



PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Ambassadorial-level 1st Annual Strategic Dialogue on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

12 March 2025

Chair's Summary

On 12 March 2025, the Peacebuilding Commission convened the Ambassadorial-level first Annual Strategic Dialogue on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, further to the adoption of revised terms of reference for the Fund. Briefers included the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the Permanent Representatives of Haiti and Mali. The United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Mali participated as well. Member States welcomed the interactive strategic dialogue, underscoring the necessity for sustainable and innovative financing for the Fund and facilitating knowledge sharing. They further called to maintain the Fund's flexibility while ensuring accountability.

1. In her opening remarks, **H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**, welcomed the strengthening of synergies between the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the PBC through this first interactive strategic dialogue, proposing that this event be held annually. She emphasized that 2025 is also the first year that the PBF is receiving and disbursing assessed contributions. The Chair underlined the PBF's vital contribution in addressing conflict and advancing sustainable peace by enabling flexible and fast responses to demand at the country level. She noted the relevance of ongoing discussions on the Fund's strategic direction, reaffirming the importance of national ownership and transparency in peacebuilding efforts. She welcomed the Permanent Representatives of Haiti and Mali who were invited to share insights from their peacebuilding experiences in the context of PBF collaboration.

2. **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**, welcomed the opportunity for the PBC and the PBF to exchange through this interactive dialogue. She highlighted the high and growing demand for peacebuilding support across continents, which currently exceeds the PBF's capacity to respond to all requests. She pointed to the Peacebuilding Architecture Review as a key opportunity for Member States to solidify their political commitments for the future of peacebuilding and informed of the extension of the PBF's

current strategy until 2026. She reiterated the Peacebuilding Support Office's commitment to advance the implementation of the Pact for the Future. In her briefing, the ASG provided an overview of the PBF's modalities and programming process before outlining planned programmatic activities for 2025 under both voluntary and assessed resources. She noted that the current UN liquidity crisis could impact the full disbursement of the assessed contributions to the PBF in 2025. She also informed of the PBF Advisory Group's suggestion to expand the number of countries where assessed resources would be utilized to increase geographical and contextual diversity, while ensuring that funds are not stretched too thin. The ASG concluded with an outlook on planning for the use of assessed resources in 2026.

3. **H.E. Mr. Issa Konfourou, Permanent Representative of Mali**, informed that PBF projects in Mali are aligned with the peacebuilding priorities of the Malian people and are discussed within a steering committee composed of national authorities and UN representatives, co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator. He pointed out that 60 per cent of PBF allocations in Mali are directed towards national civil society organizations and underlined the importance of strengthening national capacities. He encouraged international partners to maintain the Fund's flexibility, agility and independence to effectively respond to the evolving needs of the Malian population and the changing dynamics of the conflict. The PR also commended the valuable support of the PBF in 2024 to help settle land-related disputes. Looking ahead, he outlined three PBF projects in Mali for 2025:

- Strengthening the Rule of Law and Preventing Violent Extremism;
- Strengthening collaboration between traditional authorities, civil administration and Malian defense and security forces to consolidate peace; and
- Strengthening the prevention and management of conflict over natural resources.

The PR encouraged partners to support these projects and stressed the importance of national ownership in the overall peacebuilding process. In this regard, he noted that Mali is currently drafting a national charter for peace and reconciliation and is rolling out a conflict prevention and management process in the country.

4. **H.E. Mr. Ericq Pierre, Permanent Representative of Haiti**, underscored the essential role of the PBF in supporting sustainable peace and bolstering long-term peace efforts. Acknowledging the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, he expressed appreciation for the contributions of Member States and UN agencies assisting the country and called for continued UN support. He reaffirmed Haiti's support for the implementation of the General Assembly's financing for peacebuilding resolution (A/RES/76/305), which highlights the need for strengthened synergies between the PBC and PBF to enhance peacebuilding effectiveness. He stressed the necessity to strengthen national institutions and to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation. Calling for interventions that are closely aligned with national needs, he highlighted three key priorities for Haiti in 2025:

- Strengthening peace and citizen participation in the peace process;
- Preventing armed violence, with a focus on youth and women; and
- Enhancing social and economic resilience by expanding economic opportunities and developing infrastructure.

He emphasized the need for sustainable financing for PBF projects, given Haiti's challenges, and reaffirmed Haiti's commitment to close collaboration with international partners.

5. In their interventions and observations, Member States and Observers:

- Welcomed the opportunity to have an exchange between the PBC and the PBF through this new format, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue between the PBC and PBF to draw lessons and enhance synergies.
- Highlighted the PBF as a critical tool for advancing the implementation of the Pact for the Future, in particular with regard to supporting national prevention strategies.
- Advocated for the flexibility and independence of the PBF while maintaining accountability and transparency, and stressed that national ownership and prioritization of resource allocation based on national peacebuilding priorities should remain a key principle.
- Welcomed the introduction of assessed contributions while noting that voluntary contributions should remain the primary source of funding for the Fund.
- Highlighted the importance of the PBF engaging in peacekeeping transition contexts and of closer alignment of peacekeeping mandates with peacebuilding priorities from the inception of peacekeeping missions.
- Acknowledged the high demand for peacebuilding projects and expressed concern about the limited resources currently available to the Fund.
- Stressed the need to diversify PBF's funding base, calling for continued contributions from Member States, while exploring funding opportunities from International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the private sector.
- Suggested strengthening coordination with IFIs to avoid duplication.
- Encouraged consideration of geographical diversity with regard to PRF eligible countries, while cautioning against spreading resources too thin in order for PBF projects to have a lasting impact on the ground.
- Welcomed the work of the Impact Hub and suggested knowledge sharing to ensure that best practices and lessons learned are systematically captured.
- Emphasized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Urged sustainable financing of projects, in particular for PRF countries.

6. Member States moreover posed several questions, on matters relating to:

- How partner countries can capitalize on successful PBF projects and receive funding from the PBF.
- Who local implementing partners are and how local capacities can be strengthened.
- How PBF projects could be designed with greater inclusivity.

- Experiences with regional and cross-border projects.
- How the PBF might partner with IFIs and other non-UN actors, while maintaining national ownership as a core principle.
- Broadening the geographic scope of PBF countries.
- Encouraging PBF partner countries to engage with the PBFC.
- The funding gap and the potential decline in voluntary contributions.
- Broadening the PBF's donor base and attracting new donors, including from the private sector.
- The role of the Impact Hub and how it can promote adaptive learning, including communication on the impact of PBF projects.
- The efficiency of the Fund and coordination between (international) implementing partners in the field.
- Mechanisms to strengthen the Fund's synergies with peace operations and regional organizations.
- Lessons learned from peacebuilding projects in transition contexts.
- The involvement of women and youth in peacebuilding efforts.

6. The **ASG for Peacebuilding Support** agreed on the importance of implementing the recommendations outlined in the Pact for the Future, particularly those related to national prevention and peacebuilding strategies and reiterated that the PBF remains a demand-driven Fund. She confirmed that transition contexts continue to be a priority for the PBF, with a dedicated priority window in the PBF strategy to support Mission transitions. Localization and the inclusion of women and youth were also priority concerns for the Fund. She highlighted mechanisms established to enhance coordination among PBF implementing agencies, stressing that the pooled funding model serves as an incentive for UN collaboration. She informed of the PBF's yearly thematic reviews to capture lessons learned and improve future peacebuilding projects. She acknowledged the need to diversify the PBF's donor base and invited PBC members to both support outreach to other Member States and to make voluntary contributions to the Fund, thereby leading by example. She reaffirmed the PBF's support for South-South and triangular cooperation, citing ongoing initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin as an example of the Fund's commitment to fostering regional collaboration. The ASG reiterated that national ownership remains a core principle of the Fund. She emphasized that RCs play a vital role in supporting national authorities to advance their countries' peacebuilding priorities. She noted ongoing discussions with the PBC Chair on strengthening the Impact Hub and advancing innovative financing, including co-organizing a peace-positive investment session. She welcomed further input from Member States on innovative financing and reaffirmed the primacy of voluntary funding. The ASG mentioned that the Secretary-General's annual report on the activities of the PBF was published on the day of the dialogue and pointed out that the PBF will issue, in addition, a dedicated annual report on the use of assessed resources starting in 2026.

6. **Mr. Khassim Diagne, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Mali,** stressed the importance of national ownership of peacebuilding efforts. He highlighted a PBF cross-border cooperation project on climate security and water management between Mali, Senegal, and Mauritania, which has fostered ministerial-level coordination between the countries. He informed of the cooperation with World Bank representatives in Mali, discussing alignment opportunities for future collaboration between the Fund and the Bank.

7. The **PR of Mali** emphasized the importance of national ownership in Mali's transition, informing of the establishment of a steering committee for Mali's transition involving several ministries. He raised the importance of partnering with the World Bank, noting that, while there has been bilateral dialogue, it needs to be strengthened. He expressed appreciation for the PBC, PBF, and the UN's efforts in Mali and advocated for continued support.