace-keeping (A/47/277-S/24111)*, 1992, p. 6.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁴ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809)*, 2000.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁸ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005; UN Security Council, *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645(2005))*, 2005; UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809)*, 2000; UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility: Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change*, 2004, pp. 83-85.

⁹ UN PBC, *The Peacebuilding Commission*, 2017.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

UN budgets and of voluntary contributions to UN funds, programs, and agencies.¹² Members of the Organizational Committee serve for renewable terms of two years in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/180 (2005) and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).¹³ At the same time, resolution 60/180 and resolution 1645 outline that the European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the World Bank can participate in all PBC meetings in a “manner suitable to their governing arrangements.”¹⁴ The resolutions governing membership stipulate maintaining regional balance between all participating groups.¹⁵ To maintain this balance, the General Assembly is the last group to distribute seats in order to select members for regional groups with little or no representation.¹⁶

Currently, the chair of the PBC is held by Canada, while the vice-chair positions are held by Japan and Colombia.¹⁷ Additionally, one seat from ECOSOC is vacant as Romania was issued a special one-year mandate as chair in 2018 and another one-year mandate as vice-chair in 2019.¹⁸ The Organizational Committee, which adopts all decisions by consensus, is responsible for determining the agenda.¹⁹ If the Committee deems that a country is on the verge of conflict, it may establish a Country-Specific Configuration (CSC) to carry out peacebuilding efforts in that specific country.²⁰ Membership in the CSCs is made up of the members of the Organizational Committee as well as: the country under consideration; countries in the region engaged in the post-conflict process; the major financial, troop, and civilian police contributors involved; relevant UN representatives; and regional and international financial institutions as deemed relevant.²¹

The PBC works alongside several entities to ensure the promotion of peace efforts around the world. The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) was established with the purpose of assisting the PBC with strategic advice, administering the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and coordinating with UN agencies in peacebuilding efforts.²² Funding for peacebuilding efforts, like country-specific missions, comes chiefly from the PBF, the UN’s global multi-donor trust fund; it fills a critical gap in supporting countries between conflict and recovery for which no other funding mechanism provides.²³ From 2006 to 2017, the PBF supported 41 countries with \$772 million.²⁴ The PBC and PBF act in close coordination with each other, with the PBC receiving briefings from the Chair of the PBF’s Advisory Group on PBC-specific country priorities and missions.²⁵ The 2019 and 2020 provisional annual workplans of the PBC highlight the need for increased synergy between the PBC and PBF, calling upon convenings to identify practical ways for engagement and to ensure the PBC is knowledgeable about the actions of the PBF.²⁶

Additionally, the PBC collaborates with external stakeholders such as the International Peace Institute, a non-profit think tank dedicated to conflict resolution both between and within states through strengthening

¹² Ibid.

¹³ UN PBC, *Membership*, 2018.

¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005; UN Security Council, *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645(2005))*, 2005.

¹⁵ UN PBC, *Aide-mémoire on the Election to the Membership of the PBC Organizational Committee*, 2015.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ UN PBC, *Membership*, 2018.

¹⁸ Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations, *Romania Completed its Mandate to the Chairmanship of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*, 2019; Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations, *The Permanent Representative of Romania Presented to UN Security Council the Priorities of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2018*, 2018.

¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005.

²⁰ Peace Portal, *Country-Specific Configurations*, 2018.

²¹ UN PBSO, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation*, 2010, p. 37.

²² Ibid., p. 37; UN PBSO, *Peacebuilding Support Office*, 2018.

²³ Ibid., p. 37.

²⁴ UN PBF, *United Nations Peacebuilding Fund*, 2018.

²⁵ Peace Portal, *PBF Overview*, 2018.

²⁶ UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2019; UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2020.

international peace and security institutions.²⁷ The PBC also works with various UN missions in countries where it plays a role in peacebuilding efforts, such as the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).²⁸

Mandate

As an intergovernmental advisory body, the PBC is mainly responsible for providing support to peace efforts in conflict-affected countries.²⁹ Through General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645, the PBC is mandated with: coordinating between all relevant actors to organize resources, providing advice on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, focusing on reconstruction and institution-building efforts for post-conflict recovery while laying the groundwork for sustainable development, and, offering recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors both within and outside the UN.³⁰ The PBC also monitors progress, gathers financial support for peacebuilding, and works with partners within the UN system.³¹

Functions and Powers

General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) emphasize the significance of the PBC in fulfilling several functions with regards to its mandate:

- “To bring long-term international attention to sustaining peace and to provide political support and advocacy to countries affected by conflict, with their consent;
- To promote an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that security, development, and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing;
- To serve a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities of the UN by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities, in line with the respective competencies and responsibilities of these bodies;
- To serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the UN (...) to provide recommendations and information to improve their coordination, to develop and share good practices in peacebuilding, and to ensure predictable financing for peacebuilding.”³²

Further, the PBC’s Organizational Committee can establish CSCs to look at peacebuilding issues in particular countries.³³ Bringing together both local and regional representatives as well as a representative of the Secretary-General, the CSC drafts a Strategic Framework, created 6 to 9 months after a peace agreement is signed, for the focus country to establish peacebuilding priorities, objectives, and risks.³⁴ Based on the principles of national ownership, coordination, and commitment among all partners, the Strategic Framework serves as an action plan for UN bodies to carry out PBC recommendations.³⁵

The resolutions establishing the PBC dictate that a country can be included in the PBC’s agenda via requests for advice from the Security Council or the Secretary-General, and via requests for advice from

²⁷ International Peace Institute, *Mission & History*, 2017.

²⁸ Security Council Report, *The Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council: From Cynicism to Synergy?*, 2017, p. 3-4.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005.

³⁰ UN PBC, *Mandate*, 2018.

³¹ Ibid.

³² UN General Assembly, *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262)*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/2282(2016))*, 2016.

³³ Peace Portal, *Country-Specific Configurations*, 2018.

³⁴ UN PBC, *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation*, 2010, p. 37.

³⁵ Ibid., p. 37.

the ECOSOC, the General Assembly, or, in exceptional circumstances, Member States that are on the verge of conflict and not on the agenda of the Security Council.³⁶

The PBC holds a unique connection between the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the ECOSOC. The General Assembly and the Security Council can emphasize the actions and highlight additional roles of the PBC, as previously shown in the 2016 expansion of the PBC mandate which tasks the PBC to promote integrated and strategic approaches to peacebuilding, advising relevant organs and entities of the UN on peacebuilding strategies, and to serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors for peacebuilding recommendations.³⁷ This expansion empowered the PBC to have a more involved and participatory role in peacebuilding affairs by engaging the PBC in all conversations and issues regarding peacebuilding. On 19 June 2017, the Security Council convened an informal interactive dialogue with the PBC to provide an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen coordination, coherence, and cooperation between the Security Council and the PBC, and envisioned the PBC to act in an advisory role for the Security Council.³⁸ Similarly, the General Assembly and the ECOSOC have called on the PBC to increase in its advisory role on topics that involve peacebuilding, and to improve collaborative efforts by identifying new partnerships that can arise through peacebuilding.³⁹ On 28 June 2017, the PBC convened a joint event with the ECOSOC to focus on ways to overcome multi-dimensional challenges in the Sahel by addressing economic and social root causes of the crisis, while also highlighting the need for continued coordinated partnerships between the PBC and the ECOSOC.⁴⁰

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

In 2015, the PBC undertook a comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture that was a two-part process intended to review the role of the PBC, the PBF, and the PBSO.⁴¹ According to the report released in 2015 by a seven-member Advisory Group of Experts, a significant challenge facing the UN peacebuilding architecture is the existence of deep fragmentation within the UN system seen in the differing mandates between relevant UN peacebuilding entities.⁴² In its recommendations, the report emphasizes the importance of coherence at the intergovernmental level to strengthen partnerships in peacebuilding, provide more predictable peacebuilding funding, and broaden inclusion in peacebuilding efforts to eliminate fragmentation.⁴³

In light of the review, the PBC made strides to address existing challenges and priorities and in September 2016, became the first UN intergovernmental body to adopt a Gender Strategy.⁴⁴ The Gender Strategy, reaffirmed as an important call for the PBC by General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), is a uniquely tailored approach that uses gender-responsive peacebuilding as a way to consider the ways conflict affects persons different depending on sex, age, ethnicity, and enhances women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding activities.⁴⁵ Taking into account the call for gender inclusion in the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture, the Gender Strategy highlights priority areas of strategic action for the PBC's gender-responsive engagement at the country, regional, and global levels.⁴⁶ The Gender Strategy document concludes with general objectives of the initiatives, including a consideration of gender dimensions in all areas of peacebuilding, convene a

³⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005; UN Security Council, *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645(2005))*, 2005.

³⁷ UN PBC, *Mandate*, 2018.

³⁸ UN PBC, *Peacebuilding Commission's Engagement in the Sahel*, 2018; UN PBC. *The Advisory Role of the PBC to the Security Council*, 2019.

³⁹ UN PBC, *The Advisory Role of the PBC to the Security Council*, 2019.

⁴⁰ UN PBC, *Peacebuilding Commission's Engagement in the Sahel*, 2018, p. 2.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Challenge of Sustaining Peace: Report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968-S/2015/490)*, 2015.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Lebeda, *PBC Adopts First Gender Strategy for Intergovernmental Body*, 2016.

⁴⁵ UN PBC, *Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy*, 2016, p. 1.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 2.

bi-annual expert-level meeting to further discuss matters and recommendations involving a gender dimension, and to include a section on the implementation of the Gender Strategy in the Annual Report.⁴⁷

In 2018, the PBC stressed the importance of acting as a platform to convene with relevant actors both within and outside the UN in order to mobilize commitment and partnerships, as evidenced in their focus on the comprehensive UN Support Plan for the Sahel.⁴⁸ In 2020, the UN provided a progress report of UNISS which celebrated increased success in security, governance, education, health, and climate control of the region.⁴⁹ However, due to few relationships with additional strategic partners and an increasing budget gap, efforts to adapt and mobilize to increasing threats such as violence and spare resources risk undermining progress.⁵⁰

The 2019 provisional annual workplan of the PBC highlights key themes to be addressed in the 2019 annual session.⁵¹ The first considers the implementation of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture which calls for informal consultation on a 2020 review of the Peacebuilding Architecture.⁵² Current discussions about the PBC appear to be focused on sustaining peace and preventing conflict reoccurrence, as detailed in the report of the Secretary General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and is often considered a relevant topic for the upcoming 2020 review.⁵³

The 2020 provisional workplan of the PBC, released in March 2020, highlights 5 key areas: implementing resources on peacebuilding architecture (with a specific highlight of the forthcoming 2020 review which is currently in the informal phase), connecting the work of the PBC to the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC, partnering and engaging stakeholders, creating a flexible PBC, and strengthening synergy between the PBC and the PBF.⁵⁴ Following the workplan, the PBC held several consultations guided by the aforementioned key areas, including: discussing financial partnerships due to the dire need for funding for increasingly expensive necessities in supporting critically afflicted areas, and identifying the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and the need to alleviate the challenges that arise in increasing inclusivity in peacebuilding initiatives.⁵⁵ In an effort to begin bridging gaps in funding, the PBF released a 2020-2024 strategy noting specific actions to improve the efficiency and quality of peacebuilding efforts, including an emphasis on quality assurance and feedback loops, as well as scaling up support for initiatives and incentives for peacebuilding and sustenance.⁵⁶

On July 2, 2020, the PBC issued a letter to the presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council to highlight the upcoming 2020 review and provide an overview of the successes and challenges of the PBC.⁵⁷ In the letter, the PBC issued several recommendations to improve upon shortcomings, including preemptive and inclusive preparation for transition processes to improve the collaboration of various stakeholders engaged in peacebuilding to “place realistic conditions for durable peace and mitigate risk of relapse.”⁵⁸ The letter also provided an analysis on women’s participation in peacebuilding and noted the increasing community efforts of relevant entities consulting with women’s civil society organizations to inform analysis, planning, and implementation of peacebuilding activities, and praised the PBF’s commitment to inclusivity as shown in 40 percent of all fund investments used to support gender related

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 7-11.

⁴⁸ UN PBC, *PBC Annual Session*, 2018, p. 2; UN PBC, *UN Support Plan for the Sahel*, 2018, p. 11-15.

⁴⁹ UN, *United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel Progress Report 2018-2019*, 2020, p. 18-39.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 41-42.

⁵¹ UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2018.

⁵² UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2019.

⁵³ IISD, *UNGA-PBC Dialogue Considers Implementation of “Sustaining Peace”*, 2019.

⁵⁴ UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2020.

⁵⁵ UN PBC, *Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission. 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. “Financing and Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”*, 2020; UN PBC, *Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission. 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. “Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”*, 2020.

⁵⁶ UN PBF, *2020-2024 Strategy*, 2020, p. 1.

⁵⁷ UN PBC, *PBC Letter on 2020 Review*, 2020, p. 1-2.

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 2.

aspects of peacebuilding,⁵⁹ In response to still existing forms of gender-based discrimination, the PBC shared their commitment in creating greater accountability in implementation of the gender strategy and support in adopting and enforcing legal framework that bans domestic, gender based, and sexual violence.⁶⁰

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PBC proved to be resourceful in ensuring their work is completed. The commission held several virtual meetings to continue in their regular business and discuss the implications of COVID-19 on peacebuilding.⁶¹ While noting that the pandemic creates further stress on vulnerable institutions and systems, efforts in supporting affected populations have not gone unnoticed.⁶² The United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 supports humanitarian and health responses to maintain strides in development.⁶³ In an Ambassadorial-Level meeting of the PBC on COVID-19, parties noted that the needs of small medium enterprises (SMEs) are often not addressed in development and recovery plans, yet still strive to support their communities.⁶⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic heightened such concern in the growing negative economic burden placed on SMEs that caused a loss of billions of dollars for the African continent.⁶⁵

Conclusion

The PBC is a key player in post-conflict reconstruction and development as well as peace and security, both in terms of the UN's peacebuilding architecture and in its efforts with the countries on its agenda.⁶⁶ As an intergovernmental advisory body, the PBC, alongside other relevant entities such as the PBF and PBSO, is crucial in providing advice and support for peacebuilding activities.⁶⁷ It has also made strides in promoting gender inclusion and equality in the context of peacebuilding efforts.⁶⁸ The 2020 workplan notes the increasing priorities of the commission and their anticipation of the 2020 review.⁶⁹ The PBC, however, is not without its challenges. Its review of the UN peacebuilding architecture has shown the need to address deep fragmentation within the UN system, increased gaps in funding, as well as the need to promote more partnerships and inclusion in peacebuilding efforts.⁷⁰

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https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/cn_8_june.pdf

This source identifies one of the many consultations of the PBC, specifically focusing on partnerships and sustained financing of peacebuilding efforts. Two critical struggles of the PBC's work are: (1) ensuring a synergistic approach to tackling peacebuilding issues by ensuring a cohesive and systematic attempt by all relevant stakeholders for specific challenges, and (2) the dire need of funding for peacebuilding efforts. Crucial funds provided by the PBF are becoming increasing insufficient for the gravity of work needed

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 4.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 5.

⁶¹ UN PBC, *Virtual Meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2020.

⁶² Whatsinblue, *Informal Interactive Dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission on Implications of COVID-19 in Conflict-affected Countries*, 2020.

⁶³ UN PBC, *Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19*, 2020, p.1.

⁶⁴ Ibid., p.1-2.

⁶⁵ Ibid., p.2.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005.

⁶⁷ UN PBC, *The Peacebuilding Commission*, 2017.

⁶⁸ UN PBC, *Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy*, 2016.

⁶⁹ UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*, 2020.

⁷⁰ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Challenge of Sustaining Peace: Report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968-S/2015/490)*, 2015.

for critically afflicted areas which halts efforts for not peacebuilding but also sustenance of peace. Delegates may find this resource useful in identifying some important challenges faced by the PBC which are in need of important and innovative recommendations.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. (2020). *Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission. 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. "Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding"*. Retrieved 18 July 2020 from:

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/cn_wps_final_0.pdf

This source identifies one of the many consultations of the PBC, specifically focusing on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). This consultation identified the very relevant work and need of an integrated gender dimension in peacebuilding efforts. The PBC aims to continue to strive to prove its very inclusive stance on peacebuilding by encouraging efforts in alleviating challenges and gaps in financing women-led peacebuilding initiatives. Delegates may find this resource useful first as evidence of the efforts undertaken by the PBC in considering a holistic peacebuilding approach, and in witnessing the priorities of the PBC which will be further highlighted in the 2020 review. Additionally, it is an example of advice-driven communication between the PBC and relevant actors.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. (2020). *Provisional Annual Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission*. Retrieved 13 July 2020 from:

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/20200302_provisional_annual_pbc_workplan_-_final.docx

This document outlines the 2020 workplan for the PBC. The workplan lists 5 key areas for the PBC to focus on: implementation of resolutions to peacebuilding architectures, connecting PBC and GA, SC, and ECOSOC, partnerships with other stakeholders, fostering a flexible PBC, and financing and increasing synergies with the PBC. Delegates will find this resource useful to identify the priorities of the PBC that year and can tailor relevant discussion to these topics.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. (2010). *UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation*. Retrieved 20 September 2020 from:

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf

This report, based on the Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict of June 2009, outlines the multifaceted characteristics of peacebuilding and the relevant UN and external entities that play a key role in global peacebuilding efforts. Recognizing that peacebuilding is a long-term process, this paper draws attention to the scope, resources, and evolution of peacebuilding. Delegates will find this paper useful for gaining an overview of peacebuilding around the world as well as the role of various UN entities in peacebuilding efforts.

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I. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding

“Around the world, young women and men are at the forefront of efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and promote peace.”⁷¹

Introduction

Peacebuilding is defined by the United Nations (UN) as: “a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. Peacebuilding strategies must be coherent and tailored to the specific needs of the country concerned, based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives.”⁷² In the context of peacebuilding, youth have a role in the creation of the peacebuilding foundation in post-conflict areas.⁷³

Youth represent the future of a nation; therefore, engaging them in peace processes and socializing them into the role of peacebuilders early on is important.⁷⁴ There are different definitions of youth among the international community; specifically, Member States and international organizations have differing age ranges that they define as youth.⁷⁵ While Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on “The Maintenance of International Peace and Security” defines youth as persons aged 18-29, the UN General Assembly defines youth as persons aged 15-24, and the African Union’s (AU) *African Youth Charter* defines youth as 18-35 years old.⁷⁶ Despite the variations of the definition of who youth are, the current generation of youth is proportionally the largest in history.⁷⁷

Within this generation of youth, 1 in 4 are affected by conflict, with an estimated 408 million youth living in an area where conflict and organized violence occur.⁷⁸ Within conflict areas, youth face gender-based violence, recruitment efforts by violent and extremist groups, and disenfranchisement from their communities.⁷⁹ Furthermore, youth are often excluded from peacebuilding processes and discussions because their input is not considered relevant.⁸⁰

Amidst these obstacles, youth have made positive impacts to peacebuilding and have been acting as peacebuilding leaders in their communities.⁸¹ Youth-led peacebuilding initiatives on all levels have shown to be the most impactful for youth, creating a positive cycle that emboldens peacebuilding efforts.⁸² For example, most youth-led peacebuilding organizations are composed of 97% volunteers and have been able to operate despite limited support.⁸³ While most youth-led peacebuilding efforts face many obstacles, the international community is heavily involved with building youth into agents of peacebuilding.⁸⁴

⁷¹ UN Secretary-General, *UN Secretary-General’s Remarks at “Investing in Youth to Counter Terrorism” on 12 April 2018, in New York, 2018.*

⁷² UNPF, *What is Peacebuilding*, 2019.

⁷³ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015, p. 1.

⁷⁴ Peacebuilding Initiative, *Empowerment: Children & Youth: Children, Youth & Peacebuilding Processes*, 2019.

⁷⁵ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 9.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

⁷⁷ UNFPA, *10 Things you Didn’t Know About the World’s Population*, 2015

⁷⁸ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 12.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, pp.15-48.

⁸⁰ Youth4Peace, *Young Peoples Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note*, 2016, p. 10.

⁸¹ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 32.

⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, p. 41.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 52.

Current peacebuilding efforts are jeopardized due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁵ The pandemic has put major strains on already fragile post-conflict areas and on peace as economic situations and trust in institutions deteriorate.⁸⁶ This socio-economic crisis affects youth and exacerbates their exclusion from important conversations and decision-making processes related to dealing with the pandemic.⁸⁷

International and Regional Framework

The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, a youth conference hosted by the Kingdom of Jordan in Amman, established the *Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security* in 2015. This is the most recent and significant international framework related to the role of youth in peacebuilding.⁸⁸ It proposes four policy action points that need to be achieved in order to bring youth successfully into peacebuilding processes, which are: global peacebuilding policy regarding youth, violence and youth in peacebuilding, gender equality and youth, and investing in youth.⁸⁹ The declaration proposes the allocation of long-term and sustainable funding and support to youth-led organizations, as well as funding and developing policies and programs focused on empowering young people.⁹⁰ This declaration, created by youth for youth, led to the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).⁹¹ This landmark resolution highlights the vital role that young people play within the scope of international peace and security and urges Member States to give youth a more active participation in terms of decision-making and conflict-resolution.⁹²

While having a wider focus than the *Amman Declaration* beyond issues of peace and security, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is a fundamental document for promoting youth as agents of peacebuilding, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).⁹³ Each target of this SDG provides guidelines to reduce youth violence and extremism and the promotion of youth-led peacebuilding.⁹⁴ Due to the variety of the SDGs, most actions taken by youth-led peacebuilding efforts fall under any one of the SDGs, providing them with access to SDG resources, such as the SDG Fund to further support their work across different areas such as partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy.⁹⁵

Regional organizations have also created frameworks that promote and encourage youth empowerment. The AU's *Agenda 2063*, akin to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, emphasizes youth empowerment and peacebuilding with a focus on Africa.⁹⁶ Africa has a disproportionate amount of modern conflict, due to post-colonialism and other historical factors.⁹⁷ Several action items within *Agenda 2063* promote sustainable peace and youth empowerment by endorsing youth to be agents of peacebuilding in their region through a people-centered social, economic, and technological transformation and the eradication of poverty.⁹⁸ For instance, articles 53 and 54 focus on political and

⁸⁵ Search for Common Ground, *COVID-19 Discussion Paper: Youth & the COVID-19 Crisis in Conflict-Affected Contexts*, 2020, p. 1.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

⁸⁸ Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security, *Amman Declaration*, 2015, p. 1.

⁸⁹ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015, p. 2.

⁹⁰ Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security, *Amman Declaration*, 2015, pp.2-4.

⁹¹ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015, p. 2.

⁹² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁹³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 28.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁹⁵ UNDF, *Sustainable Development Goals Fund*, 2019.

⁹⁶ African Union Commission, *Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want*, 2015, p. 3.

⁹⁷ Roser, *War and Peace*, 2019.

⁹⁸ African Union Commission, *Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want*, 2015, p. 3.

social empowerment through the *African Youth Charter*.⁹⁹ The Charter is an example of a regionally focused initiative promoting local youth agency, ability, and power for building peace.¹⁰⁰ Articles 11 and 17 are of particular importance as they highlight youth's participation in all spheres of society as well as their role in promoting peace.¹⁰¹

Role of the International System

There are many UN entities and initiatives which take actions focused on youth-led peacebuilding including the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UNITAR's Youth Empowerment Initiative, and Youth4Peace.¹⁰² In terms of the broad peace agenda, PBC plays a vital role within the UN system by supporting different levels of peacebuilding efforts in conflict affected countries, especially in tandem with youth.¹⁰³ PBSO fosters international support alongside the UN Secretary-General and other UN agencies for nationally owned and led peacebuilding efforts, as well as assists with the management of the Peacebuilding Fund.¹⁰⁴ In February 2020, the PBC held an Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security to discuss courses of action that will help with the implementation of the Security Council 2250, such as sharing experiences and increase further support to young peacebuilders.¹⁰⁵

Youth4Peace is a UN partnership among the UN Development Programme, PBSO, SfcG and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.¹⁰⁶ The *Youth4Peace* reports provide regional and national youth specific peacebuilding information, case studies, and suggestions on how youth can engage in peacebuilding.¹⁰⁷ These reports have resulted in the creation of a number of youth peacebuilding initiatives by the European Union (EU) and the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), such as the Youth Promotion Initiative, which calls upon UN partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to submit proposals that reinforce the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).¹⁰⁸

Furthermore, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (UNIANY), an agency under the Economic and Social Council, focuses on high-level engagements on youth, curates several youth-focused sub-working groups, and produces reports on youth-related issues, such as youth employment, social media, and inclusive youth volunteering.¹⁰⁹ UNIANY is vital for high-level work by Member States and centered on empowering youth to become agents of peacebuilding and uses working groups as the primary way to create international undertakings regarding youth, e.g. on youth political participation and youth employment.¹¹⁰

As mandated by Security Council resolution 2250, the UN took part in a study on how conflict affects youth and current youth peacebuilding initiatives, titled *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*.¹¹¹ The study's findings set an agenda and provide concrete examples of how to implement Security Council resolution 2250.¹¹² It recorded and consulted youth in conflict zones worldwide and studied current youth-led and focused peacebuilding efforts.¹¹³ Notable recommendations

⁹⁹ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁰⁰ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 17.

¹⁰¹ African Union Commission, *African Youth Charter*, 2006.

¹⁰² Youth4Peace, *Homepage*, 2020.

¹⁰³ United Nations, *Peacebuilding Commission*, 2020.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ UN PBC, *Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2020.

¹⁰⁶ Youth4Peace, *Homepage*, 2020.

¹⁰⁷ Youth4Peace, *Resources*, 2020.

¹⁰⁸ Youth4Peace, *UNSCR 2250 | Implementation*, 2020.

¹⁰⁹ UNDESA, *UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2019.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 1.

¹¹² Youth4Peace, *Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2019.

¹¹³ Ibid.

include: prioritizing the creation of Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) coalitions to ensure a collective impact on YPS at the local, national, regional, and global levels by diverse international actors; and the inclusion of youth into context and conflict analyses carried out by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.¹¹⁴ In April 2020, the Chair of PBC addressed the Security Council in regard to youth, peace and security.¹¹⁵ He highlighted the importance of including youth in decision-making processes related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and called upon Member States and the Security Council to encourage partnerships with youth representatives in peacebuilding efforts and initiatives.¹¹⁶ In July 2020, the Security Council adopted resolution 2535 on youth, peace and security, the third resolution on this topic besides resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018).¹¹⁷ Resolution 2419 urged PBC to incorporate youth's participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes, as well as for local and regional organizations to facilitate this important engagement.¹¹⁸ In resolution 2535 the Security Council reiterates PBC's support for youth participation in peacebuilding processes and requests the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to advocate for youth, peace and security-related activities across the UN system.¹¹⁹ The resolution further calls for the proper implementation of all the youth-related Security Council resolutions and recognizes youth important role in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as addressing health challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁰

In March 2020, the UN Secretary-General issued a report for the first time acknowledging the vital role that youth play in terms of conflict prevention, resolution, and peacekeeping.¹²¹ The report highlights the five pillars indicated in resolution 2250 (2015), which are: participation, protection, prevention, disengagement and reintegration, and partnerships.¹²² It also emphasizes that although progress has been made, some core challenges still exist when it comes to youth's involvement in the decision-making process.¹²³ In April 2020, the Security Council held a virtual-meeting to discuss the progress that the international community has made in terms of youth, peace and security since the adoption of resolution 2250.¹²⁴ Council members applauded the progress made recently by young peacebuilders on a national and international level and recognized the uncertainty and new challenges that COVID-19 represented.¹²⁵ That same day, the UN Secretary-General addressed the Security Council to share the first report on youth, peace, and security.¹²⁶ He highlighted how, since the report had been released, young peacebuilders faced new barriers, including the COVID-19 pandemic which had shaken the world and affected millions of lives all across the world.¹²⁷

Besides efforts at the Security Council, other UN entities have lent their support to UN programs or promoted proprietary youth peacebuilding initiatives.¹²⁸ *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* is a data-focused report created by the World Bank addressing how to prevent

¹¹⁴ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, pp. 126-128.

¹¹⁵ Security Council, *Letter dated 27 April 2020 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/335)*, 2020.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2419)*, 2018; Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2535)*, 2020.

¹¹⁸ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2535)*, 2020.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ UN Secretary-General, *Youth, peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/167)*, 2020.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ UN WebTV, *Youth, peace and security - Security Council Open VTC*, 2020.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ UN Secretary-General, *Remarks to virtual Security Council meeting on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Youth, Peace and Security*, 2020.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ World Bank, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, 2018, p. xvii.

violent conflict overall.¹²⁹ It found that low youth participation in socio-economic and political sectors and decision-making processes in society can be a major motivator for conflict when there is a large youth population in the region.¹³⁰ This motivation comes from a lack of economic or political opportunities, leading to frustration and grievances in youth.¹³¹ Considering youth represent almost half of the world's population, the benefits of youth inclusion in peacebuilding are not limited to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, but also offer economic and societal benefits.¹³²

The Impact of Youth in Sustainable Peacebuilding

Most youth-led peacebuilding initiatives are highly localized, largely made up of local volunteers, and able to work in areas using local knowledge that most peacebuilding organizations do not have access to.¹³³ The use of this knowledge leads to higher participation and incorporates cultural knowledge to understand the roots of local conflict.¹³⁴ For example, youth peacebuilding efforts in Nigeria have been able to work in areas seen as conflict hot spots and strongholds of the terrorist organization Al-Shabab due to their cultural knowledge and understanding of the conflict.¹³⁵ Most peacebuilding organizations refuse to go into these areas for safety concerns but youth-led peacebuilding efforts have been able to operate there because of their cultural understanding and awareness of the situation.¹³⁶ The issue of safety concerns applies to many areas prone to conflict.¹³⁷

One of the ways that youth can positively impact peacebuilding, and be agents of peacebuilding, is through their use of local knowledge and connectivity of social media.¹³⁸ Two-thirds of the world's internet users are under the age of 35.¹³⁹ This level of access to a population like youth provides an increased ability to engage youth in peacebuilding efforts.¹⁴⁰ Technology like messaging apps, SMS, and social media give youth more access to information and knowledge about human rights.¹⁴¹ As the world is becoming more and more connected, even in remote regions of the world, youth are at the forefront of the technology revolution.¹⁴² Youth have used social media as a way to connect and create activism in their communities to be part of the decision-making process where formal networks do not exist.¹⁴³ Where the initiatives are social media-based, the youth-led peacebuilding efforts can reach more of the youth population.¹⁴⁴ While social media has been shown to include and empower youth as agents of peacebuilding, social media can also attract youth to violent and extremist groups and be an obstacle to including youth in peacebuilding.¹⁴⁵ Extremist groups have taken advantage of social media to recruit and mobilize support amongst youth, as well as coordinate group behavior as part of the "technological revolution."¹⁴⁶ Regardless of the tangibility of technology across the world, there is still a lack of equitable

¹²⁹ Ibid., p. 120.

¹³⁰ Ibid., p. 120.

¹³¹ Ibid., p. 287.

¹³² Ibid., p. 287.

¹³³ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 41; UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground, *Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding*, 2017, p. 21.

¹³⁴ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 51.

¹³⁵ Ibid., p. 42.

¹³⁶ Ibid., p. 42.

¹³⁷ Ibid., p. 42.

¹³⁸ Ibid., p. 55.

¹³⁹ Ibid., p. 24.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 24.

¹⁴¹ Search for Common Ground, *Communication for Peacebuilding: Practices, Trends and Challenges*, 2014, p. 10; Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 48.

¹⁴² Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 55.

¹⁴³ Ibid., p. 55.

¹⁴⁴ Search for Common Ground, *Communication for Peacebuilding: Practices, Trends and Challenges*, 2014, p. 10.

¹⁴⁵ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 29.

¹⁴⁶ World Bank, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, 2018, p. 60.

access for many youths in developing countries, hindering their ability to actively promote and participate in peace processes.¹⁴⁷

The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked a rise in hate speech, especially on social media.¹⁴⁸ Different social media and online communication platforms have been used to spread racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism; however, people have taken the initiative to continue their peacebuilding work and promoting positivity during this crisis.¹⁴⁹ As a result, in April 2020, UNESCO launched the “My COVID-19 Story” campaign for youth to share their experiences, perspectives, and more during the pandemic.¹⁵⁰

Obstacles for Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding

One primary obstacle to youths’ meaningful and continuing involvement in peacebuilding are their lack of participation at the processes’ early stages.¹⁵¹ The inability for youth to contribute is due to exclusion at the political level, discrimination by political actors, and negative stereotypes of youth, such as that youth are troublemakers.¹⁵² One way the obstacles to youth participation can be addressed is the promotion of youth agency within their communities.¹⁵³ PBF sees the political participation of youth as first step in engaging youth in the peacebuilding process.¹⁵⁴ By giving youth political agency, the ability for youth to improve and carry out part of the peacebuilding process is, therefore, opened.¹⁵⁵ By increasing youth agency, youth can break the negative stereotypes that they face and are able to contribute in a meaningful way to the peacebuilding process.¹⁵⁶

According to the UN Secretary-General's report titled “Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19,” youth are among the most affected by this pandemic at all levels, and at the same time, among the most involved in the global response whether it is by “running awareness campaigns, handwashing campaigns, volunteering to support the elderly and vulnerable populations, or contributing as scientists, entrepreneurs, and innovators.”¹⁵⁷

There is historical push back to including youth in peacebuilding as they are often considered not to have significant contributions to the topic.¹⁵⁸ Evidence found in the report *Mapping a Sector: Bridging the evidence gap on Youth-driven peacebuilding* shows that youth are challenged by an absence of education, lack of skills, training, confidence, and awareness of the importance of participating in peace processes.¹⁵⁹ This leads youth to become “inactive or hesitant” to engage as agents of peace.¹⁶⁰ Yet, youth are increasingly being identified as agents of change, as individuals that are connected in a network amongst others and, with the world of influencers, have a new way to engage in society at various levels.¹⁶¹

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 54.

¹⁴⁸ UNESCO, *My COVID-19 Story: Peacebuilding Skills*, 2020.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 60.

¹⁵² Ibid., p. 18.

¹⁵³ Ibid., p. 57.

¹⁵⁴ UN DPPA, Peacebuilding Support Office, *PBF Guidance Note: Youth & Peacebuilding*, 2016, p. 6.

¹⁵⁵ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 105.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 59.

¹⁵⁷ UN Secretary-General, *SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, GLOBAL SOLIDARITY: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, 2020.

¹⁵⁸ Youth4Peace, *Young Peoples Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note*, 2016, p. 10.

¹⁵⁹ UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground, *Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding*, 2017, p. 33.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 33.

¹⁶¹ UN Secretary-General, *SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, GLOBAL SOLIDARITY: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, 2020, p. 21.

Violence, Peacebuilding, and Youth

Youth in conflict areas are vulnerable to violent and extremist groups as joining these groups can be an attractive option for youth without other apparent alternatives.¹⁶² When there is a lack of socio-economic opportunities, youth can turn to extremism to improve their socio-economic status.¹⁶³ The socio-economic inclusion of youth is therefore important for countering youth involvement in violent extremism as it often gives youth a sense of duty or fulfillment.¹⁶⁴ However, it is important to note that poverty is not the singular cause of youth violence but often acts as a catalyst.¹⁶⁵

Systematic violence can also be harmful to youth affecting young women and men in different ways.¹⁶⁶ In general, female youth suffer from increased domestic violence and gun-related violence in conflict areas.¹⁶⁷ However, youth are now using tools to help prevent gender-based violence.¹⁶⁸ An example of this is the Safetipin app, which was developed by youth in India to help prevent and protect women from gender-based violence giving areas safety scores.¹⁶⁹ The app is now used in partnership with local police and NGOs to help reach areas where gender-based violence occurs.¹⁷⁰

There are NGOs and youth-led peacebuilding organizations addressing social reintegration and social support, which have proven successful in several Member States.¹⁷¹ In fact, the reintegration of former youth fighters has resulted in the reintegrated fighters becoming leaders within their community through different programs either focused on demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration or other post-conflict recovery interventions like employment programs.¹⁷²

Youth are amongst those who have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since it has ignited feelings of instability, violence, and radicalization all over the world.¹⁷³ It has caused further disruption to things that keep youth positively engaged, interrupting school, reducing job prospects in destabilized economies, and affecting the mental well-being of many due to isolation.¹⁷⁴ However, there is still a lack of response by the international community in addressing the effects of youth violence and promoting peacebuilding.¹⁷⁵ This is most true in regions suffering from youth violence in urbanized areas.¹⁷⁶ Due to the absence of an international response, there are only a few successful peacebuilding efforts for youth in urbanized regions, even in areas with acute youth violence.¹⁷⁷ For example, the EU has supported public security NGOs and human rights organizations in Venezuela, but political and technical obstacles have prevented official cooperation between the EU and the Venezuelan government.¹⁷⁸

¹⁶² World Bank, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, 2018, pp. 60,121.

¹⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, (A/70/674)*, 2015, p. 6.

¹⁶⁴ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2419 (2018))*, 2018, p. 2.;

Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 81.

¹⁶⁵ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 81.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 49; Safetipin, *Our Vision*, 2019.

¹⁷⁰ Safetipin, *Our Vision*, 2019; Safetipin, *What is Safetipin*, 2020.

¹⁷¹ Gratius, et al., *Youth Identity and Security*, 2012, p. 18.

¹⁷² Justino, *Youth, Violent Conflict and Sustaining Peace: Quantitative Evidence and Future Directions*, 2018, p. 6.

¹⁷³ UNIANY, *Statement on COVID-19 and Youth*, 2020.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ Gratius, et al., *Youth Identity and Security*, 2012, p. 19.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 19.

Conclusion

Youth have a vital role to play in peacebuilding.¹⁷⁹ However, youth lack the chance to use their ability or agency to be a meaningful part of the peacebuilding process.¹⁸⁰ Research and studies have shown that when inclusive peacebuilding occurs, peace is more sustainable.¹⁸¹ However, real-world examples of inclusive peacebuilding at the international level with empowered youth are lacking.¹⁸² Furthermore, PBC must play a larger role in supporting and promoting youth-led peacebuilding efforts as most of them are in the need of more international assistance.¹⁸³ Increased support for networking with government decision-makers will provide youth peacebuilding organizations with the connections needed to have meaningful participation in the political process.¹⁸⁴ Especially in the current context where the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening often fragile post-conflict peacebuilding processes, the inclusion and empowerment of youth to be part of every step of the process is considered crucial by PBC, the UN Security Council, and the UN Secretary-General.¹⁸⁵

Further research

In preparing for this topic, delegates should contemplate the following: How can PBC work with youth and peacebuilding organizations to address the negative stereotypes that label youth? What role does social media play in youth peacebuilding while also being used as a tool for recruitment by violent and extremist groups? How can youth peacebuilding efforts counteract the influence and recruiting efforts of extremist groups on youth? How can new and existing technology be used to promote youth peacebuilding in Least Developed Countries? What are the challenges of using technology for youth peacebuilding in remote and rural areas? How can international organizations like PBC better connect with small local youth-led peacebuilding efforts?

Annotated Bibliography

Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security. (2015). *Amman Declaration*. Retrieved 27 September 2020 from: https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2016-10/AMMAN%20YOUTH%20DECLARATION%20%28English%29_0.pdf

The Amman Declaration comes as a result of the Global Forum on Youth, Peace, and Security held in Amman, Jordan. The declaration is a call for the UN and Member States to engage youth in the peacebuilding process and highlights what actions should be done to improve peacebuilding. These include engaging youth, so they do not turn to extremism, investment in youth, and reduction of crime against youth. The declaration will give delegates an understanding of recently highlighted problems regarding youth that can be addressed in the PBC session.

United Nations Inter-Agency Network for Youth Development. (2020). *Statement on COVID-19 and Youth*. Retrieved 17 July 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/04/IAYND-Statement-COVID19-Youth.pdf>

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network for Youth Development is the agency within the UN system whose primary focus is to include youth, whether it is with high-level engagements, roundtable discussions, or reports that address different youth-related topics. Through this document, the agency seeks to highlight the obstacles currently

¹⁷⁹ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 47.

¹⁸⁰ UNOY Peacebuilders & Search for Common Ground, *Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding*, 2017, p. 47.

¹⁸¹ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 31.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*, pp. 22-26.

¹⁸³ UNOY Peacebuilders & Search for Common Ground, *Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding*, 2017, p. 44.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 44.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations Secretary-General, *Remarks to virtual Security Council meeting on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Youth, Peace and Security*, 2020.

faced by youth midst the COVID-19 pandemic as well as important takeaways that governments, private sector, and the international community in general can take in regards to how young people have approached this crisis. Delegates can use this document for ideas on what to include when addressing challenges youth have faced with the pandemic and strategies in regards to this crisis and peacebuilding.

United Nations Secretary-General. (2020, March 2). *Youth, peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/167)*. Retrieved 15 July 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/167>

This report was issued by the Secretary-General in regards to the 5th anniversary of the Security Council resolution 2250 in regards to youth, peace and security. The report details the progress on including youth as agents of peacebuilding, strategies that have been implemented across the globe, and what has been done by non-governmental organizations as well as Member States. Delegates can use this report for ideas on what to include when discussing current issues affecting youth as agents of peacebuilding.

United Nations Secretary-General. (2020, April 27). *Remarks to virtual Security Council meeting on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Youth, Peace and Security*. Retrieved 17 July 2020 from: <http://webtv.un.org/watch/youth-peace-and-security-security-council-open-rtc/6152419696001>

On April 27th, 2020 the UN Secretary-General addressed the Security Council during their virtual meeting on the 5th anniversary of resolution 2250 on “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Youth, Peace and Security.” The Secretary-General presented his first report on youth, peace and security and highlighted how since the report had been issued, the world had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted how young people are mostly being affected by this crisis, and how it is imperative for youth to be involved in decision-making processes at all levels. Delegates can use the report as well as the information debated during this meeting, as a foundation for their research on more recent viewpoints of the United Nations in regards to this topic.

United Nations, Security Council, 8748th meeting. (2020). *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2535)*. Retrieved 27 September 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2535\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2535(2020))

On July 14th, 2020 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2535, which is the most recent document regarding youth’s role in sustaining peace and development. Among the most important points included in this document by Member States was the need to increase youth representation in the decision-making processes related to peacebuilding, conflict resolution and peace agreements. Delegates can use this Security Council resolution as a UN foundation document to guide their own research.

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II. Sustaining Peace Through Partnerships

Introduction

Effective partnerships between entities on local, national, regional, and international levels have proven integral to fostering sustainable peace, which is why they form an inherent part of peacebuilding efforts.¹⁸⁶ Sustaining peace is a core policy objective for all Member States of the United Nations (UN), which requires strong national ownership and multi-sectoral policies that involve the highest levels.¹⁸⁷ Partnerships are strategic since they provide the framework for communication and collaboration between domestic and regional institutions as well as between national governments and international organizations, and such joint efforts can be key in creating sustainable peace.¹⁸⁸

The peace process primarily consists of three distinct steps: peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.¹⁸⁹ The first step, peacemaking, describes an attempt to resolve conflicts in progress through diplomatic action, usually undertaken by the UN Secretary-General or special envoys and diplomats.¹⁹⁰ Following this, peacekeeping is the process of states transitioning from conflict to peace and the UN peacekeepers assisting them with overseeing the implementation of a ceasefire or a peace agreement.¹⁹¹ Peacekeepers are also often involved in early peacebuilding activities.¹⁹² Peacebuilding, which is the main focus of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), encompasses efforts aimed at reducing the states' risk of relapsing into conflict.¹⁹³ This can be done by strengthening national conflict-management capacities and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.¹⁹⁴ The UN peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding processes are in essence global partnerships, as they aim to maintain peace through combining the efforts of the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the UN Secretariat, as well as national governments and their troops and police forces.¹⁹⁵ Partnerships must be inclusive in order to be effective, and financing is essential in ensuring the continued work of partnerships for peacebuilding.¹⁹⁶

International and Regional Framework

The *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) mandates the UN to prevent violence and maintain international peace and security, with Chapters VI, VII, and VIII providing the legal basis for all UN peace missions.¹⁹⁷ Instrumental for the development of partnership frameworks in the realm of peacebuilding were the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* (2000), specifically the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8 (global partnership for development), and General Assembly resolution 55/215 titled "Towards Global Partnerships."¹⁹⁸ This resolution, adopted in 2001, recognized the importance of partnerships for all UN operations, especially as a way to address the challenges of globalization and achieve the MDGs, and thus provided the basis for partnerships in peacebuilding.¹⁹⁹

¹⁸⁶ UN PBSO, *What Does Sustaining Peace Mean?*, 2017.

¹⁸⁷ International Peace Institute, *Sustaining Peace: What Does it Mean in Practice?*, 2017.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ UN Peacekeeping, *Terminology*.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁹¹ UN Peacekeeping, *What is Peacekeeping?*

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ UN ECOSOC, *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery*.

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁵ UN Peacekeeping, *What is Peacekeeping?*

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹⁹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Towards Global Partnerships (A/RES/55/215)*, 2001; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

¹⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Towards Global Partnerships (A/RES/55/215)*, 2001.

Following the MDGs, the international community adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in 2015, which contributes to sustaining peace.²⁰⁰ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 (partnerships for sustainable development), emphasizes the importance of partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society in all areas, including finance, technology, and capacity-building.²⁰¹ Partnerships to advance SDG 17, such as through North-South cooperation or the development of a multilateral trade system, lead to increased interdependencies between countries and are complimentary to achieving sustained peace.²⁰² Furthermore, SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development by providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels; and reducing global levels of violence and death rates, all of which are integral parts of peacebuilding.²⁰³

Also in 2015, UN Member States decided to revise the peacebuilding architecture, which consists of PBC, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and other UN entities involved in peacebuilding.²⁰⁴ The presidents of both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council issued a joint request for a two-stage comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture.²⁰⁵ The first stage was the appointment of an advisory group of seven experts by the UN Secretary-General.²⁰⁶ The second stage involved an intergovernmental review of the report *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace* released by this advisory group in 2015, which also entailed pertinent actions for implementation.²⁰⁷ Despite peacebuilding and sustaining peace being one of the key UN objectives, it had remained underprioritized and under-resourced.²⁰⁸ The report recommends that these should return to the forefront of UN operations.²⁰⁹

As a consequence, both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council adopted resolutions reflecting the findings from the report.²¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/262 on “Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture” (2016) stresses the importance of sustained engagement and coherence between the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in their mandates relating to peacebuilding efforts, while emphasizing the pivotal role of PBC as a coordinating actor between the UN’s principal organs and other relevant entities.²¹¹ It also highlights the benefits of including all segments of society, including public and private stakeholders, civil society, women’s groups, youth organizations, and national human rights institutions, in the peacebuilding process and calls for collaboration and partnerships between the UN and Member States’ governments.²¹² According to the resolution, PBC shall serve as a platform for collaborating on peacebuilding practices, institution building, and financing.²¹³ Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on “Review of United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture” confirms the indispensable role of PBC for

²⁰⁰ UN ECOSOC & UN PBC, *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace – Informal Summary*, 2016.

²⁰¹ UN SDGs, *Goal 17: Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*.

²⁰² *Ibid.*

²⁰³ UN ECOSOC & UN PBC, *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace – Informal Summary*, 2016.

²⁰⁴ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields (A/69/968–S/2015/490)*, 2015.

²⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields (A/69/968–S/2015/490)*, 2015.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

²¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262)*, 2016.

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

peacebuilding as well as the general sentiments regarding the importance of coherence and coordination.²¹⁴ In addition, the resolution stresses the necessity of improving synergies between PBC and other implementation bodies, such as PBSO and PBF, as well as carrying out regular and consistent reviews, monitoring, and evaluations.²¹⁵

Role of the International System

Sustainable peace is a shared responsibility across the entire UN system and permeates all of its activities related to prevention, peacemaking, peace enforcement, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.²¹⁶ Collaboration between PBC and different UN bodies, such as ECOSOC, UNDP, the International Organization for Migration, or the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, in economic, social, and humanitarian sectors can have a positive impact on conflict and post-conflict situations.²¹⁷ Improved performance in the area of sustainable peace, however, requires the engagement and effective coordination not only of all principal UN entities, specialized agencies, and the UN Secretariat, but also local operations and other non-UN actors.²¹⁸

The mandate of PBC is to assist states in post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, which includes reconstructing and improving institutions, developing social services e.g. healthcare and education, and investing in growing sectors of the economy or the youth population.²¹⁹ These activities can achieve greater success and work towards sustaining peace if undertaken collaboratively.²²⁰ The current annual workplan of PBC includes the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, which is under the UN theme of “Challenge of Sustaining Peace.”²²¹ The workplan highlights the key needs of Member States: improving coherence and coordination between national, regional, and international partners; sharing good practices; and developing financing for peacebuilding.²²² In this, PBC is designated to serve as the “advisory bridge” and improve coordination and coherence among relevant UN and intergovernmental organizations.²²³ PBC aims to achieve this through: advocacy for peacebuilding practices; coordination of fundraising for peacebuilding; improved cooperation within the UN system as well as with other external organizations; and bringing together different peacebuilding actors.²²⁴ The chair of PBC, Marc-André Blanchard, announced in January 2020 that PBC will work towards strengthening its role as a facilitator between the various branches of the UN and regional organizations.²²⁵ He also expressed a commitment to strengthening partnerships with the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and other regional developmental banks so that the economic risks and “livelihood needs” of those in conflict-afflicted regions are brought into the UN decision-making process.²²⁶

²¹⁴ UN Security Council, *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (S/RES/2282 (2016))*, 2016.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²¹⁷ UN ECOSOC & UN PBC, *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace – Informal Summary*, 2016.

²¹⁸ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005; UN Security Council, *Post-conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*, 2005.

²²⁰ UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005.

²²¹ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²²² UN ECOSOC & UN PBC, *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace – Informal Summary*, 2016.

²²³ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ UN DGC, *New Peacebuilding Commission Chair Outlines Priorities for 2020 Session, as Delegates Discuss Work Plan, Importance of Expanding Partnerships*, 2020.

²²⁶ Ibid.

PBSO, established in 2005, supports PBC and manages PBF on behalf of the UN Secretary-General.²²⁷ It is comprised of the PBC Support Branch, the Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch, and the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch.²²⁸ It works on sustaining peace through promoting systemic coherence and partnerships between UN and non-UN actors and through fostering international support for nationally-owned and led peacebuilding efforts.²²⁹ PBF, with approximately 51 contributing states, is the UN Secretary-General's financial instrument of first-resort for sustaining peace in regions at risk of or affected by violent conflict.²³⁰ Since 2006, PBF has allocated USD 772 million to help 41 countries in need.²³¹ It works to fill gaps in the PBC's budget and to quickly respond to occurring crises.²³² 82% of PBF's portfolio are joint programs, and it regularly partners with and financially supports UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds, and civil society organizations.²³³

While PBSO and PBF are tasked primarily with the operational side of peacebuilding, the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, and ECOSOC offer policy recommendations and guidelines on the peacebuilding process.²³⁴ The UN Secretary-General partners with lending and donor agencies active in peacebuilding and works with leaders of other multilateral organizations, such as with the president of the World Bank, to foster enabling conditions for partnerships.²³⁵ In his latest "Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace" (2019), the UN Secretary-General recommends another comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2020.²³⁶ The review should follow-up on the progress achieved in the areas of operational and policy coherence, leadership, accountability, and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace.²³⁷ Furthermore, it aims to evaluate the state of financing and partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace following the implementation of the twin resolutions adopted in 2016.²³⁸

Peacebuilding is a collaborative process, which requires coordination among different UN and non-UN actors to better organize their common efforts in terms of strategic planning, cooperation, financing, and other peacebuilding-related issues.²³⁹ More importantly, partnerships for peacebuilding offer a multifaceted approach as opposed to unilateral or bilateral action.²⁴⁰ PBC therefore often pursues partnerships with stakeholders on the international, national, regional, and local levels, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector actors.²⁴¹ One example of such a partnership is outlined in the Joint UN-AU Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.²⁴² Through this partnership, the UN and the African Union (AU) have been able to work collaboratively on addressing

²²⁷ UN Peacebuilding, *About the Peacebuilding Support Office*.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Ibid.

²³⁰ UN Peacebuilding, *United Nations Peacebuilding Fund*.

²³¹ Ibid.; UN Peacebuilding, *Secretary-General Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Strategic Plan 2017-2019*, 2017.

²³² UN Peacebuilding, *United Nations Peacebuilding Fund*; UN Peacebuilding, *Secretary-General Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Strategic Plan 2017-2019*, 2017.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Summary Report. Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding*, 2017; UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707–S/2018/43)*, 2018.

²³⁵ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²³⁶ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/73/890–S/2019/448)*, 2019.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Eleventh Session (A/72/721–S/2018/83)*, 2018.

²³⁹ UN DGC, *World Leaders in General Assembly Stress Importance of Conflict Prevention, Mediation during High-Level Debate on Building, Sustaining Peace (GA/12011)*, 2018.

²⁴⁰ UN DGC, *Chairs Highlight Peacebuilding Commission Efforts to Improve Working Methods, Expand Regional Partnerships, in Briefing to Security Council (SC/13403)*, 2018.

²⁴¹ Ibid.

²⁴² UN Secretary-General, *Joint UN-AU Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security*, 2018.

peace and security issues on the African continent, such as through mutual support for the Silencing the Guns initiative.²⁴³ Engaging with civil society and applying local knowledge to designing and implementing concrete projects makes PBC's activities more relevant and catalytic.²⁴⁴ PBF regularly involves civil society in its strategic planning because it has a stronger domestic political role and can be instrumental in influencing both governmental decisions and public opinion on the peacebuilding process.²⁴⁵

With the COVID-19 pandemic currently affecting the international community, the UN Secretary-General has expressed concern over the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in the years to come and how it will impact the work of the UN.²⁴⁶ In the peace and security context, the UN Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire, to enable countries to deal with the spread of COVID-19.²⁴⁷ However, the UN Secretary-General has noted a rise of violence in conflict-affected areas as the virus spreads.²⁴⁸ The UN Sustainable Development Group stated that, with inadequate responses to the pandemic, trust in the institution of government may erode.²⁴⁹ PBC's Member States have expressed concern about how the pandemic will increase the potential for instability and put a strain on governments.²⁵⁰ With this in mind, PBC stated in a press release a reaffirmed commitment towards establishing partnerships, embracing its role as a bridge between the various UN entities, civil society, and regional and international financial institutions.²⁵¹

Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Peace

The UN recognizes that it needs a more comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, uniting human rights, peace and security, and the development pillars of the UN.²⁵² In post-conflict situations, there is often an absence of a cohesive nation state and a lack of inclusive government.²⁵³ Thus, the peacebuilding process necessitates the involvement of different stakeholders across key social spheres and diverse political opinions, particularly those of youth and women, who represent some of the most vulnerable population segments in conflict situations.²⁵⁴ The participation of community groups, under-represented groups, labor organizations, political parties, the private sector, and domestic civil society is also important for sustaining peace, as it will ensure "inclusive national ownership" over the peacebuilding efforts.²⁵⁵ Exclusion of different political minorities and societal groups can be a driver of conflict and instability.²⁵⁶ The effects of this exclusion is often disproportionately felt by women due to rising gender inequality as a result of conflict and violence.²⁵⁷

Including women in the peacebuilding process is crucial for its success in terms of ending violence and consolidating peace in post-conflict situations, particularly in the area of economic recovery, social

²⁴³ UN Security Council, *Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2019/759)*, 2019.

²⁴⁴ Campisi & Pereira, *Filling the Gap: How Civil Society Engagement Can Help the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture Meet its Purpose*, 2015.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ UN DGC, *Secretary-General's remarks to High-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on "Multilateralism After COVID-19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" [as delivered]*, 2020.

²⁴⁷ UN Secretary-General, *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19*, 2020.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ UN Sustainable Development Group, *Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, 2020.

²⁵⁰ UN PBC, *PBC Press release on the Impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace*, 2020.

²⁵¹ Ibid.

²⁵² UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁵³ Ibid.

²⁵⁴ Ibid.

²⁵⁵ Ibid.

²⁵⁶ Ibid.

²⁵⁷ Ibid.

cohesion, and political legitimacy, since women are the primary caregivers and upholders of the social infrastructure.²⁵⁸ Consequently, promoting gender equality has become a key theme in financing for peacebuilding, with the UN Secretary-General issuing a target of 15% of UN peacebuilding expenditures to be directed towards activities that empower women and advance gender equality in 2009.²⁵⁹ However, as of 2015, no Member State had attained this 15% target because UN entities have been delayed by remodeling existing gender initiatives instead of developing new genuinely peacebuilding-oriented, gender-related programming proposals.²⁶⁰

The need to include women in the peacebuilding process has become even more critical as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected conflict areas.²⁶¹ Gender issues are at risk of being ignored during such a crisis.²⁶² Furthermore, since women make up 70% of the global health workforce, they are at a greater risk of infection.²⁶³ It is therefore crucial for those who are engaging in peacebuilding work and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic to partner with women's organizations so as to allow them to have a voice during the crisis.²⁶⁴

In the past two decades, populations in conflict areas grew almost twice as quickly as populations in developing states not affected by conflict, with half of these populations estimated to be under the age of 20.²⁶⁵ Young segments of society face a higher risk of getting involved in violent or extremist activities.²⁶⁶ Thus, the UN recognized the necessity of providing youth with viable alternatives as well as the added value of incorporating youth in peacebuilding efforts and relying on them as a positive force of change.²⁶⁷ According to the PBC's Advisory Group of Experts, through partnerships between the UN and domestic governments, educational systems can be reformed to reduce youth unemployment.²⁶⁸ Additionally, micro- and small-level enterprises can work on investing in different sectors and creating employment opportunities in the post-conflict development process, indirectly reducing the risk of youth being drawn into extremism.²⁶⁹ Involving youth in the peacebuilding process and treating them as partners is a strategic step towards achieving sustainable peace.²⁷⁰

One example of successful partnerships for peace can be found in Sierra Leone after 2002 when the country was trying to recover from the eleven-year violent conflict and move to a more sustainable peace through the utilization of partnerships across all levels.²⁷¹ The UN partnered with national stakeholders in the initial stages of peacekeeping, which was shifted to peacebuilding in 2008.²⁷² Both national leadership and civil society, notably women's organizations, were involved in the truth and reconciliation process and played a critical role in the peacebuilding process.²⁷³ The UN established the Integrated Peacebuilding

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

²⁶⁰ Ibid.

²⁶¹ Conciliation Resources, *Adaptive peacebuilding: supporting community coronavirus responses*, 2020.

²⁶² Ibid.

²⁶³ UN Secretary-General, *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19*, 2020.

²⁶⁴ Conciliation Resources, *Adaptive peacebuilding: supporting community coronavirus responses*, 2020.

²⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁶⁶ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

²⁶⁷ Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ Ibid.

²⁷⁰ Simpson, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

²⁷¹ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields (A/69/968–S/2015/490)*, 2015.

²⁷² Ibid.

²⁷³ Ibid.

Office in Sierra Leone, which collaborated with PBC and is capable of coordinating with domestic stakeholders and delivering outcomes on the ground in Sierra Leone.²⁷⁴

Adequate and Sustainable Financing of Partnerships for Effective Peacebuilding

Strategic partnerships with international financial institutions are integral to sustaining peace, since available funds remain minimal, inconsistent, and unpredictable.²⁷⁵ Increased investments in sustaining peace are needed to reduce the need for conflict-prevention expenditure in the long run.²⁷⁶ There is also a misalignment between peacebuilding priorities and flows, with official development assistance (ODA) allocated to fragile and conflict-affected states not reaching sectors that are integral to peacebuilding, such as security, justice, or gender equality.²⁷⁷

According to the *Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, this gap may be closed by pooling resources of the UN, bilateral, and multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, or the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.²⁷⁸ The complimentary role of the UN and the World Bank Group is used to build a robust partnership framework to improve coherence between security, political, development, and humanitarian operations in crisis-affected areas.²⁷⁹ Their partnership involves aligning strategies and objectives, using each organization’s tools to conduct effective joint analyses and investments, leveraging the resources of each organization, and improving efficiency through close collaboration.²⁸⁰ To this end, a steering committee in the area of partnership for crisis-affected situations was formed, which enables assessing which post-conflict development issues need funding, how this funding will be raised, and how it will be allocated.²⁸¹

PBF is another important financing instrument because it can act as an “investor of first resort” for sustaining peace and help close the funding gap between the PBC’s objectives resulting from its mandate and its available resources.²⁸² PBF can have a comparative advantage over other resources of funding, since it can act rapidly with minimal procedural hindrances.²⁸³ As part of the PBF’s strategic plan for 2017-2019, three new investment areas have been put into focus: “i) cross-border and regional investments to help tackle transnational drivers of conflict; ii) facilitating transitions between different UN configurations; and iii) youth and women’s empowerment to foster inclusion and gender equality.”²⁸⁴ PBF’s goal was to invest USD 500 million in countries for that period from 2017-2019.²⁸⁵ In 2019, USD191 million were approved for 34 states.²⁸⁶ With this amount, PBF invested a total USD 531 million in 51 countries at the end, exceeding their intended target.²⁸⁷ Nevertheless, persistent challenges such as the lag in receiving funds from Member States, constrained resources, or difficulties in cross-border

²⁷⁴ Ibid.

²⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁷⁶ Ibid.

²⁷⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ World Bank, *State and Peacebuilding Fund: 2018 Annual Report*, 2018.

²⁸⁰ Ibid.

²⁸¹ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707–S/2018/43)*, 2018.

²⁸² UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁸³ UN PBSO, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review of DDR Contributions to Peacebuilding and the Role of the Peacebuilding Fund*, 2012.

²⁸⁴ UN Peacebuilding, *Secretary-General Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Strategic Plan 2017-2019*, 2017, p. 3.

²⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on The Peacebuilding Fund (A/73/829)*, 2019.

²⁸⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on The Peacebuilding Fund (A/74/688)*, 2020.

²⁸⁷ Ibid.

funding, continue to make exercising the PBF's mandate and allocating sufficient funding to peacebuilding programs difficult.²⁸⁸

The Role of Regional Actors in Sustaining Peace

Sustaining peace cannot be effective without partnerships of the UN with regional and sub-regional actors, who dispose of more on-the-ground knowledge in conflict situations and, at the same time, usually have more sustained interest and capabilities to work on solutions in local contexts.²⁸⁹ They are also more trusted by other local stakeholders and possess greater political legitimacy to influence domestic decision-making.²⁹⁰ Regional and sub-regional organizations can support peaceful actions through preventative diplomacy, confidence building, local knowledge and networks, and mediation skills.²⁹¹ States in the same region often have overlapping visions for the future, which makes collaboration and collective action for sustainable peace easier.²⁹² Regional actors are also better suited to assist with peacebuilding in neighboring states affected by conflict due to their proximity and easier and faster mobility of resources.²⁹³ For example, the AU has partnered with the UN to form a Joint Task Force on Peace and Security within the framework of *Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security*.²⁹⁴ This task-force has been vocal about conflicts in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Sudan, Libya, the Sahel region, West Africa, Mali, and Somalia.²⁹⁵ The AU has also expressed its concerns about the impacts of climate change, which are felt directly in Africa and can lead to an increase in intercommunal clashes, and stressed the need for developing joint programs for climate security between the UN and the AU.²⁹⁶ The AU carries out many of its peacebuilding activities through different regional groups and communities, which have varying areas of focus and capacities with respect to peace and security, meaning that it is often challenging to identify and utilize the comparative advantages of each of them.²⁹⁷ Data has shown that weak communication can also lead to an overlap of structures and activities undertaken by regional actors or a duplication of resources and funds.²⁹⁸ Lastly, UN actors and international donors often provide support that is not precisely aligned with unique on-the-ground needs and sensitivities, which highlights the ongoing demand for increased collaboration between the UN and regional actors.²⁹⁹

In the wake of COVID-19, the necessity of partnerships to help fund critical initiatives in peacebuilding is becoming increasingly apparent.³⁰⁰ For example, within the Central African region, three countries plan

²⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *The Challenge of Sustaining Peace – Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*, 2015.

²⁸⁹ Kumalo & Lucey, *Partnerships and Sustaining Peace: Insights from the Work of Regional Organizations*, New York University – Center on International Cooperation, 2018.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁹¹ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, *UN Update: The Importance of Regional Partnerships for Peace and Conflict Prevention*, 2019.

²⁹² *Ibid.*

²⁹³ Kumalo & Lucey, *Partnerships and Sustaining Peace: Insights from the Work of Regional Organizations*, New York University – Center on International Cooperation, 2018.

²⁹⁴ UN Secretary-General, *Note to Correspondents: 17th United Nations (UN) – African Union (AU) Joint Task Force Joint Communique on 25 September 2019*, in New York, 2019.

²⁹⁵ Kumalo & Lucey, *Partnerships and Sustaining Peace: Insights from the Work of Regional Organizations*, New York University – Center on International Cooperation, 2018.

²⁹⁶ UN Secretary-General, *Note to Correspondents: 17th United Nations (UN) – African Union (AU) Joint Task Force Joint Communique on 25 September 2019*, in New York, 2019.

²⁹⁷ Kumalo & Lucey, *Partnerships and Sustaining Peace: Insights from the Work of Regional Organizations*, New York University – Center on International Cooperation, 2018.

²⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Statement by His Excellency Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, at High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Opening Session on 24 April 2018*, in New York, 2018.

³⁰⁰ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Chair's Summary of the Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the impact of COVID-19 in the Central African region*, 2020.

elections by the end of 2020, with another six having elections scheduled for 2021.³⁰¹ With COVID-19 demanding resources, organizing these elections is at risk of becoming underfunded, as well as posing unique logistical challenges.³⁰² Furthermore, in the Gambia, there is concern about a regression on these peacebuilding efforts, as dealing with COVID-19 may postpone current initiatives.³⁰³ The Chair of PBC has recently reiterated that the appropriate way to address these issues will be through strong partnerships that empower and protect those most vulnerable.³⁰⁴

Conclusion

As exhibited above, a common theme in the UN discourse and agenda is the importance of partnerships in peacebuilding processes.³⁰⁵ Partnerships with stakeholders as diverse as minority groups, financial institutions, or regional organizations have the potential to not only improve concrete actions taken by PBC but also to strengthen the peacebuilding operations across the entire UN system.³⁰⁶ Partnerships can help allocate and streamline sources of funding as well as increase coherence between important UN entities and other actors in the area of peacebuilding.³⁰⁷ Partnerships also play an ongoing role in addressing COVID-19, and seeking these partnerships will be critical in order to ensure sustainable peace.³⁰⁸ Last but not least, partnerships can enhance and tailor local operations and improve relationships between the UN and local organizations and civil society groups within Member States, which in turn provides for a more coherent, transparent, and legitimate peacebuilding process.³⁰⁹

Further Research

Delegates should review the resources included in this guide, notably the most recent resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. Delegates' further research should be guided by the following questions: Which minority groups suffer the most in conflict areas and how can they be included in the peacebuilding process? What funding and ODA does PBC currently have access to, and how can this be increased and used more efficiently? What countries does PBC currently operate in, and how can local entities be more extensively involved in the peacebuilding processes? What are potential partnerships between local stakeholders and different UN entities? In what ways does COVID-19 present a risk to sustaining peace, and how can partnerships alleviate those risks?

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Adaptive peacebuilding: supporting community coronavirus responses. (2020, April). Conciliation Resources. Retrieved 19 July 2020 from: <http://www.c-r.org/news-and-insight/adaptive-peacebuilding-supporting-community-coronavirus-responses>

This article from Conciliation Resources highlight some localized ways that those working in peacebuilding have been adapting to the COVID-19 crisis and continuing their work. It lays a focus on gender-sensitive responses to the COVID-19 crisis and how technology can be utilized and adapted to help peacebuilders continue their work. This should be used as a starting point to analyze how peacebuilding projects can adapt to COVID-19, and how working to establish partnerships with civil society and the private sector can lead to more positive outcomes in the future by establishing resiliency in crisis.

³⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁰² Ibid.

³⁰³ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Press release by the Peacebuilding Commission on the impact of COVID-19 in The Gambia*, 2020.

³⁰⁴ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *PBC Chair's remarks – Security Council Debate on Pandemics*, 2020.

³⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262)*, 2016.

³⁰⁶ Ibid.

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ UN Peacebuilding Commission, *PBC Press release on the Impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace*, 2020.

³⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262)*, 2016.

United Nations, Department for Global Communications. (2018, April 24). *World Leaders in General Assembly Stress Importance of Conflict Prevention, Mediation during High-Level Debate on Building, Sustaining Peace (GA/12011)*. Retrieved 30 September 2020 from:

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12011.doc.htm>

Delegates will find this source useful as it provides a detailed coverage of Member States' commitment to partnerships for peacebuilding. It includes different delegations' propositions for how to engage in partnerships for peacebuilding processes. It also involves broader calls and recommendations for coherence and partnerships across the UN pillars in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. The meeting coverage further addresses the issue of financing by quantifying the amount needed by the UN for expenditure on humanitarian interventions, peacekeeping, and hosting refugees, and calls for collaboration among partners for financing, such as through the Peacebuilding Fund.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2016). *Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262)*. Retrieved 30 September 2020 from:

<https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/262>

This resource is important for delegates, since it serves as a review of the structure of PBC, its role, and its relationship with other UN entities. It also discusses the necessity of reviewing the current UN peacebuilding architecture and the role PBC and other entities can play in carrying out this process. This resolution defines how various UN and non-UN stakeholders can contribute to peacebuilding. These include Member States and national authorities; UN missions and country teams; international, regional, and sub-regional organizations; international financial institutions; civil society; women's groups; youth organizations; and, where relevant, the private sector, and national human rights institutions. The source will help delegates identify the different stakeholders within the UN system and realize how they can be involved with non-UN actors and form effective partnerships with them.

United Nations, General Assembly & United Nations, Security Council. (2018). *Report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*. Retrieved 30 September 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/72/707%E2%80%93S/2018/43>

This resource contains recommendations made by the UN Secretary-General concerning peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In a section about partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the report stresses the importance of UN collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations in order to be able to perform joint analyses and promote information sharing in peacebuilding situations. The report also addresses the necessity of close cooperation with international financial organizations, particularly the World Bank, to promote investment in conflict-affected countries. Last but not least, the report highlights the added value of including civil society in peacebuilding processes to improve the working methods of PBC through efforts such as capacity-building; sharing good practices; producing practical tools; and joint planning, programming, and monitoring, and evaluation. By reading this source, delegates will understand how partnerships and the inclusion of various stakeholders are crucial for achieving a long-lasting, sustainable peace.

United Nations, Security Council, 7680th meeting. (2016). *Review of United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (S/RES/2282 (2016))*. Retrieved 30 September 2020 from:

[https://undocs.org/S/RES/2282\(2016\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2282(2016))

This resource provides delegates with detailed analysis of the role PBC plays in the UN system. This resolution was adopted in conjunction with UN General Assembly resolution 70/262 on the "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture," and, therefore, delegates can use it to see the parallels between the work of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council in the peacebuilding process. It introduces and highlights the role of supporting bodies to PBC. More importantly, it emphasizes the need for future periodical reviews of the peacebuilding architecture similar to this source.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. (2020). *Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*. Retrieved 17 July 2020 from: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/SG-Report-Socio-Economic-Impact-of-Covid19.pdf>

This report from the UN Secretary-General and the Sustainable Development Group is a full analysis of the potential impact of COVID-19 as well as guidelines that Member States are being asked to follow. This report is the starting point for much of the work being done in all areas of the UN during this pandemic, including the work of the PBC. Delegates should familiarize themselves with this and should attempt to analyze how partnerships can be utilized to tackle these issues in the peacebuilding context.

World Bank Group. (2018). *State and Peacebuilding Fund: 2018 Annual Report*. Retrieved 30 September 2020 from: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/510271559335344163/SPF-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>

This is the World Bank's annual report on the State and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF), which includes an analysis of the peacebuilding process as well as efforts carried out by the World Bank to support peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas. This report provides delegates with an outline of interstate armed conflicts in the global landscape and the World Bank's corresponding response in the area of finance and development. It also includes a description of the efforts made by the SPF, its main contributors, and the recipients of its services. Delegates can use this source to get an idea of the work done by the World Bank in terms of peacebuilding and to identify key areas of potential cooperation with the UN on such issues. The report also includes a case-study on Latin America, which can be useful for some delegates.

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United Nations, Department for Global Communications. (2020, July 17). *Secretary-General's remarks to High-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on "Multilateralism After COVID-19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" [as delivered]*. Retrieved 23 August 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-07-17/secretary-generals-remarks-high-level-segment-of-the-united-nations-economic-and-social-council-%E2%80%9Cmultilateralism-after-covid-19-what-kind-of-un-do-we-need-the-75th>

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