

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-Level Meeting to Launch the Informal Phase
of the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture
22 November 2019
Chair's Summary

1. On 22 November 2019, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an ambassadorial-level meeting convening all UN Member States to launch the informal phase of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Chair of the PBC. The purpose of the meeting, convened in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, was to have an exchange of views on the expectations and objectives of the review.
2. In his opening remarks, the Chair thanked the briefers and the participants for attending the first PBC meeting open to all UN Member States. He stressed that the review constituted an opportunity to take stock of the progress made since the last review in 2015 and to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, with special emphasis on implementation in the field. The Chair recalled that the Terms of Reference for the review, recently endorsed by the General Assembly and the Security Council, outlined a two-stage process: i) an informal phase consisting of discussions in the PBC among all UN Member States on key areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, consultations with independent experts, and thematic and regional consultations; and ii) a subsequent formal phase consisting of open intergovernmental consultations as agreed by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Building on the discussions that took place during the PBC retreat on 15-16 October in Greentree, the Chair suggested that the PBC discuss the following topics during the informal phase of the review: i) increased coherence in transition processes; ii) women, peace and security; iii) youth, peace and security; iv) financing and partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and v) UN system-wide contributions to peacebuilding. The Chair recalled that the recent PBC visit to Mano River Union and the African Union in early November had reaffirmed the importance of ensuring effective implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in the affected regions.
3. The Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, thanked the Chair for convening all UN Member States to share their views on the work of the UN in peacebuilding and sustaining peace as part of the 2020 review. He noted that the presence of the Vice-President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council clearly indicated the strong intergovernmental commitment to the review. He recalled his intent to reorient the work of the UN around prevention, rebalance the organization's approach to peace and security and connect the work of the UN across peace, sustainable development human rights, and humanitarian assistance. The Secretary-General highlighted that the PBC had led by example as a platform

used by Member States for sharing good practices and advancing national peacebuilding priorities. He informed that the UN system was working together more effectively and furthering partnerships to support Member States to build and sustain peace, including in efforts to increase the meaningful participation of women to ensure effective peacebuilding as well as the empowerment of youth as peacebuilders. The Secretary-General further underlined the importance of predictable, sustainable and adequate financing for peacebuilding. He noted that contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) had increased modestly, while the demands for support had grown exponentially. He underlined that the current rhythm of action in the PBF would not be sustainable without additional contributions, which would be unfortunate as the PBF was one of the most effective instruments. The Secretary-General reiterated in this regard his plea to all Member States for a “quantum leap” of support towards the USD 550 million per year objective. He urged Member States to consider his other proposed options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to UN peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions. In conclusion, he recalled that his 2020 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which would be the principal input for the review, would focus on the impact of UN peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts on the field.

4. The President of the Security Council, H.E. Mr. Jonathan Allen, welcomed the start of the comprehensive review process and noted that the PBC was well placed to mobilize input from a wide range of stakeholders in this exercise. He recalled that the PBC played an important advisory role to the Security Council on matters relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, especially noting the PBC recommendations for the Security Council’s consideration during the renewal of the mandate of MINUSCA as well as the upcoming Informal Interactive Dialogue with the PBC Chair in relation to the UNOWAS mandate renewal. He highlighted the review process as an important opportunity to further improve the work of the UN on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including implementation at field level, and to continue to strengthen the architecture in the context of ongoing reforms of the UN system.
5. The Vice-President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, underlined that the review offered an opportunity for stock-taking of the progress made since the last review and for identifying remaining challenges. He recalled that the 2016 twin resolutions (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) called for a coherent and integrated approach to peacebuilding, noting that the three pillars of the UN were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. He highlighted the need to address fragmentation across the system and to break down existing silos, and called on the PBC in this regard to bridge the work of ECOSOC and the Security Council. Furthermore, he suggested to use the review to further explore possible synergies between the PBF and the work of the PBC. The Vice-President underscored the importance of meeting the Secretary-General’s annual target of USD 500 million replenishment through voluntary contributions to peacebuilding, and recalled that effective peacebuilding would drastically reduce global military expenditure and in turn free up funds to ensure financing for

development. In conclusion, he highlighted that peace and sustainable development were symbiotic, which was reflected in the key priority areas of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly: conflict prevention; poverty eradication and zero hunger; climate action; quality education; and inclusion.

6. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

- They stressed the need to use the review as an opportunity for taking stock of progress made in implementation of the twin resolutions, with the recommendations in the 2018 Secretary-General report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace as points of departure. With the conceptual framework already in place since the last review in 2015, they underlined that the 2020 review should inform the way forward for increased impact, particularly in the field.
- Several Member States underscored the need for a cross-pillar approach and for strengthening synergies between peacebuilding and development. They noted that the twin resolutions and Agenda 2030 together made up the blueprint for assisting countries with their peacebuilding agendas.
- They stressed the importance for the review to take into account the broader UN reform process, including enhancing integrated and context-specific approaches to peacebuilding at country level based on joint analysis.
- They emphasized the importance of national and regional ownership and welcomed the platform provided by the PBC in this regard. They noted progress made in the role of the PBC as an advisory body to the General Assembly and the Security Council and called for the continued strengthening of that role.
- They reiterated the importance of continued focus on conflict prevention, and noted the important role that the PBC played in transition contexts as well as in furthering coherent international support.
- They reiterated the urgency in ensuring the meaningful participation of women and youth in peace processes, with some Member States also highlighting the importance of human rights.
- They called for more predictable and sustainable funding for peacebuilding, including increased contributions to the PBF. They also underlined the need to promote

partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and private sector.

7. In his concluding remarks, the Chair thanked the briefers and participants for their interventions that had further affirmed their engagement. He echoed Member States' call for focus on implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, based on the architecture already in place. In conclusion, the Chair underlined the importance of ensuring inclusivity in the review process and taking all views into account.