

## **Peacebuilding and sustaining peace in an era of geopolitical transition: The role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**

*Submission by the CS-UN Prevention Platform<sup>1</sup>*

The CS-UN Prevention Platform welcomes the leadership of Croatia in strengthening the PBC's focus on conflict prevention, the linkages between peacebuilding and development, and continuous efforts to mainstream WPS and YPS into the work of the PBC.

We underline the capacity of the PBC to support governments and the people, in developing and accelerating coordinated, comprehensive, and integrated solutions to the major contemporary challenges. We highlight the substantial impacts of the PBC's work in its support of peacebuilding action in the CAR, the Gambia, Liberia, and Timor-Leste, among other countries. In this, we encourage further strengthening the capacity of the PBC to support inclusive national ownership in peacebuilding. For this, we recommend the following actions:

- **The PBC should explore avenues to institutionalise partnerships with independent civil society, including diverse local peacebuilders:** The PBC Secretariat should capitalise on the presence of the New York Peacebuilding Group and the CS-UN Prevention Platform with strong local networks to support the PBC's access to diverse perspectives from local peacebuilders. In this, the engagement between the UNSC and the NGO Working Group on WPS in supporting a selection process of a civil society speaker for the WPS October Annual Open Debate provides a good model for the PBC to consider in its engagement with peacebuilding civil society. During its field visits, the PBC could establish a practice of meeting with civil society networks and coalitions operating at the country level.
- **The PBC should increase its engagement with UN field presences:** This includes UN Country Teams, Resident Coordinators, Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs), among others.
- **The PBC should enhance its role as a convener of thematic discussions on cross-pillar issues:** The PBC has a strong capacity to bring diverse prevention, development, and peacebuilding experts together to develop coordinated, comprehensive, and integrated solutions in specific contexts. Beyond country-specific contexts, the PBC can take the lead to ensure learning and exchange among Member States on pressing global problems, such as climate change, and innovative prevention approaches, such as national and regional conflict prevention strategies and financing including, quality, long-term and innovative financing.
- **To ensure the PBC's role is strengthened, its Member States should support and empower the Chair:** As attention to the PBC grows, it becomes more complicated for the PBC to think about its own capacity. The PBC Vice Chairs should support strategic areas of PBC engagement. Member States of the PBC can take leadership on specific issues, such as financing, climate change, and others. Further, Member States taking the lead as focal points

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<sup>1</sup> The Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform aims to support the UN's prevention agenda through strengthening coordination and information sharing between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the UN at all levels. The Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform is co-facilitated by the **Quaker United Nations Office** and **The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict** in conjunction with the UN - Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and a coordinating group of the following organizations: African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Center for International Cooperation New York University, Conciliation Resources, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Social Science Research Council and The Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The Platform also relies on an extensive network of global expert CSOs.

with other UN intergovernmental bodies (i.e., the UNSC, ECOSOC, GA, HRC) should also strengthen the cross-fertilisation of knowledge, including by strengthening the PBC advice to the UNSC, facilitating dialogue with the HRC, and ensuring stronger conflict-sensitivity in the work of the ECOSOC. Member States leaving the PBC could consider avenues for continued engagement with peacebuilding through their presence in other intergovernmental spaces.

Thank you.