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# Peacebuilding Commission Background Guide 2026

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## NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Your committee's work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year's committee staff are: Director Filippo Maria Margheritini (Conference A) and Director Chris Stansel (Conference B). Filippo studied international relations at Pepperdine University and the University of St. Andrews and currently works for an international NGO, operating in the humanitarian and development sector. Filippo studied international relations at Pepperdine University and the University of St. Andrews, and currently works for an international NGO, operating in the humanitarian and development sector. Chris is a transportation broker with an academic background in political science and sustainability. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Alexandra Bogdasarow (Conference A) and Aemin Becker (Conference B), with contributions by Under-Secretaries-General for Conference Management Joshua Andersen (Conference A) and Kyle Roberts (Conference B).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:

- 1. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peace
- 2. Advocacy for Peacebuilding Financing

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 bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 PM ET on 1 March 2026 in accordance with the guidelines in the <a href="Position Paper Guide">Position Paper Guide</a> and the <a href="MUN•NY Position Papers website">NMUN•NY Position Papers website</a>.

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The <u>NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide</u>, which 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.
- The <u>NMUN Rules of Procedure</u>, which includes 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 <u>NMUN Conduct Expectations</u> on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations for 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 this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at <u>dsg.ny@nmun.org</u>.

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

Filippo Maria Margheritini, Director Conference A Chris Stansel, Director Conference B



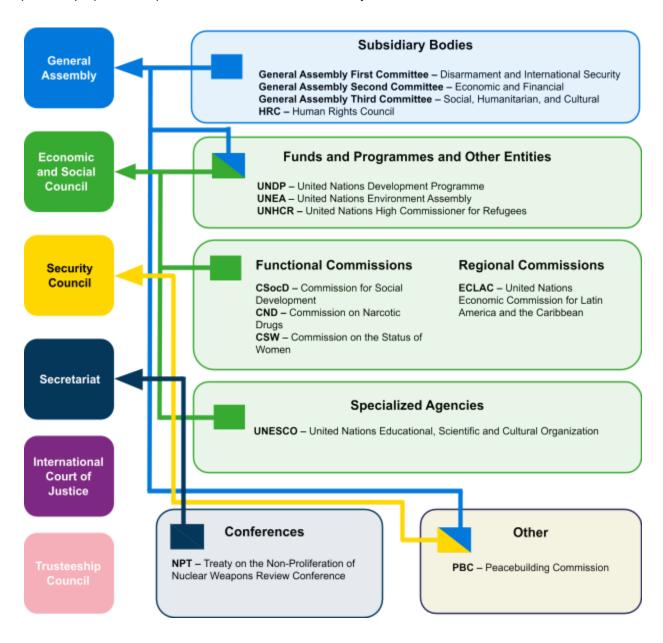
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#### **United Nations System at NMUN•NY**

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee "sits" within the system to demonstrate 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 United Nations system.





#### Introduction

In his 1992 report, *An Agenda for Peace*, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali emphasized that in cases where preventive diplomacy fails and conflict erupts, the United Nations must respond through the combined mechanisms of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.<sup>1</sup> In 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established through General Assembly resolution 60/180 on "The Peacebuilding Commission" and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" as a subsidiary body of both organs.<sup>2</sup> PBC acts as an intergovernmental advisory body for the promotion and support of peacebuilding efforts to advance the broader international peace agenda.<sup>3</sup>

As defined in the 2000 *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations*, also known as the *Brahimi Report*, peacebuilding refers to rebuilding the foundations of peace and providing the tools to do so in post-conflict environments.<sup>4</sup> The report outlines the scope of peacebuilding activities to include: 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.<sup>5</sup>

#### Mandate, Function, and Powers

As an intergovernmental advisory body of both the General Assembly and the Security Council, PBC is mainly responsible for supporting and advising on peace efforts, including in conflict-affected countries.<sup>6</sup> PBC is mandated to coordinate relevant actors to organize resources; provide advice on and propose strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery; focus on reconstruction and institution-building efforts for post-conflict recovery while laying the groundwork for sustainable development; and offer recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors both within and outside the United Nations.<sup>7</sup>

While the following list is not exhaustive, PBC's mandate can be summarized as follows:

PBC will generally: make recommendations on advancing policy and programmatic
efforts to ensure conditions for peace; convene meetings and high-level events;
conduct field visits and engage with stakeholders on challenges in conflict-affected
regions; encourage Member States and other bodies to coordinate peacebuilding
efforts in transition and conflict-affected countries, including reconstruction,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping (A/47/277)*. 1992. p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Security Council. *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809)*. 2000. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid. pp. 6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.



institution-building, and sustainable development; monitor progress in priority areas; and encourage financial support for peacebuilding.<sup>8</sup>

 PBC will not generally: directly and unilaterally intervene in a conflict or take effective action; provide peacekeeping personnel; and enforce post-conflict measures.<sup>9</sup>

PBC has been encouraged to continuously assist relevant United Nations entities to convene all stakeholders under one consistent, nationally-owned approach to peacebuilding. <sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) on "Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture" and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" both emphasized the significance of PBC in fulfilling several functions, including bringing long-term international attention to sustaining peace and providing political support and advocacy to conflict-affected countries, with their consent. <sup>11</sup> PBC is tasked with creating an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding by providing recommendations on peacebuilding needs and priorities. <sup>12</sup>

PBC has an advisory role not only to the General Assembly, to which it reports annually, and the Security Council, but also to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>13</sup> PBC can establish country-specific configurations to bring together different stakeholders to draft a strategic framework establishing peacebuilding priorities, objectives, and risks, and serve as an action plan to carry out the committee's recommendations.<sup>14</sup>

#### Governance, Funding, and Structure

The work of PBC is carried out by its Organizational Committee, a consensus-building body with 31 Member States. <sup>15</sup> The membership is determined by the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC, each of which elects seven members. <sup>16</sup> The top five providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions and the top five providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and voluntary contributions to United Nations funds, programs, and agencies hold the remaining

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Mandate*. N.d.; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. pp. 2-4; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Role of the PBC Membership and the Relations with UN Principal Organs: Report by the Chair*. 2013. p. 5.
<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture* (A/RES/70/262). 2016; United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture* (A/RES/75/201). 2020; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. p. 2; United Nations, Security Council. *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace* (S/RES/2558 (2020)). 2020; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding* (S/RES/2282 (2016)). 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Ibid; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/2282 (2016))*. 2016. <sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May* 2022. 2022. p. 2; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. 2010; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Working Methods Part (I)*. 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d. <sup>16</sup> Ibid.



ten seats.<sup>17</sup> Regional balance is maintained by the General Assembly, which distributes seats last and to members of regional groups with little or no representation.<sup>18</sup> Members serve for two-year renewable terms.<sup>19</sup> The European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the World Bank can also participate in PBC meetings.<sup>20</sup> PBC is assisted by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), which provides strategic advice, administers the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and coordinates with United Nations agencies.<sup>21</sup> PBF is a multi-donor trust fund created to support countries transitioning from conflict to a state of recovery in cases where other funding means are inadequate or unavailable.<sup>22</sup> PBC and PBF act in close coordination, with the PBC receiving briefings from the Chair of the PBF's Advisory Group on the PBF's work.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. 2010. p. 37; United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *Peacebuilding Support Office*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *The United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund*, N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund* (A/75/735). 2021.



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#### 1. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peace

#### Introduction

Youth are central to sustainable peace.<sup>24</sup> Generally, youth are defined by both the Security Council and General Assembly as individuals aged 15-24, while sometimes extended by both entities to include individuals up to 30 years.<sup>25</sup> When also considering children, today's youth make up half of the world's population and are set to reach 57% of the population by 2030.26 Engaging youth early is an important factor in sustainable peace, as their leadership and unique perspectives can help shape inclusive institutions and dialogue.<sup>27</sup> Particularly, youth can participate directly in formal peacebuilding processes through consultations, training, and partnerships that encourage engagement in peace agreements and decision-making.<sup>28</sup> The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization have both highlighted the dangerous impact of excluding youth from these processes, as it may, amongst other things, promote extremist ideologies and hamper economic recovery.<sup>29</sup> To promote peace, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) often focuses on long-term strategies to reduce the risk of conflict recurrence by addressing root causes, rather than focusing just on short-term peacekeeping interventions.<sup>30</sup> Peacebuilding efforts encompass strategies aimed at preventing the outbreak or recurrence of conflict by strengthening national capacities, fostering development, and countering extremism, which is often defined as ideologically motivated violence that undermines inclusive governance and peace.31

Youth are a critical demographic in efforts toward sustainable peace, yet they continue to face complex challenges in conflict-prone areas.<sup>32</sup> Many are excluded from political and peace processes, which limits their ability to contribute to reconciliation and reconstruction.<sup>33</sup> These conditions contribute to cycles of marginalization and instability, particularly in societies recovering from conflict.<sup>34</sup> According to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, empowering youth as peacebuilders helps Member States strengthen national ownership of peacebuilding priorities and foster inclusive processes.<sup>35</sup> Young people have consistently demonstrated leadership in conflict prevention and reconciliation efforts when provided

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *Thematic Review on Youth Participation*. 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> United Nations, Security Council. Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015)). 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. Youth, Peace and Security: A Guide. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications, *Terminology*, N.d.: United Nations, Department of Global Communications. The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. N.d.; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Youth empowerment for peace and resilience building and prevention of violent extremism in Sahel and surrounding countries: a guide for teachers. 2020. p. 8. <sup>28</sup> United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. *Promoting Youth, Peace and Security*. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Youth empowerment for peace and resilience building and prevention of violent extremism in Sahel and surrounding countries: a guide for teachers. 2020. p. 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Terminology*. N.d.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Terrorism and Violent Extremism: A Glossary, 2021: United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation. 2020. p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> International Labour Organization. Youth employment in conflict and fragile settings. 2022; United Nations. Department of Global Communications. Youth. Peace and Security: A Guide. N.d.: United Nations Population Fund. State of World Population 2024. 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *Thematic Review on Youth Participation*. 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> International Labour Organization. *Youth employment*. 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda*. N.d.



with resources and space to participate.<sup>36</sup> The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund has supported over 41 youth-focused projects from 2018-2022, showing institutional recognition of youth engagement as a peacebuilding priority.<sup>37</sup>

High rates of youth unemployment and lack of opportunity undermine post-conflict recovery.<sup>38</sup> The World Bank notes that young people in post-conflict settings often face limited education and livelihoods. increasing the risk of recruitment into illicit or violent groups.<sup>39</sup> According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global youth unemployment rate in 2023 was 13%, the lowest in 15 years, with 64.9 million unemployed youth worldwide. 40 While this marks progress, regional disparities persist. 41 Unemployment rates for young people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), East Asia, and Southeast Asia remained higher in 2023 than in 2019, with the MENA region continuing a pre-pandemic trend of rising youth unemployment.<sup>42</sup> Although frameworks exist to address these challenges, funding and coordination remain inconsistent.<sup>43</sup> For example, a survey conducted by the General Assembly in 2018 found that 50% of surveyed African youth-led peace and security organizations operated on a budget of less than \$5,000, and only 11% above \$100,000.44 Refugee youth, especially those uprooted by conflict, also face constrained livelihood opportunities, with only 23% of refugee adolescents enrolled in secondary education compared to 84% globally, restricting their long-term opportunities.<sup>45</sup> In many host countries, granting access to banking systems and other financial institutions to refugees is also a challenge. 46 Many of these institutions lack both capacity and motivation, particularly in developing countries where around 75% of refugees reside as of 2023.47

#### International and Regional Framework

International frameworks have long emphasized the protection and empowerment of youth in conflict, through the recognition of the rights of youth in post-conflict contexts.<sup>48</sup> The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) articulates these as universal rights, underscoring that all youth are deserving of protection from political, economic, and societal harms.<sup>49</sup> Building on this, the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples* (1965) places strong emphasis on the moral and civic formation of young people, advocating for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *2025 Peacebuilding Fund Thematic Review on Youth, Peace and Security*. 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024*. 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Cramer. International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization. *Unemployment and Participation in Violence*, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024*. 2024. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Ibid. p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> African Union. Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security. 2020. p 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Ibid. p 13; United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Youth for Peace: Intercultural Leadership Programme*. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Right to Education Handbook*. 2019. p. 95.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Migration Policy Institute. *Refugees, Migrants & Financial Inclusion*. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Peacebuilding Initiative. *History*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948. p. 1.



values-based education that nurtures peace, justice, and freedom.<sup>50</sup> Across these documents, a common thread emerges: the need to create enabling environments for youth to live free from fear and violence.<sup>51</sup> The *Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace* (1984) extends this protection-oriented approach by calling on Member States and international bodies to ensure peace as a collective right, explicitly including youth.<sup>52</sup> This includes the right for youth to quality education, employment, and basic socio-civic rights to freedom of speech and agency.<sup>53</sup> This is reaffirmed by the *Barcelona Statement* (1985), adopted at the World Congress on Youth.<sup>54</sup> Lastly, the preamble of *The Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) stresses the fundamental values of peace and freedom for children.<sup>55</sup>

The United Nations addresses the interrelation between peace and the youth.<sup>56</sup> The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) identified a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are relevant to peacebuilding processes, including SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).<sup>57</sup> Building on this foundation, the World Programme of Action for Youth (2010) identifies thematic priorities such as education, employment, health, and poverty alleviation, while also recommending strategies for implementing youth-led projects through multi-level cooperation.<sup>58</sup> This action-oriented approach is reinforced in the United Nations system-wide youth strategy, *Youth2030*, initially launched in 2018 by the Secretary-General and prolonged as a second phase in 2025, which tracks progress toward youth development and explicitly highlights youth participation in peacebuilding missions, humanitarian action, and global policy advocacy.<sup>59</sup> Together, these frameworks underscore a growing consensus: sustainable peace cannot be achieved without intentional investment in youth leadership and inclusion.<sup>60</sup>

To further expand on the themes of peace and security, the Security Council adopted resolution 2250 (2015) and Security Council resolution 2535 (2020), both on the agenda item "Maintenance of International Peace and Security", and reaffirmed youth involvement and further specified the peace and security agenda. Security Council resolution 2250 launched the youth, peace, and security (YPS) agenda, calling on Member States to enhance the inclusion of youth in peace processes and decision-making. The resolution urges Member States to involve youth in all stages of peace processes and decision-making, while also citing practical examples such as youth-led community engagement to prevent violent extremism and the development of gender-sensitive, evidence-based employment programs in partnership with the private sector. This agenda was further strengthened by Security Council resolution 2535, which not only reaffirmed the importance of youth in conflict prevention and

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (A/RES/2037)*. 1965. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (A/RES/39/11)*. 1984.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Barcelona Statement adopted at the World Congress on Youth (A/40/768)*. 1985. p. 4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. World Action Programme for Youth. 2010. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. World Action Programme for Youth. 2010. p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> United Nations Youth Office. *Youth2030: A Global Progress Report*, 2023. 2023.

<sup>60</sup> Ihid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> United Nations, Security Council. *Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015)).* 2015. p. 2; United Nations, Security Council. *Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2535 (2020)).* 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> United Nations, Security Council. Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015)). 2015. p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Ibid. p. 5.



resolution but also introduced a framework for institutional accountability, which requires the United Nations Secretary-General to report biennially on YPS implementation.<sup>64</sup> Most recently, Action 20 of *The Pact for the Future* (2024) renewed this global commitment by calling for national and regional roadmaps to embed youth-led peace and security initiatives into formal policy planning.<sup>65</sup>

Regional frameworks play a strategic role in advancing youth involvement with peace and security through context-specific approaches and partnerships. <sup>66</sup> The African Union's (AU) *Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security* (2020) primarily references its national programs to engage youth in mediation, violence prevention, and decision-making. <sup>67</sup> This framework seeks to empower and finance the peacebuilding efforts of African youth through collaborations with pertinent stakeholders in the region, such as non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the various Member States within Africa. <sup>68</sup> In Southeast Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) *Regional Forum Joint Statement on promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda* (2021) encourages ASEAN members to collaborate and implement projects to increase the representation of youth, and build their capacity and skills in conflict resolution, as well as promote the recovery and integration of young survivors of conflict. <sup>69</sup> It also highlights the importance of media and information literacy to enhance critical thinking skills to combat disinformation, hate speech, and transnational cyberterrorism as part of a wider approach in establishing youth peacebuilding initiatives. <sup>70</sup>

#### Role of the International System

PBC supports the implementation of the YPS agenda through advocating for partnerships with other United Nations bodies in peacebuilding initiatives.<sup>71</sup> The collaboration between the United Nations, subsidiary bodies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) ensures that a comprehensive approach is taken when considering the contributions and the potential of youth in regard to peacebuilding.<sup>72</sup> For example, The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, a network of CSOs, holds dialogues on the prevention of armed conflict with different stakeholders, including CSOs and Member States from different regions, while highlighting the role of women in youth peacebuilding.<sup>73</sup> The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Focal Point on Youth also promotes youth peacebuilding through a capacity-building and institutional development toolkit for youth peacebuilders.<sup>74</sup> Specifically, UN DESA toolkits provided peace and security training to 800 youth and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Peace, dignity, and equality in a healthy planet*. N.d.; United Nations, Security Council. *Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2535 (2020))*. 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1), 2024, p. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Youth for Peace: Intercultural Leadership Programme*. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> African Union. Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security. 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> European External Action Service. *ASEAN Regional Forum Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda*. 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. *About Us.* 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Promoting Sustainable Peace Through National Youth Policies in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda and UNSCR 2050: A Capacity Building & Institutional Development Tool Kit for Youth Policymakers in Africa.* 2018. p. 1.



government representatives in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo.<sup>75</sup> The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) complements the tool kits by focusing on the social aspects of conflict and its prevention.<sup>76</sup> UNICEF strives to increase access to social services for children and youth, such as health, education, clean water, sanitation, and social protection, in fragile and conflict-affected areas in order to build community resilience, public trust, and social relationships.<sup>77</sup>

A focus on the United Nations and CSO in youth peacebuilding lies in education and grassroots efforts.<sup>78</sup> The General Assembly has been a central platform in youth advocacy.<sup>79</sup> In the past, it declared 1985 as the International Youth Year to highlight youth contributions to peace, development, and participation, and encouraged greater focus on youth in peacebuilding initiatives by Member States.<sup>80</sup> More recently, General Assembly resolutions have encouraged partnerships with CSOs that amplify the voices of marginalized groups, including young people, in peacebuilding processes.<sup>81</sup> This allows CSOs to be further involved in working with youth in post-conflict contexts and develop programs towards this goal.<sup>82</sup> The Security Council has also recognized youth as key actors in sustaining peace, most prominently through resolution 2250, and calls on Member States and United Nations agencies to increase youth representation in decision-making on conflict prevention and resolution.<sup>83</sup> Complementing these institutional efforts, grassroots networks, such as the United Network of Young Peacebuilders founded in 1989, mobilizes young leaders for dialogue and conflict prevention in violence-affected regions.<sup>84</sup> Specifically, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Young Peacebuilders program equips youth with skills in peace education through workshops, experiential learning projects, and opportunities to share their results in international forums.<sup>85</sup>

Regional actors also play a pivotal role in shaping the youth to become professional peacemakers through implementing programs. The ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation facilitated the Enhancing the Role of Youth in Peacebuilding training in 2024 to support youth peacebuilding efforts. The program provided actionable training to equip youth participants in the Southeast Asian region with a comprehensive understanding of regional conflict dynamics and peacebuilding approaches. The ASEAN Foundation hosts the ASEAN Youth Empowerment for Peacebuilding and Tolerance Workshop, which invites ASEAN youth to discuss approaches to empower young women to participate in peacebuilding efforts and share best-practices on inclusivity. Regional organizations, such as the AU, European Union, and League of Arab States, contributed to the consultations on the policy brief *The New Agenda for* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Promoting Sustainable Peace Through National Youth Policies in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda and UNSCR 2050: A Capacity Building & Institutional Development Tool Kit for Youth Policymakers in Africa, 2018, p. 5.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *Peacebuilding and social cohesion*. N.d.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace (A/RES/40/14)*. 1985. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>82</sup> United Network of Young Peacebuilders. About UNOY. N.d.

<sup>83</sup> United Nations, Security Council. Youth, peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015)). 2015. p. 5.

<sup>84</sup> United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Young Peacebuilders. N.d.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, The ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR). *Enhancing the Role of Youth in Peacebuilding*. 2025.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> ASEAN Foundation. ASEAN Youth Empowerment for Peacebuilding and Tolerance. 2024.



*Peace* (2023) presented by the United Nations Secretary-General which outlines a vision for multilateral peacebuilding in a time of geopolitical transition and served as the key input for actions on international peace and security in the *Pact for the Future*.<sup>90</sup>

#### Addressing Youth Unemployment as a Driver of Conflict Recurrence

Although global youth unemployment rates have fallen to 13% in 2024, one out of three young people lives in a country that is off-track to achieving SDG 8.6 (promote youth employment, education, and training), with progress particularly slow in conflict-affected regions. SDG target 8.6 foresees significant reductions in the share of youth who are unemployed and not in training or education. Significant risks for peace and stability in conflict-prone areas remain for young people. In 2022, ILO reported that 56.8 million young individuals were living in conflict-affected regions, an increase from 32.3 million in 2002. The number of youth jobs at risk due to conflict proximity increased by 150% to approximately 20 million in the same time period. Conflict has a noticeable effect on the mental health of young individuals due to trauma from being in conflict situations. According to research done by ILO, youth are also becoming more worried about the possibility of their countries engaging in warfare. The World Bank reported that post-conflict environments present unique challenges for young people because many have not received an education, have been raised in violent environments, and were once combatants.

Economic hardship and radicalism are key challenges to youth peacebuilding. According to the report *Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement* (2023) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), important drivers for extremist groups' recruitment are socio-economic marginalization, lack of education, and hope of improved economic conditions. In the study, 25% expressed the hope for employment as the primary reason they joined a violent extremist group. An expert group by UN DESA on *Youth, Peace and Security: Social Issues and Social Policies* (2017) emphasized that a lack of opportunities further leads to youth radicalization and violence. Another study by UNDP found that farmland disputes due to food insecurity and easy access to small arms and light weapons increase the likelihood for unemployed youth to fall into violent radicalism. The survey also mentioned social media as a significant factor affecting young people's religious radicalization. In conclusion, a crucial element of any peacebuilding efforts is youth employment to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. A New Agenda for Peace. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024*. 2024. pp. xiv-xvi.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025: Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth.* 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024*. 2024. p. 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> Ibid. p. 59.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> Ibid. p. 59.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> Ibid. p. 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Ibid. p. 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> World Bank. Youth and employment in Africa: The potential, the problem, the promise. 2008. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement*. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Ibid. p. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Ibid. pp. 16-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Youth, Peace and Security: Social Issues and Social Policies*. 2017. p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> United Nations Development Programme. Youth unemployment is the most common driver of vulnerability to violent extremism and radicalisation in Northern Regions of Ghana. 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> United Nations Development Programme. Youth unemployment is the most common driver of vulnerability to violent extremism and radicalisation in Northern Regions of Ghana. 2023.



increase resilience against recruitment by extremist groups and deter conflict recurrence. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs. For example, online or seminar programs, community engagement, and attempts to deracialize through religious and other accessible mental health counseling are drivers of resilience against conflict recurrence. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs. The role of culture and society is critical, as it can spearhead initiatives to counteract online extremism, such as accessible educational programs.

Inclusive employment policies can help address grievances among youth and strengthen social cohesion in post-conflict societies.<sup>108</sup> ILO specifies that employment programs that combine skills development with community-building are considered more sustainable and conflict-sensitive to assist youth in peacebuilding initiatives.<sup>109</sup> The *United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration* (PCEIR) (2009), brought forward by the United Nations Secretary-General together with ILO and UNDP, follows a three-track approach.<sup>110</sup> This consists of fast employment opportunities to stabilize incomes, increasing capacity development of local governments and the economy, as well as transitioning towards long-term employment creation.<sup>111</sup> UN DESA has also outlined support for inclusive youth employment policies in The World Programme of Action for Youth on Employment.<sup>112</sup>

#### Refugee Youths as Agents of Peace

By the end of 2024, there were 48.8 million children worldwide who had been displaced by violence and war, according to UNICEF.<sup>113</sup> The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that between 2018 and 2024, almost 2.3 million children, or 337,800 children annually, were born as refugees.<sup>114</sup> Their displacement status has been a barrier to participating in the peacebuilding process.<sup>115</sup> Furthermore, the immediate focus lies on trauma processing and medical assistance instead of peacebuilding participation.<sup>116</sup>

According to UNHCR, refugee youth seek meaningful participation, inclusion in decision-making, and engagement in peacebuilding solutions. Refugee youth access to opportunities, education, employment, and societal inclusion is fundamental to the goals of peacebuilding. The representation of refugee youth provides key perspectives in the peacebuilding process, such as the protection of minorities along with the preservation of cultural and religious traditions to be factored in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> World Bank. Youth and employment in Africa: The potential, the problem, the promise. 2008. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Youth unemployment is the most common driver of vulnerability to violent extremism and radicalisation in Northern Regions of Ghana*. 2023.

107 Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> International Labour Organization. *Youth employment in conflict and fragile settings*. 2022. p. 156. <sup>109</sup> Ibid. p. 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> United Nations Secretary-General. *United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict, Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration*. 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The World Programme of Action for Youth on Employment (A/RES/50/81)*. 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *Displacement*. 2025.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> Albadarneh. Generations For Peace. *Addressing Refugee Crises* | *Youth PLUS: Peacebuilding and Leadership.* 2024.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees. *Refugee, children and youth.* 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> Ibid.



peacebuilding process.<sup>119</sup> Preserving cultural and religious traditions allows grassroots rebuilding of conflict-ridden areas towards peaceful communities through shared cultural values, which can foster a long-term peacebuilding process.<sup>120</sup>

The UNHCR and non-profit organizations also play a major role in empowering refugee youth as peacebuilders. <sup>121</sup> UNHCR has collaborated with Uganda to support the rollout of educational initiatives where trained refugees teach other refugees on the importance of peace. <sup>122</sup> However, gaps remain in these initiatives due to funding constraints. <sup>123</sup> To help alleviate this, UNHCR has also implemented The Regional Youth Peacebuilding Program, which aims to promote peacebuilding through educating displaced youth in Sudan to become peacemakers both within and outside their localities. <sup>124</sup> As for CSOs, The Guiding Principles for Involvement of Young People in Peacebuilding, which receives funding from the Peacebuilding Support Office of the United Nations, advocates for the creation of safe spaces and communities for youths from all cultural and religious backgrounds and calls for intergenerational partnerships with the youth sector and peacebuilding. <sup>125</sup> Furthermore, Oxfam International has empowered young South Sudanese refugees to actively participate in initiatives to reduce violence and foster peace in Uganda and Kenya. <sup>126</sup> Actions include the promotion of the 2018 peace agreement and its implementation status through educational activities or radio broadcasts by these refugees. <sup>127</sup> In conclusion, refugee youth are a key stakeholder in the youth peacebuilding process, as their experiences offer valuable insight into the creation of sustainable youth peacebuilding programs. <sup>128</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

The inclusion of youth is critical in fulfilling PBC's mandate of facilitating an integrated and holistic approach to post-conflict recovery. While youth are often among the most affected by violence and displacement, they also possess the capacity to act as critical actors in social cohesion and recovery. Persistent barriers such as high rates of unemployment, exclusion from decision-making, and limited access to education continue to restrict youth engagement in peacebuilding. Addressing these challenges is central to advancing international milestones such as the 2030 Agenda and the *Pact for the Future*. Programs such as PCEIR illustrate the potential of integrated, conflict-sensitive employment strategies to reduce the risk of conflict recurrence and empower youth as contributors to stability.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> Peace Insight. Guiding principles for young people's participation in peacebuilding. 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> Summers. Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees. *Chapter 4: Peace Education and Refugee* Youth. N.d. p. 166.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> Ibid. p. 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees. *UNHCR Regional Youth Peacebuilding Program, 2024 Programme Overview. East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes.* 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> Peace Insight. Guiding principles for young people's participation in peacebuilding. 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> Deng. Global Compact on Refugees. *Refugees as agents of peace*. 2018.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees. *Refugee, children and youth.* 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005. p. 1; United Nations. Peacebuilding Support Office. *Thematic Review on Youth Participation*. 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024*. 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025: Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth*. 2025; United Nations, General Assembly. *The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1)*. 2024. p. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> International Labour Organization. Youth employment in conflict and fragile settings. 2022. p. 156.



ensure peacebuilding efforts are comprehensive and durable, Member States, NGOs, and the United Nations should encourage support for youth-led initiatives, close financing gaps, and operationalize youth-focused policies across national and regional levels.<sup>134</sup>

#### Further Research

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: How can national governments improve the integration of youth into formal peace processes? What strategies are most effective in addressing youth unemployment in post-conflict environments? How can existing global and regional frameworks be operationalized more effectively at the local level? What role should CSOs and NGOs play in empowering youth to become agents of peace? In what ways can refugee youth be supported to participate in peacebuilding within both host and home countries? How can financing for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives be made more sustainable and equitable across regions?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Youth for Peace: Intercultural Leadership Programme*. 2023.



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#### 2. Advocacy for Peacebuilding Financing

"Ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained resources for peacebuilding remains our greatest challenge."135

#### Introduction

Advocacy is included within the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). 136 The term advocacy encompasses multiple aspects of work within the United Nations system. 137 These aspects include providing information to key actors to enable them to act based on facts and evidence, as well as providing direct support to governments regarding policy development and implementation.<sup>138</sup> They also include working with civil society, the media, or the private sector to help foster a political environment that makes it possible to implement action to address challenges. 139 PBC is mandated to provide information and support to relevant actors to improve their coordination and to give recommendations on strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, making advocacy a key aspect of the work of PBC. 140

While there is a growing demand for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) have declined. 141 Peacebuilding is a long-term process with the goal of building the capacity of the state to carry out its core functions. 142 Further, it refers to efforts that aim to reduce the risk of conflict through the strengthening of national capabilities for conflict management and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.<sup>143</sup> Reports from 2024 show that Member States requested support on an increasingly diverse range of issues regarding peacebuilding.<sup>144</sup> These issues include the intersection of climate change and conflict, finding community-driven approaches, and addressing divisive practices like misinformation, as well as other areas. 145 The PBF is the leading instrument of the United Nations system to invest in peacebuilding. 146 By the end of 2024, voluntary commitments to the PBF reached only about 50% of the targeted amount for the strategy period of 2020-2026, totaling \$789 million of the targeted amount of \$1.5 billion. 147 As of July 2025, the funding gap

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the* Secretary-General (A/74/976). 2020. p. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Mandate*. N.d.; United Nations Development Group. Fulfilling the Promises: A Practical Guide for UN Advocacy to Promote Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> United Nations Development Group. Fulfilling the Promises: A Practical Guide for UN Advocacy to Promote Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 2017. p. 3.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Mandate*. N.d.; United Nations Development Group. Fulfilling the Promises: A Practical Guide for UN Advocacy to Promote Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 2017. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/79/790). 2025. pp. 12-13. <sup>142</sup> United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. *Terminology*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Fund. 2024 Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund. 2024. p. 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, The Peacebuilding Fund, N.d. <sup>147</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/79/790). 2025. p. 12.



of the PBF for 2025 amounts to \$99.7 million, and for 2026, the projected gap totals \$253.8 million.<sup>148</sup> Overall, financial flows to conflict-affected countries show significant fluctuations from year to year.<sup>149</sup>

Financing for peacebuilding includes a broad spectrum of different mechanisms, which include various actors in the international community.<sup>150</sup> Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to financial support that is provided by foreign governments with the goal of promoting development and welfare in low and middle-income countries.<sup>151</sup> ODA makes up more than two-thirds of external finance for least-developed countries, which are countries that are facing severe challenges regarding sustainable development, which is the aim of meeting present needs of the global population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and are highly vulnerable to economic shifts. 152 This assistance is mainly made up of grants or soft loans, meaning loans that usually have low interest rates and offer more flexible terms for repayment and are customarily provided by government agencies rather than financial institutions. 153 Between 2010 and 2019, the total ODA to conflict-affected countries increased overall, however, only 15.3% of the total ODA in those years has been directed towards peacebuilding.<sup>154</sup> The relative share of ODA that was directed towards peacebuilding has declined since 2012.<sup>155</sup> Additionally, peacebuilding funding through ODA is distributed unevenly among countries. 156 Between 2015 and 2019, the top six recipients of ODA were Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Iraq. 157 These six countries received 52% of the total ODA for a total number of 52 conflict-afflicted regions in 2019.158

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to an investment made by individuals or business entities in an economy other than the economy in which the investor resides.<sup>159</sup> The investor seeks to gain a lasting interest in the foreign enterprise they are investing in.<sup>160</sup> This implies a long-term relationship between the investor and the enterprise, and a significant influence on the management of the enterprise.<sup>161</sup> In 2019, FDI made up \$73 billion in financial flow to conflict-affected countries, while ODA made up \$59 billion.<sup>162</sup> With the PBF, ODA, and FDI not being able to meet the global demand for peacebuilding financing, the issue of financing for peacebuilding has received significant attention in the international discussions on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Fund. *Global Results Reporting*. 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Financing for Peacebuilding: A Primer*. pp. 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Official development assistance (ODA)*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Ibid.; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The least developed countries (LDC) category*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Official development assistance (ODA)*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Financing for Peacebuilding: A Primer*. p. 4.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> Ibid.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *World Investment Report 2007: Transnational Corporations, Extractive Industries and Development.* 2007. p. 245.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> Eurostat. *Glossary: Foreign direct investment (FDI)*. N.d.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Financing for Peacebuilding: A Primer*. p. 1.



peacebuilding.<sup>163</sup> To bridge the funding gap, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) aims to harness underutilized resources and broaden the base of donors.<sup>164</sup>

#### International and Regional Framework

The United Nations peacebuilding architecture is made up of different entities in the United Nations System, which work together to build sustainable peace. 165 PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body established in 2005, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (1945), by the General Assembly and the Security Council. 166 Joint resolutions, General Assembly resolution 60/180, and Security Council resolution 1645 on "The Peacebuilding Commission" established PBC, the PBF, and the PBSO. 167 In regard to financing, the PBC establishment highlighted both the voluntary nature of contributions to peacebuilding, as well as the connection to international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. 168 That is outlined through participation for delegates from those institutions at the PBC's meeting sessions. 169 PBC is guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the constitutional document at the basis of the United Nations. 170 Simultaneously, the *Universal Declaration for Human Rights* (1948) also underpins the international framework as the foundation to sustain peace. 171 In 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/262 on "The Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture," which effectively revamped PBC, emphasizing the importance of alignment across United Nations bodies to sustain peace effectively and inclusively. 172 In particular, this resolution looks at preventative measures to sustain peace and avoid lapsing into conflict.<sup>173</sup> The resolution also emphasized the need for a country-specific approach, which also involves regional and sub-regional entities. 174

The recognition of the need to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies has been reiterated in the broader *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) (2030 Agenda).<sup>175</sup> The 2030 Agenda is a de-facto plan of action with 17 goals and 169 targets to achieve sustainable development across three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental.<sup>176</sup> In the 2030 Agenda, peace is addressed in areas of critical importance to strive towards, and also as a necessary component to achieve sustainable development.<sup>177</sup> To that end, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies is recognized in Sustainable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>164</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Fund. *Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy Extension* 2025-2026. 2025. p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>165</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*. 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>166</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180). 2005. p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>167</sup> Ibid. pp. 2, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> Ibid. pp. 3, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>169</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Security Council. *Security Council Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*. 2018. p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture* (A/RES/70/262). 2016. p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> Ibid. p. 5, 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> Ibid. pp. 4, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015. p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>177</sup> Ibid. p. 2.



Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice, strong institutions). 178 Some of the targets for SDG 16 include 16.3 to promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice; 16.7 to ensure responsive, inclusive, and representative decision-making; 16.8 to broaden and strengthen participation in global governance; and 16.A to ensure public access to information to protect fundamental rights. <sup>179</sup> To that end, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) (AAAA) calls for greater participation in funding streams to achieve development goals and targets and not jeopardize the development process. 180 AAAA provides a framework towards financing sustainable and equitable development, calling for greater participation in funding streams to achieve the development goals.<sup>181</sup> This framework highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, spanning from the private sector, academia, civil society, and local institutions, to mobilize expertise and financial resources. 182 AAAA also underlines the need to close the gap in funding for peacebuilding, recognizes the need for efficient mechanisms to deliver aid, and stresses the importance of country ownership in peacebuilding. 183

In 2024, heads of states and governments adopted The Pact for the Future, aiming to emphasize international cooperation through a strengthened multilateralism to advance the 2030 Agenda.<sup>184</sup> The Pact for the Future aims to protect the needs and interests of present and future generations and ensure that the United Nations and other key multilateral institutions can deliver a better future for both people and the planet. 185 Action 18 within the Pact for the Future underscores the importance of predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, while striving for greater alignment across stakeholders and strengthening strategies at the national level. 186 This was also emphasized by the Policy Brief 9, from the Secretariat on the Secretary-General report 75/982 Our Common Agenda, which recommends sustainable and predictable financing to peacebuilding efforts, as a matter of urgency. 187 Through the Pact for the Future, world leaders affirmed their commitment to strengthening the PBC by mobilizing political and financial support, systematizing partnerships with financial institutions, partnering with regional and sub-regional bodies, and seeking a localized approach. 188

#### Role of the International System

The PBSO is part of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and works to facilitate and enhance coherence and collaboration across the United Nations System and other partners, in efforts to build and sustain peace. 189 The PBSO operates across three branches: Peacebuilding Commission Support, Financing for Peacebuilding, and Strategy and Partnership. 190 lt provides support to PBC, manages the PBF, and seeks to streamline coordination within and outside the United Nations system to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>178</sup> Ibid. p. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>179</sup> Global Goals, 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>180</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. 2015. p. 57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Ibid. pp. 2-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> Ibid. p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>184</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1). 2024*. pp. 1-2.

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>186</sup> Ibid. p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace, 2023, p. 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>188</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1). 2024. p 28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>189</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. Peacebuilding Support Office. N.d. p. 1. <sup>190</sup> Ibid.



build and sustain peace.<sup>191</sup> The PBF, which is managed by the PBSO, also acts as a catalyst and connector between international and regional financial institutions, policy-setting bodies, and civil societies.<sup>192</sup> The multi-stakeholder nature of the PBF allows it to strive to align and coordinate in channeling programs and resources into synchronous approaches.<sup>193</sup> This includes aligning with bodies such as the World Bank Group and European Union on policy and programmatic approaches.<sup>194</sup> PBC also coordinates with civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure that adequate context setting and local perspectives are embedded in processes.<sup>195</sup> To that end, the PBF has also launched the Peacebuilding Impact Hub, which, among other objectives, aims to enhance learning and evidence-use for the PBF's programs, to foster greater understanding of these programs' impact, and promote advocacy and communication to mobilize donors.<sup>196</sup>

The General Assembly works to emphasize concerns regarding financing for peacebuilding, seeking to promote a more preventive and sustainable approach to peacebuilding funding.<sup>197</sup> The body has called for repeated action to ensure the sustainability and the flexibility of financing for peacebuilding, including innovative and predictable financing mechanisms.<sup>198</sup> These calls have become particularly relevant as funding for peacebuilding has grown increasingly unstable, showing varying degrees of fluctuation coming from ODAs.<sup>199</sup> In 2025, the General Assembly earmarked \$50 million to be allocated to peacebuilding financing in an effort to ensure sustainability in the financing for peacebuilding.<sup>200</sup> To this end, engagement with international financial institutions, regional and development banks, sub-regional organizations, and CSOs is instrumental in developing a sustainable and aligned framework to sustain peace.<sup>201</sup> This effort is also emphasized by the Secretary-General, in relation to his report 75/982, affirming the need for the formalization of the PBC's relationship with international financial institutions and regional development banks, to streamline financing processes for peacebuilding.<sup>202</sup>

Financial institutions like the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and Regional Development Banks are important contributors to peacebuilding financing and can support peacebuilding efforts with the needed large-scale funding.<sup>203</sup> The synergies between the World Bank Group, which also includes the International Finance Corporation, and PBC have been further cemented, as requested by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>191</sup> Ibid. pp. 1-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>192</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund 2020-2024 Strategy*. 2020. p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>193</sup> Ibid. pp. 7, 8, 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> Ibid. p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Peacebuilding Support Office*. N.d. pp. 1, 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighteenth session* (A/79/774–S/2025/86). 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>198</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Financing for Peacebuilding (A/RES/76/305)*. 2022. p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>199</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Security Council. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace* (A/76/668 - S/2022/66). 2022. p. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>200</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Investing in prevention and peacebuilding (A/RES/78/257)*. 2023. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>201</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture* (*A/RES/70/262*). 2015. pp. 6, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>202</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace*. 2023. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>203</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552)*. 2024. p. 13.



the General Assembly in 2016, by streamlining funds, mobilizing resources, and mitigating risks to sustain peace.<sup>204</sup> Considering the fluctuation in ODA directed to peacebuilding, PBC has convened meetings with participation from multilateral institutions' leadership, including the African Union, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, marking the importance of ensuring alignment with these entities.<sup>205</sup> In addition, the PBSO provides strategic support dedicated to enhancing partnerships with multilateral development banks and international financial institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.<sup>206</sup> Successful collaboration in financing for peacebuilding was achieved in the Central African Republic.<sup>207</sup> In this instance, \$2 million was dedicated to conflict sensitivities, provided via the IFI Peacebuilding Fund, which was allocated in coordination with a \$30 million project on agricultural development and with a focus on youth and women.<sup>208</sup>

The Peacebuilding Commission operates in partnerships with private actors as well as CSOs, operating both locally and internationally.<sup>209</sup> These organizations include special interest groups like trade unions or professional associations, faith-based organizations, community groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).<sup>210</sup> CSO representatives may be invited to provide briefs or attend the Peacebuilding Commission meetings.<sup>211</sup> In 2023, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, together with partners in the United Nations system and civil societies. launched the Civil Society Organization - UN Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding. 212 These annual dialogues, which have focused on conflict prevention and collaboration towards peacebuilding, provide a platform for discussions across groups of stakeholders and continue the momentum to seek meaningful engagement and recommendations to enhance peacebuilding mechanisms.<sup>213</sup>

#### **Elevating Alternative Funding Sources**

Global funding for ODA is significantly changing, with major providers having already reduced or looking to curb their budget for foreign aid. 214 According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), ODA is projected to drop between 9% and 17% in 2025, following a previous decline of 9% in 2024.<sup>215</sup> This is a consequence of domestic policies enacted across the major ODA providers globally, which have curbed their development assistance contributions.<sup>216</sup> Due to these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>204</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262). 2016. pp. 6, 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>205</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighteenth session (A/79/774-S/2025/86), 2025, pp. 4, 5, 10,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>206</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, *IFI Partnerships*, N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>207</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund *(A/79/790)*. 2025. p. 15. <sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>209</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the* Secretary-General (A/79/552). 2024. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>210</sup> Paffenholz. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Civil Society and Peacebuilding. 2015. pp. 108-109.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>211</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552), 2024, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>212</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding, N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>214</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Cuts in official development assistance: OECD projections for 2025 and the near term. 2025. p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>215</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>216</sup> Ibid.



significant shifts, OECD predicts steep declines across crucial services, the largest of which is humanitarian aid, with an approximate reduction of between 21-36%.<sup>217</sup> Other critical service areas include education, which is projected to decline by 13-26%.<sup>218</sup> Furthermore, support to governments and civil society, including human rights and democratic participation, is also projected to diminish by an estimated 21-36%.<sup>219</sup> These sectors have thematic overlap with the PBF programmatic focus, including the strengthening of national state capacity and institutions and democratic governance, as outlined in the *PBF Strategy Extension 2025-2026*.<sup>220</sup>

Within this challenging environment, the PBSO continues to focus on expanding the pool of donors, with the private sector being an important stakeholder in peacebuilding and being able to contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding efforts.<sup>221</sup> There has been increasing involvement from the private sector in peacebuilding, as shown by international fora such as the World Economic Forum in Davos and the Business for Peace Awards in Oslo.<sup>222</sup> In 2013, the United Nations Global Compact launched Business for Peace, a platform dedicated to strengthening the private sector's role in sustaining peace across high-risk and/or conflict areas.<sup>223</sup> The PBSO has been increasing its engagement with the private sector, seeking innovative funding modalities that include co-financing mechanisms, funds provided through multiple stakeholders, and blended finance.<sup>224</sup> The latter seeks to encourage private investments by de-risking projects in low and middle-income countries, through development funding from regional development banks, international financial institutions, and other donors.<sup>225</sup> To that end, the PBF already complements Member States' voluntary contributions with additional resources provided by other entities across the private sector, such as foundations, businesses, and banks.<sup>226</sup>

Simultaneously, international financial institutions are a crucial part of peacebuilding financing as they can contribute large-scale financing to support nationally led peacebuilding strategies.<sup>227</sup> International financial institutions and multilateral development banks are considered critical facilitators in connecting streams of funds to national strategies and communities in need.<sup>228</sup> Those institutions are often well-placed to be vehicles for innovative financial modalities and can help enhance the effectiveness of resources available.<sup>229</sup> Further, international financial institutions can play a catalytic role to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, thus contributing to multiple dimensions of sustainable development.<sup>230</sup> For example, the International Finance Corporation seeks to promote economic inclusion by focusing on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>217</sup> Ibid. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>218</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>219</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>220</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Fund. *Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy Extension* 2025-2026. 2025. p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>221</sup> Ford. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. *The private sector as a stakeholder in inclusive peacebuilding*. 2015. p. 14; United Nations, Peacebuilding Fund. *Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy Extension* 2025-2026. 2025. p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>222</sup> Ford. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. *The private sector as a stakeholder in inclusive peacebuilding*. 2015. p. 142.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>223</sup> Ibid.; United Nations Global Compact. *Business for Peace*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>224</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Private Sector Partnerships*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>225</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Blended Finance*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>226</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The Peacebuilding Fund*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>227</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552)*. 2024. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>228</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>229</sup> Ibid. p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>230</sup> Ibid. p. 14.



inclusive allocations of capital and working with buyers, suppliers, and employers to create opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups.<sup>231</sup> Additional mechanisms, such as gender bonds, are also used by Development Finance Institutions and the private sector to invest in policy, reform or health, and more commercial goals like investing in women-run companies.<sup>232</sup> In 2019, the Partnership Facility within the PBF started operating to specifically support collaborations at country level with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks.<sup>233</sup> As ODA budgets are shrinking, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, and private actors represent an alternative funding source that can be engaged to ensure predictable and sustainable financing to peacebuilding.<sup>234</sup>

#### The Role of Civil Society Organizations

CSOs play a critical role in sustaining peace and providing critical engagement with the work of PBC.<sup>235</sup> Both international and local CSOs are participating in peacebuilding processes by exercising functions including monitoring, service delivery, advocacy, and social cohesion.<sup>236</sup> Since 2016, there has been a growth in the number of CSOs representatives participating in PBC meetings, going from less than 5 up to more than 25 in 2022.<sup>237</sup> This increased engagement is also shown by CSO representatives making up 36% of non-United Nations briefers at PBC meetings in 2024.<sup>238</sup> Further, CSOs are among the group of stakeholders convened by the Impact Hub to foster and promote a greater understanding of peacebuilding efforts' impact.<sup>239</sup>

CSOs play a key role in advocating for peacebuilding financing, also by leveraging the role of the United Nations system to ultimately access and increase resources to sustain peace.<sup>240</sup> At the 2024 CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding, which convened 125 CSO representatives, participants provided key recommendations on financing for peacebuilding.<sup>241</sup> Those recommendations centered on fostering collaborations and partnerships along United Nations mechanisms, including the PBF, in multi-stakeholder processes.<sup>242</sup> They also focused on de-risking investments and ensuring that flexible support is provided at the local level.<sup>243</sup> In 2025, the Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+, a forum to discuss peacebuilding across CSOs and United Nations entities, highlighted once again the threat posed to peacebuilding and conflict prevention capabilities.<sup>244</sup> Furthermore, considering the current

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>231</sup> International Finance Corporation. *Gender Equality & Economic Inclusion*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>232</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552)*. 2024. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>233</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>234</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>235</sup> Paffenholz. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. *Civil Society and Peacebuilding*. 2015. p. 3; United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/79/790)*. 2025. p. 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>236</sup> Paffenholz. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Civil Society and Peacebuilding, 2015. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>237</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/*79/790). 2025. p. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>238</sup> Ibid. p. 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>239</sup> United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Peacebuilding Impact Hub*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>240</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Second CSO-UN Dialgoes on Peacebuilding - Executive Summary*. 2024. pp. 3-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>241</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>242</sup> Ibid. p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>243</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>244</sup> International Development Law Organization. *Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16*+. 2025. pp. 1, 6.



funding trends, participants called for funding mechanisms and donors to enable predictable and flexible resources to facilitate more effective interventions.<sup>245</sup>

Considering the unique role of CSOs in supporting impactful peacebuilding processes on the ground, and with increasing coordination with United Nations bodies, there is greater demand for institutionalizing these partnerships.<sup>246</sup> The Second CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding highlighted as guiding principles for CSOs the strengthening of advocacy with stakeholders and partners, and fostering a meaningful engagement with the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.<sup>247</sup> That strengthening also came with a strong direction towards localization as well as evidence-driven approaches.<sup>248</sup> These approaches are also incorporated in the Peacebuilding Impact Hub, which seeks to both provide quality data on peacebuilding programs' impact and generate greater investment for prevention as peacebuilding.<sup>249</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

In response to the growing demand for peacebuilding financing, different actors of the United Nations system have been working to build sustainable peace and allocate funding for these peacebuilding efforts. International frameworks like the 2030 Agenda provide a roadmap for peacebuilding by naming peace, justice, and strong institutions as SDG 16 and making it a priority for the international community. The United Nations peacebuilding architecture consists of different entities, which cooperate to build sustainable peace. PBC works to provide support to those actors and improve their coordination regarding all peacebuilding efforts. To that end, PBC works together with the international community as well as private actors and CSOs. CSOs are key actors in advocating for peacebuilding financing by leveraging the United Nations system to access and increase resources, as well as giving recommendations to United Nations entities on financing for peacebuilding. International financial institutions contribute significantly to peacebuilding financing and can support efforts with large-scale funding. The PBSO works to provide support to enhance the partnerships with these international financial institutions. The private sector has become increasingly involved in peacebuilding financing with the PBSO cooperating with private entities in order to develop new funding modalities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>245</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>246</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Second CSO-UN Dialgoes on Peacebuilding - Executive Summary*. 2024. p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>247</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>248</sup> Ibid. p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>249</sup> United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, *Peacebuilding Impact Hub*, N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>250</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/*79/790). 2025. pp. 12-13; United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*. 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>251</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).* 2015. p. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>252</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*. 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>253</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Mandate*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>254</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552)*. 2024. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>255</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Second CSO-UN Dialgoes on Peacebuilding - Executive Summary*. 2024. p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>256</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/552)*. 2024. p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>257</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *IFI Partnerships*. N.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>258</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Private Sector Partnerships*. N.d.



declining ODA resources, financial institutions and private actors are becoming alternative sources for peacebuilding financing.<sup>259</sup> In addition to this, CSOs are significant actors in advocacy for peacebuilding financing, with the United Nations system building the partnerships between the CSOs and the international peacebuilding architecture.<sup>260</sup>

#### Further Research

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: What can PBC do to increase funding for peacebuilding efforts? Which other funding options exist to provide sustainable financing for peacebuilding? How does your Member State contribute to peacebuilding efforts and its financing? Which other actors contribute to peacebuilding financing and can work towards more and better advocacy? How can peacebuilding funding be improved through the cooperation of governments, international financial institutions, CSOs, and private actors?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>259</sup> United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The Peacebuilding Fund*. N.d. <sup>260</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *The Second CSO-UN Dialgoes on Peacebuilding - Executive Summary*. 2024. p. 4



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