

Ambassadorial-level meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission

Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Briefing by the Secretary-General

30 March 2022

Chair's Summary

1. On 30 March 2022, H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Chair of the PBC, convened an Ambassadorial-level virtual meeting on the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/76/668-S/2022/66](#)). In her opening remarks, the Chair recalled that the report was intended to serve as input to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during the seventy-sixth session, focused on financing for peacebuilding.
2. The Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, stressed the critical need for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding. He recognized the important role of the Commission and expressed his full support in the implementation of its 2022 programme of work, which places strong emphasis on results. He stated that his report serves as a call to ensure that the peacebuilding architecture is fit-for-purpose and clarified that his appeal is in line with his proposed New Agenda for Peace. He urged Member States to implement the financing recommendations contained in his report, including by increasing investment in prevention and peacebuilding, and ensuring flexible funding for women and young peacebuilders. He encouraged Member States to present concrete solutions during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding in April and informed that he had presented a separate report to the Fifth Committee requesting an annual \$100 million in assessed contributions for the PBF. He also recognized the need for Member States, the UN system, international financial institutions (IFIs) and all partners to do far more to join-up humanitarian, peace and development efforts.
3. Member States welcomed the presentation by the Secretary-General and raised the following points:
 - They shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding inadequate attention and resources for peacebuilding, especially at a time when demand is increasing, and agreed on the critical need for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding. They stressed the need to ensure that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding would result in commitments and concrete and action-oriented outcomes. Many delegations stressed the need to speed up related preparations.

- Most of the speakers reiterated support for the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in his report on Our Common Agenda, including the proposal for a New Agenda for Peace, of which peacebuilding represents a key component. They recognized efforts to enhance United Nations coherence and called for even stronger cross-pillar collaboration, especially between peace and development actors. They also stressed the need to strengthen partnerships with non-UN actors, including IFIs and regional and sub-regional organizations, and encouraged further action to explore innovative financing and increased collaboration with the private sector. Some Member States emphasized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation to support peacebuilding activities.
 - Member States commended the work of the PBF and encouraged efforts to broaden its donor base. Many delegations expressed support for the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General to allocate assessed contributions to the PBF. While agreeing that voluntary contributions and innovative solutions should be further explored, they argued that it was unlikely that these options could provide sufficient funding for building and sustaining peace in the absence of additional contributions from assessed budgets. They stressed that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding financing should lead to the implementation of this proposal and secure more resources for the peacebuilding. The delegations stressed the need to ensure greater synergy between PBF and PBC, including in the areas of utilization of resources.
 - Several Member States stressed the importance of focusing on women and youth in pursuit of peacebuilding. They called for increased predictable, accessible and flexible funding to support implementation of the women, peace and security agenda , including through dedicated financing instruments for the women-led organizations. In recognition of the fact that ensuring adequate financing has been a central concern for the youth, peace, and security agenda since its inception, Member States stressed the need to improve the quantity and quality of financing for youth-focused and youth-led peacebuilding.
 - Member States committed to advancing the peacebuilding agenda, including by further strengthening the convening role of the PBC and improving synergies with the Security Council. They recognized the need to ensure effective support to national peacebuilding priorities, based on requests of countries who engage with the Commission, and welcomed recent efforts to strengthen collaboration with the Security Council in support of relevant Mission mandates.
4. In response to comments from Member States, the Secretary-General reaffirmed that prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace are at the core of the United Nations and also the reason behind creating the Peacebuilding Commission. He reiterated the recommendation contained in his report on Our Common Agenda to expand the scope of the

Commission to more geographic and thematic areas and called for a stronger institutional link between the Commission, the General Assembly, and the Security Council. He expressed his strong commitment to strengthen the PBF as a tool that supports national priorities and stressed that the PBF can leverage more support from other partners, including IFIs and the private sector. He noted that, despite being broadly recognized as a critical tool, the PBF remains underfunded and that assessed contributions, like those provided to peacekeeping but at a much smaller scale, would strengthen the catalytic work of the PBF and its multiplying effect. He also noted that, based on his experience, complementing voluntary contributions with assessed contributions may be the only way to fully empower the PBF.

5. In response to additional questions upon departure of the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, stressed the importance of dedicating more resources to peacebuilding, despite difficulties related to the current fiscal environment. She explained that the PBF has a robust oversight mechanism that is designed to guarantee the right balance between flexible and rapid disbursements on the one hand, and accountability and control of resources on the other, regardless of the funding source. She acknowledged calls from Member States to ensure a concrete outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly and encouraged Member States to initiate discussions on possible content. She agreed on the need to move quickly on preparations for the meeting and informed that PBSO was moving ahead with the organization of four roundtables, scheduled for 25 April, to feed into the deliberations at the high-level meeting. She also informed of efforts made by PBSO to foster greater synergies with IFIs. The ASG added that the PBF works upon request of countries concerned and provides support based on consultations with national authorities, thus in full respect of national ownership.