

PBC Annual Session 2017  
30 June 2017  
Concept paper and programme

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**Partnerships for Financing for Peace**

Recent resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) reaffirmed the role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts and stressed the importance to serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations,<sup>1</sup> including Member States, national authorities, UN missions and country teams, international financial institutions (IFIs), civil society, and, where relevant, the private sector in order to provide recommendations and information to improve their coordination, to develop and share good practices in peacebuilding, including on institution building, and to ensure predictable financing to peacebuilding. The resolutions also recognized the need for United Nations peacebuilding efforts to have adequate, predictable, and sustained financing to effectively assist countries to build and sustain peace, and simultaneously underscored the value of collaboration and strategic partnerships to this end. The Secretary-General is also asked to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on efforts to implement the resolutions in such areas as strengthening partnerships between the UN and key stakeholders, providing options on funding to UN peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions, and providing options for adequate resourcing of the peacebuilding activities of UN country teams, peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

The PBC Annual Session in 2017 is an opportunity for the PBC to convene Member States and partners, including the UN system, IFIs, regional organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector, to discuss ways of working together in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This timely Session aims to share information on good practices, lessons learned, and experiences in efforts to build and sustain peace. The Session will also provide an opportunity to build strategic partnerships among a wide range of stakeholders, both within and outside the UN system, to mobilize financial resources for peace.

Peacebuilding is primarily a national responsibility requiring long-term investment in peace. When these foundations are challenged, however, rapid, adequate, predictable, and sustained

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), OP4(d).

funding is a critical element of international efforts.<sup>2</sup> This requires short-term flexibility to address urgent needs as well as stable support often over decades. The combination of needs and the increasing complexity of financing options have highlighted the importance of sustained-international support from a broad set of partners.

In fact, the Peacebuilding Fund, a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pooled fund providing financing activities to build and sustain peace, allocated US\$70.9 million to 17 countries in 2016<sup>3</sup>. The Secretary-General will outline options for securing adequate, sustainable financing for United Nations peacebuilding in his forthcoming report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Addressing issues of fragility, conflict, and violence is also increasingly becoming a strategic priority for the IFIs, including the World Bank and regional development banks, as this is critical for ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. Two billion people now live in countries where development outcomes are affected by fragility, conflict, and violence. Over the past 10 years, total crisis-related commitments of the World Bank Group amounted to about US\$110 billion; over a quarter of total commitments. Private sector engagement in development cooperation for peacebuilding and sustaining peace may also offer some potential. Initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact's Business for Peace aim to expand and deepen private sector engagement in support of peace in the workplace, marketplace, and local communities.

The latest resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture underlined that the scale and nature of the challenge of peacebuilding and sustaining peace can be met through close strategic and operational partnerships between national governments, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders. They encouraged the PBC to consider options for regular exchanges and joint initiatives with key stakeholders to promote sustainable peace, including in the framework of the annual sessions of the Peacebuilding Commission<sup>4</sup>. Collaboration between the United Nations and the IFIs, in particular the World Bank and African Development Bank, has also been growing in recent years. However, significant potential remains to build on comparative advantages and create synergies among the various instruments and organizations in order to be more effective in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Against this backdrop, the sub-themes of the PBC Annual Session will be as follows:

**Sub-theme 1: The United Nations partnering with key stakeholders to build and sustain peace: Good practices and lessons learned to provide sustainable, high-quality and long-term financing.** Concrete examples for collaboration between United Nations, IFIs, and other stakeholders in support of Member States' efforts to mobilise funding for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

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<sup>2</sup> Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict (A/69/399-S/2014/694).

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/71/792, 14 February 2017)

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282(2016), OP18.

**Sub-theme 2: Redefining partnership: The potential for increased collaboration in effective resource mobilization between the United Nations and other stakeholders.**

Recent policy developments and new tools for expanded collaboration with key stakeholders, such as IFIs; the PBC's role in convening and facilitating regular dialogue between the United Nations and its Member States, IFIs, where relevant, the private sector, and other stakeholders in ensuring predictable financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

**Format**

*Opening and closing sessions*

These sessions will be held in plenary and designed around opening remarks by invited dignitaries and a keynote address.

*Interactive working sessions on sub-themes*

Two interactive working sessions on the sub-themes will take place in between the opening and closing sessions. These sessions will bring together Member States, representatives of institutional partners (particularly IFIs), UN officials, private sector representatives, regional and local actors, and relevant experts (practitioners/academia). Each interactive working session will include a panel of invited discussants, a designated moderator and, possibly, designated respondents from the floor.

**Objective**

Consider the options and opportunities for a possible roadmap for establishing stronger partnerships in effective resource mobilization between the PBC and other key partners, including IFIs.

**Outcome**

Possible constructive recommendations which might be expressed during the Annual Session, if any, will be considered by the Organizational Committee of the PBC and reflected in the PBC annual report as necessary. The Chair will submit an informal Chair's summary of the discussions which will also be considered during the Organizational Committee's deliberations.