

International Communities Organisation (ICO)¹ is committed to fostering peace, reconciliation, and enhanced participation of minority groups in peace-building efforts. Reflecting upon the comprehensive and multi-faceted efforts of ICO, it is our aspiration that the elements of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace will be rooted in the following:

Common Causes:

- **Shared Commitment to Minority Rights:** Member States can begin to find common cause in the promotion and protection of minority rights by developing mechanisms for independent inquiry on minority rights issues and implementing quotas or affirmative action policies to ensure minority representation in governmental and decision-making bodies. The plight of minorities is an underlined global issue, often serving as a catalyst for internal and armed conflicts.
- **Inclusive Peace Processes:** Member States can rally around ensuring the inclusion of marginalised, particularly racial, religious or ethnic minority communities in peace processes. Fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect for diversity within institutions is pivotal to ensure that minority voices are heard and valued.

Steps Through the Multilateral System:

- **Facilitation of Dialogue and Reconciliation talks:** Offer training and educational programmes to prepare minority community members for leadership and decision-making roles.
- **Strengthening the Implementation of Legal Rights:** Utilise the multilateral system to bolster the implementation of legal rights and freedoms for minorities as seen in the ICCPR and ICESCR. This helps address root causes of conflict, fostering sustainable peace.

Role of the Peacebuilding Commission:

- **Promotion of Multilateralism:** The Commission can help generate renewed commitment to multilateralism by highlighting success stories and the impact of collective peace-building efforts. Sharing examples of successful dialogue and reconciliation initiatives can motivate states to invest in multilateral approaches. For example, ICO's efforts to bridge divides between communities through various forms of community engagement and investment in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories offer a hopeful and practical approach to the longstanding and complex issues faced in the region.

¹ International Communities Organisation (ICO) established in 2016 and has obtained the special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2021. ICO believes communities can come together and achieve peace, based not on one group's views prevailing over another, but by constructing a shared vision for a better future. ICO is independent, neutral and dedicated to the protection of minority rights.

- **Elevate Work for Greater Impact:** The Commission should actively collaborate with the international community and local stakeholders, by integrating grassroots insights to inform its strategies and initiatives.

Priorities for the Summit of the Future & 2025 Review:

- **Strengthening Inclusive Diplomacy:** To enhance inclusive diplomacy, ensuring the active participation of all community segments, especially minority and disadvantaged groups, in peace processes and dialogue. Regularly conducting consultations with minority communities to understand their concerns and needs. Establishing platforms or forums will facilitate minority groups' voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions to be included.
- **Addressing Economic and Political Inequalities:** To focus on addressing economic and political inequalities, a fundamental aspect of ICO's work. This can be done by implementing policies that specifically aim to protect and promote the rights and well-being of minority communities; or, by conducting regular assessments of institutional policies and practices to ensure they remain aligned with the goal of promoting and protecting minority rights.
- **Promoting Sustainable Governance:** The promotion of sustainable governance and improved living conditions for all residents. Emphasis on the specific needs and concerns of non-majority communities will contribute to a more holistic and enduring peacebuilding architecture.