



## Concept Note

*High-level Replenishment Conference for  
the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund  
to be held virtually on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 9am – 12pm EST*

### Introduction

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, invites all Member States to a high-level Replenishment Conference for the [Peacebuilding Fund](#) to mobilize critical support for conflict prevention and peacebuilding against the Fund's \$1.5 billion requirements for the period 2020-24. The Conference aims to counter the persistent underinvestment in peacebuilding and provide this timely, catalytic and risk-tolerant instrument with more adequate, predictable and sustained resources to support national peacebuilding efforts in more than 40 countries around the world.

The Secretary-General is honoured to co-chair the Conference with the following high-level representatives from Member States who are donor and recipient countries of the Fund:

- H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- H.E. Abdullah Adam Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic of Sudan
- H.E. Marc Garneau, Foreign Minister of Canada
- H.E. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

### Objective

To secure both political and financial commitments, as much as possible multi-year, for the Secretary-General's [Peacebuilding Fund's 2020-2024 Strategy](#) and consolidate momentum for multilateral peacebuilding partnerships. The Conference will be an important opportunity not only to announce, as far as possible, intended contributions to the Fund, but to share and exchange views on priorities for multilateral peacebuilding efforts.

### Format

The Conference will be virtual and broadcast live and publicly via webcast. The Secretary-General will open the meeting to set out his priorities for peacebuilding and for the Fund, followed by opening statements from the co-chairs. A speaking order will be established prior to the meeting for Member States who wish to make a statement. Selected additional segments will include a short video with voices from local peacebuilders to emphasize the human impact of peacebuilding.

### Conference follow-up

The co-chairs will release a press statement about the outcome of the Conference to communicate the levels of commitment reached, taking into consideration all contributions already made to the Fund in 2020, the first year of its new Strategy cycle. The Fund can continue to receive contributions at any time during the year but encourages Member States to announce their intended contributions for the 2020-2024 period as far as possible.

As the General Assembly noted its 2020 resolution on the review of the peacebuilding architecture ([A/75/L.53](#)), peacebuilding financing overall remains a critical challenge. The General Assembly has therefore decided to hold a high-level meeting at the seventy-sixth session to advance, explore and

consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. It has invited relevant UN bodies and organs, including the Peacebuilding Commission, to present inputs in advance for Member States' consideration.

As the Peacebuilding Fund continues to rely on voluntary contributions and lacks predictability of funding, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office will continue to work with all Member States to pursue financing options which the Secretary-General set out in his [2018](#) and [2020](#) reports on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as additional suggestions from Member States.

To this effect, the Conference co-chair Germany will convene, together with the United Nations and other interested Member States, a high-level meeting on innovative funding for UN peacebuilding in the first quarter of 2021. It will bring together senior representatives of Member States and the United Nations with representatives from leading development finance institutions, investment organisations active in conflict-affected countries and thought leaders.

## **Background**

The Conference will mark the official launch of the PBF's 2020-2024 Strategy. The Strategy is the most ambitious one for the Fund yet with a target to invest \$1.5 billion. This sets out the path towards the Secretary-General's vision for a "quantum leap" in peacebuilding financing. The Secretary-General has consistently called for a significant increase in contributions to the PBF, which should be unearmarked and provided over a longer term to ensure that support is both responsive and predictable.<sup>1</sup> In 2020, he requested that every Member State make a voluntary contribution to the PBF, which would reflect universal recognition of the importance of support for building and sustaining peace as a core mandate of the Organization.<sup>2</sup>

For the first time, the Fund's Strategy covers a period of five years and presents a sustained growth scenario. Achieving this requires a change in how the PBF is resourced, both by securing more multi-year commitments, and by further broadening the donor base. It is only through ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained resources, that the United Nations can live up to its recognition that peacebuilding forms a core mandate of the organization. The conference therefore marks a unique opportunity for Member States to set out not only their commitments to the PBF for the coming years, but their support for the Secretary-General's agenda for multilateral peacebuilding and prevention efforts. The conference will also give opportunity to PBF recipients to share the Fund's impact on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in their countries.

This will be the first Replenishment Conference for the Fund since 2016. It comes at a time of increasing need to sustain peace, both with additional pressures for many countries facing the COVID-19 pandemic, and with a view to the upcoming drawdown of several United Nations peace operations where it will be imperative to sustain peace gains. It will also come at a time when the Fund's cash reserves are almost depleted, following a period of increased demand and higher programming over the past year.

As we are still contending with the tragic immediate effects of the pandemic, we are beginning to see the alarming precursors of the medium- to long-term impacts. The unprecedented economic shocks are entrenching social inequalities, increasing conflict risks and undermining confidence in public authorities and institutions, eroding peace processes along the way. To date, the PBF has already received a considerable surge of requests from recipient countries to support peacebuilding aspects of the COVID-19 response. At the same time, the sobering reality of the Fund's continuing precarious financial situation has become more pressing than ever.

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<sup>1</sup> A/72/707 S/2018/43, paragraph 47; A/73/890 S/2019/448, paragraph 37; A/74/976 S/2020/773, paragraph 43.

<sup>2</sup> A/74/976 S/2020/773, paragraph 43.

## Logistics

<b>Conference Website</b>	<a href="https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/pbf-replen-conf-2021">https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/pbf-replen-conf-2021</a>
<b>Registration</b>	Online registration is requested by 15 January 2021 via the Conference Website. When registering, Member States will be asked to indicate their expected Head of Delegation and whether they wish to make a statement.
<b>Participants</b>	High-level representation is requested. Direct participation in the online conference is limited to the Head of Delegation and one alternate. All others can follow the conference via the live webcast, for which no registration is necessary.
<b>Pledges</b>	The website has a form through which Member States are invited to indicate their intended contribution ahead of the Conference, including for which number of years, if possible. This is encouraged but not a requirement for participation in the Conference.
<b>Conference platform and live broadcast</b>	The Conference will be held via an online conference platform to be confirmed at a later point. Participants will receive log-in details following registration. The Conference will be broadcast through live webcast on UN TV and YouTube.
<b>Social media and press</b>	The Conference will have the hashtag <b>#InvestInPeace</b> . The United Nations will release series of communications in the run-up to and in aftermath of the conference via different social media. The co-chairs will release a joint press statement on the day of the conference. Member States are invited to share and contribute to outreach and communication efforts.
<b>Contacts</b>	The Conference Secretariat is the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. <b>Registration support and any other questions:</b> <a href="mailto:pbf-replenishmentconference@un.org">pbf-replenishmentconference@un.org</a> <b>Communications and press:</b> Ms. Fatimah Inayet - <a href="mailto:fatimah.inayet@un.org">fatimah.inayet@un.org</a>