

Peacebuilding Support Office



Harnessing capacities globally in the service of conflict prevention and sustaining peace

As part of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) serves as a facilitator to enhance coherence and collaboration across the UN system and with partners, in support of nationally owned efforts to build and sustain peace.

In the founding resolutions (A/RES/60/180) and (S/RES/1645(2005)) establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council requested “the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat, from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Commission”.

Established in 2005, PBSO draws together expertise to advance impactful system-wide action, policies and guidance, and fosters an integrated and inclusive approach to prevention and sustaining peace. The Office comprises the Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch, the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch and the Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch.

Led by Assistant Secretary-General, Elizabeth Spehar, PBSO assists and supports the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with strategic advice and policy guidance, manages the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) on behalf of the Secretary-General, and works to enhance system-wide coherence and partnerships with UN and non-UN actors in support of building and sustaining peace in partner countries.

The Office helps to sustain peace by fostering international support for nationally owned and led peacebuilding efforts. Our strategic priorities encompass several key areas. Firstly,

we aim to enhance the operationalization of PBSO’s crucial “hinge” role by fostering stronger integration within DPPA and the broader peace and security pillar. This role also involves strengthening our support and ensuring coherence and complementarity with the various Agencies, Funds, and Programmes within the UN system. We are committed to achieving greater alignment and coherence within the peacebuilding architecture, and delivering tangible results to make a lasting impact at the country level. Additionally, we are dedicated to initiating, leading, and contributing to thought leadership efforts in support of the UN’s peacebuilding agenda, by shaping discussions and driving innovation in peacebuilding. We recognize the importance of effectively using the diverse humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding platforms and forums available to us. Through these channels, we aim to communicate and advocate for sustained peacebuilding efforts that bring positive change to communities and regions in need.

The Office uses its key role in bringing together humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors, enhancing coherence, and strategic alignment within the UN system to turn the “triple nexus” into a reality. Our new initiative, Peacebuilding Impact Hub, aims to foster a deeper understanding of the effects and impact of peacebuilding interventions and practice to enhance the ability of peacebuilders to make timely and evidence-informed decisions for effective and adaptive action across all stages, from conflict prevention to recovery and sustaining peace and development. A second new initiative is the annual UN-CSO Dialogue on Peacebuilding which will enable networking and connections among diverse CSOs, in particular from the Global South.

■ The Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries. It is composed of 31 Member States, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. The top financial contributing countries and the top troop-contributing countries to the United Nations system are also members.

Since its establishment in 2005 and in its engagement with countries, the PBC has played a crucial role in addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting resilience, and ensuring that peace is not just a temporary cessation of hostilities but a sustainable state that fosters development and stability. Its inclusive approach emphasizing local ownership and the involvement of affected communities, has made it a vital player in the international peacebuilding landscape.

Key Functions:

- **Advisory Role:** The Commission offers advice to the UN Security Council and General Assembly on peacebuilding strategies and priorities.
- **Coordination:** The Commission brings together various stakeholders—including governments, international organizations, and civil society—to ensure a coherent approach to peacebuilding efforts.
- **Support for Recovery:** The Commission assists post-conflict countries in developing comprehensive peacebuilding strategies, focusing on governance, economic recovery, and social cohesion.
- **Resource Mobilization:** The Commission helps mobilize financial and technical resources for peacebuilding initiatives, facilitating the transition from humanitarian aid to long-term development.



In 2023, the Commission engaged in support of ten separate country- and region-specific settings, broadening its geographic scope, including by holding meetings for the first time on Canada, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal and Norway. Since its inception, the Commission has engaged with a total of 31 countries and regions.

The Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch provides Secretariat support to the Peacebuilding Commission.

■ The Financing for Peacebuilding Branch

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is the United Nations' leading instrument to invest in prevention and peacebuilding, in partnership with the wider UN system, national and subnational authorities, civil society organizations, regional organizations and multilateral banks. The Fund supports joint UN responses to address critical peacebuilding opportunities, connecting peace, development, human rights, and humanitarian action. The core principles of the Fund are being timely, catalytic, and risk-tolerant, and facilitating inclusiveness and national ownership, integrated approaches, and cohesive UN strategies.

Since its inception in 2006, the PBF has approved over USD 1.9 billion in funding for projects in more than 60 countries thanks to generous voluntary contributions from over 60 UN Member States. The PBF Strategy for 2020-2024 has a target of investing USD 1.5 billion over five years, aiming to broaden and deepen actions to prevent violent conflict. The Fund's priority windows include supporting cross-border and regional approaches, facilitating UN transition contexts, and fostering inclusion through women and youth empowerment. In 2023, the Fund approved support amounting to \$202.5 million in 36 countries and territories.

Key Priorities

- **Responding to national peacebuilding priorities:** While any UN programme country can request support through the Fund's Immediate Response Facility (IRF), the Fund prioritizes the currently 27 countries eligible for the Peace and Recovery Facility. Governments request eligibility from the Secretary-General for five-year period.
- **Fostering inclusion through women and youth empowerment:** the Fund is one of the UN's most important funding instruments in support of both the Women, Peace, Security, and Youth, Peace, Security agendas. The Fund continued to decentralize initiatives focused on gender promotion through its Gender Promotion Initiative 2.0 to enhance national ownership, integrate women, peace and security commitments into longer-term peacebuilding strategies and expand funding access to national civil society organizations. Pilots are active in the Gambia, Haiti and the Niger. In 2023, a pilot was approved for Colombia, for \$3 million, and more pilots are being rolled out in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Liberia and South Sudan.
- **Facilitating UN transition contexts:** approximately 35% of the Fund's investments go to contexts undergoing changes in UN configurations to foster UN Country Teams' ability to complement UN mission mandates and sustain gains after mission withdrawal. In the coming years, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Mali and South Sudan are expected to remain among priority recipient countries in this regard.



- Supporting cross-border and regional approaches: a unique comparative advantage for the Fund focused on addressing peace and conflict dynamics that traverse borders and require partners to work together on issues such as farmer-herder conflicts, solutions pathways for displaced and host communities, and violent extremism. Coastal West Africa, the Sahel, the Great Lakes region and Central America are among the regions espousing the largest demand for PBF support in the coming years.
- Impact and learning: the Fund works with a wide range of partners to improve peacebuilding design, monitoring and evaluation practice and distill lessons. For example, the Fund published a Thematic Review on Human Rights and Peacebuilding in 2024, and will publish a Thematic Review on Youth, Peace and Security in early 2025. The Fund will furthermore benefit from PBSO's new Peacebuilding Impact Hub, which will help amplify learning from the Fund's programmes.

■ The Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnership Branch

The Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch (PSPB) works to enhance UN system capacities to deliver on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It supports UN-wide coherence and coordination from the Peace and Security Pillar across the Humanitarian Development and Peace nexus, including by contributing to cross-pillar and interagency coordination mechanisms and working groups that produce guidance and policy advice for the field and HQ. It promotes thought leadership on peacebuilding, by curating knowledge on emerging themes on peacebuilding, impact and lessons learned for advocacy and planning purposes, fostering broader thinking around the holistic approach to peacebuilding in A New Agenda for Peace as well as on financing for peacebuilding. It leads in coordinating the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda on behalf of DPPA, including by hosting the joint Secretariat and by coordinating UN system initiatives on the YPS agenda, together with UNFPA and Office of Youth Affairs. It supports partnerships with IFIs, leading the implementation of the 2017 UN World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis Affected Situations, coordinating with the UN Secretariat and, UN Agencies and providing liaison, advisory and programmatic support to UN Resident Coordinators and field missions, inter alia through a Partnership Facility. It supports engagement with Civil Society and the private sector for collective impact on peacebuilding. It also promotes South-South and Triangular cooperation for peacebuilding.

Key Priorities

In line with the DPPA Strategic plan, the Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch will focus on four main priorities during the 2024/25 period.

- Support UN-wide coherence and coordination across the Humanitarian, Development, Peace and Human Rights Spectrum including through convening of the Peacebuilding Contact Group and the Peacebuilding Strategy Group, and co-chairing the revamped Joint Steering Committee for Humanitarian Development Collaboration with Linkages to Peace (JSC).
- With the aim of strengthening peacebuilding learning and innovative approaches, the Branch will support the work of the Peacebuilding Impact Hub including the Peacebuilding Overview report. It will also support the Peacebuilding Architecture Review as well as activities emanating from A New Agenda for Peace and the Pact of the Future
- Strengthen partnerships in support of peacebuilding with international financial institutions, namely the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and the International Monetary Fund, regional organizations, the private sector and civil society including through the annual UN-CSO Dialogue on Peacebuilding. It will also lead on South-South-Triangular cooperation initiatives on peacebuilding.
- The PSPB branch will also continue coordinating the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda on behalf of DPPA including through the implementation of the DPPA YPS strategy and ensure implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.



Our Leadership

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For details, please see:
<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding>