

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

*Submission by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (the Foundation), the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
on behalf of the Operationalising Sustaining Peace roundtable series¹*

To meet the ambition set up by the UN Secretary-General's [New Agenda for Peace](#) to “elevate” the PBC’s role, the UN System and Member States must take action to strengthen multistakeholder partnerships, strengthen the PBC’s positioning alongside other UN intergovernmental bodies and adjust its working methods accordingly.

The Summit of the Future process could take into account the following opportunities:

- **The PBC should bolster its convening capacity by strengthening learning-oriented operational partnerships with diverse peacebuilding and development stakeholders.** The PBC could advance learning among various stakeholders on critical thematic issues, including climate, prevention, inclusivity, financing for peacebuilding, human rights, as well as promote comprehensive and coordinated support to national governments, by providing a platform for engagement with and among Member States, including in the Global South and those previously less engaged in peacebuilding policy processes, UN actors at the field level, international financing institutions (IFIs), and civil society.
- **The Security Council and PBC should work with the PBC Support Branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) to institutionalize practices that facilitate the formulation and provision of substantive and timely advice to the principal organs and relevant entities of the UN,** including aligning their respective calendars and agenda items to the extent possible. The PBC should further utilize its advisory role to promote better collaboration with other UN agencies and entities, including the Human Rights Council.
- **The PBC should step up its leadership in ensuring full and meaningful participation of diverse women and youth in peacebuilding.** All PBC briefers should incorporate gender and youth considerations in their inputs. The PBC needs to further streamline the process for selecting diverse civil society briefers, ensuring equitable access for local women and youth. The PBC should accelerate implementation of its Gender and YPS Strategies and hold annual substantive meetings on gender-responsive and youth-sensitive peacebuilding, to ensure that WPS and YPS resolutions are integrated into the PBC’s work.

¹ The 2020 peacebuilding architecture review (hereafter, the 2020 review) concluded on 21 December 2020 with the adoption of dual resolutions on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/75/201) and the Security Council (S/RES/2558). The resolutions call on Member States, the UN, and other stakeholders to “continue to take action to implement the resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and to advance efforts to bring greater coherence to peacebuilding efforts” (S/RES/2558, OP1). In line with this call, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (the Foundation), the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) are continuing a series of roundtable discussions to examine strategies and pathways towards the operationalization of the 2016 resolutions on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

- **The Commission should continue exploring the role of the private sector in peacebuilding financing.** The PBC could help to identify existing best practices and mobilize and evaluate pilot efforts to expand and improve investment. Convening a private sector-specific meeting could be considered by the PBC.
- **The working methods should be adapted to “elevate” PBC’s work.** As the [Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda](#) highlights, it is important to “consider what adjustments need to be made in the PBC’s methods of work, composition and support capacities”. It is critical to ensure the effective balancing of capacities, especially in the context of increased attention to and possible demand for the PBC’s work. Member States should enhance the role of the Vice-chairs and informal coordinators, facilitate Informal Interactive Dialogues (IIDs), and take the lead on specific issues for better alignment of joint work.
- **The PBC Secretariat should support Member States in strengthening the understanding of the impact of the PBC.** Annual reports of the PBC should highlight, beyond outputs and activities, the key lessons learned from and impact of the work of the PBC. Annual meetings of the PBC should consider focusing on a multistakeholder analysis of the PBC’s impact on peacebuilding at the country level.