

# UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR)

## Highlights from UNDP co-led consultations

*The following recommendations for the 2025 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) are the result of UNDP co-led consultations. Consultations include: 1) Three external regional consultations (Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa); 2) Internal consultations across the UNDP Global Policy Network; 3) Geneva PBAR Consultations on financing for peacebuilding from a private sector perspective, co-convened by UNDP, Interpeace, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; and 4) High-Level Consultative Roundtable co-led by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN and UNDP with PBSO in New York.*

### 1) Overview

*The PBAR provides a critical opportunity to reaffirm that conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustainable development are inseparable in today's risk-driven world. Investing in peace today reduces humanitarian needs and the cost of crisis response tomorrow.*

- The PBAR is timely, given urgent global challenges. It presents an opportunity to reinforce the importance of prevention as cornerstone of peace and development.
- The PBAR should be driven by a holistic view of the peacebuilding ecosystem consisting of:
  - a core institutional set-up (Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Fund, and Peacebuilding Support Office) with an integrator role for policy and financing;
  - UN Country Teams, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, governments and civil society partners working as programmatic implementers and connectors to the ground realities in conflict-affected settings.

### 2) National ownership and national prevention strategies

*Peacebuilding gains endure only when national institutions are inclusive and accountable. Strengthening national infrastructures and capacities for peace, alongside the development of national prevention strategies, must be a priority for both Member States and the UN system. These strategies should be inclusive and reflect national and sub-national realities.*

- National prevention strategies present an opportunity to institutionalise peacebuilding and strengthen locally-led efforts to sustain peace. Such strategies must prioritize inclusive participation, strong commitment by national authorities and partnership with civil society.

### 3) Institutional prevention

*A proactive and preventive approach is needed to stabilize fragile regions, mitigate conflict relapses, and strengthen institutional and community resilience. The focus should shift from humanitarian responses to long-term resilience-building efforts that address protracted cycles of conflict and fragility, including Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform efforts.*

- Security Sector Reform (SSR) is a powerful unifying framework for prevention, transforming security institutions into drivers of stability rather than sources of risk. Systemic approaches that bridge institutional divides through comprehensive security governance.
- Modern Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) is a preventive tool in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and a flexible response mechanism for hybrid threats and fragmented armed groups.

- Adopting a more inclusive conceptual framework for prevention is essential. This framework should encompass all forms of violence, including structural and less visible violence.

#### **4) Mission transitions**

*UN missions are closing in some of the world's most complex, conflict-affected, and fragile countries, requiring the entire UN to rethink its strategy and footprint to safeguard peace and development gains. The departure of Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions often leaves a significant void in fragile environments. UN mission budgets must dedicate funding for UN Country Teams to sustain peacebuilding efforts and protect gains after the mission withdrawal.*

- Rushed and poorly managed UN mission transitions can create significant support gaps in essential areas such as the rule of law, inclusive governance, gender equality, security, delivery of basic services and economic development.
- Mission drawdowns should be better coordinated and connected with national peacebuilding plans.
- For UN transitions to protect peace and development gains, dedicating funding for UNCTs needs to be mobilized to sustain peacebuilding gains beyond mission withdrawal.

#### **5) Financing peace**

*In the context of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review, financing peace remains a critical fault line between ambition and reality. Despite rhetorical commitments to prevention and peacebuilding, financial flows have not matched the scale or urgency of these ambitions. This undermines the UN's capacity to deliver on its integrated peacebuilding mandate and risks reinforcing cycles of crisis by failing to invest early and adequately in structural/institutional prevention.*

- The Peacebuilding Fund remains under-resourced and dependent on a narrow donor base, limiting its ability to scale responses or sustain long-term engagement in fragile settings.
- Prevention efforts – which are led by governments and supported by UNDP and other Agencies, Funds and Programmes – are even more under-resourced, often against arguments that tend to discard the effectiveness of prevention under the pretext of lack of evidence and metrics.
- This financial shortfall is compounded by chronically declining aid and an institutional bias toward short-term humanitarian or security spending rather than development and peacebuilding. Bridging this gap requires not only increased and more predictable funding but also a reconfiguration of financial instruments to support risk-informed, flexible, and country-owned approaches.
- The upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Financing for Development conference presents a unique opportunity to bridge the persistent gap between peacebuilding ambitions and financial realities.

#### **6) Role of Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) and UNDP value added**

*United Nations AFPs, with their strong presence and mandates in settings characterized by violent conflict and fragility, need a strengthened role in the peacebuilding and prevention efforts.*

- UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes are a vital part of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and deliver real impact on the ground, and hence are at the centre of peacebuilding work.
- Such role is even more important in the context of other ongoing review and reform processes (UN transitions, Review of UN Peace Operations, and Humanitarian Reset) that will reinforce the role of AFPs as critical connectors between humanitarian response, peacebuilding and long-term development advancing integrated, risk-informed and nationally owned solutions.