In 2005, in resolutions A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645 (2005) the General Assembly and Security Council established the Peacebuilding Commission (“the Commission”), mandating it to provide political accompaniment and advocacy to conflict-affected countries, with their consent. In resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), the Commission was mandated to advise the General Assembly and the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace; to promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding; to act as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant UN entities by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities; and to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations. In resolutions A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 (2020), the Commission was called up to continue strengthening its advisory, bridging, and convening roles in support of nationally-owned priorities and efforts in the countries and regions under its consideration.

PBC COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Since its inception, the PBC has engaged with a total of 23 countries and regions in support of national and regional efforts to address political, socio-economic, and security challenges in conflict-affected settings. The PBC engagement is done through meetings, high-level events, briefings to main UN bodies such as the Security Council, as well as through field visits and informal interactions with relevant stakeholders.

In 2021, the PBC focused on 13 countries and regions, including a new engagement on Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. In addition, the Commission’s thematic engagements in 2021 considered a variety of context-specific cases with a focus on sharing of experiences and lessons-learned, including through briefings from Bangladesh, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, India, and The Philippines.

CROSS-CUTTING AND THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

Since its inception, the PBC has actively engaged in a number of thematic and cross-cutting issues that are important for peacebuilding. In 2021, these included women peace and security, youth peace and security, Our Common Agenda, impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding, peacebuilding financing, peacekeeping contributions to peacebuilding, DDR/SSR, institution building, South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Commission continues to implement its gender strategy and action plan, which has resulted in women peacebuilders participating in meetings of the Commission at a growing rate since 2016, from 22 percent in 2019 to 74 percent in 2021. It has also resulted in the Commission bringing more systematically to the attention of the Security Council their recommendations. 94% of PBC submissions to ECOSOC, the General Assembly, and the Security Council between October 2020 and October 2021 contain references supporting gender responsive peacebuilding and 35% reference information provided by women peacebuilders.

In keeping with the Commission’s commitment to doing more to mainstream youth considerations into its work, the Commission approved in February 2021 a Strategic Action Plan on youth and peacebuilding. This resulted in increased participation rate of young peacebuilders who briefed the Commission, from 5.4% in 2020 to 44.4% in 2021.

ADVISORY AND BRIDGING ROLES

The PBC has a unique advisory role to the General Assembly and the Security Council as well as a bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In 2021, the PBC was invited to brief or submit advice to intergovernmental bodies such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC, and the WTO, as well as at peacebuilding fora a total of 39 times, representing a significant increase from previous years. This testifies to the growing relevance of the Commission. The Commission provided advice to the Security Council a total of 9 times, including advice on the Great Lakes and the G5 Sahel as well as remarks to open debates on women, peace and security; peace and security in Africa; United Nations transitions; and conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.
CONVENING ROLE

The PBC promotes coherent United Nations approaches in support of nationally led peacebuilding efforts, with contributions and support from across the system, with a special focus on transition and conflict-affected settings. SRSCs or Special Envoys and DSRSGs comprise nearly one-third of all UN briefers at the Commission’s meetings; bringing to UN headquarters, timely and relevant leadership voices from the field. The percentage of RCs, HCs, or RRIs briefing the Commission increased from 3.6 percent last year to 17.6 percent in 2021, proving that PBC is a unique platform for discussions at the nexus of peace and development.

With an emphasis on national ownership, the PBC also regularly forges partnerships with regional organizations and international financial institutions, building on suggestions made during AUPSC/PBC consultative meetings and on UN system’s successful initiatives, such as those supported by DPPA’s Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership facility. After years of encouraging and tracking support for joint United Nations - World Bank risk assessment and analysis, the Commission convened in 2021 a meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Fund’s first Fragility and Conflict-Affected States (FCS) Strategy. In 2021, the Commission further strengthened its collaboration with the AfDB and engaged for the first time with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the General Secretary of the g7+.

Non-UN at the PBC in 2021
HIGHLIGHTS ON RECENT PBC ENGAGEMENTS

▶ The PBC supported peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, upon request, receiving multi-partner support to the government’s priorities in 2020 – totaling over $400 mill. In view of daunting security challenges in 2021, the Commission called for recalibrated support and, following the coup d’état in 2022, there was an early request for attention to the transition process and the Commission submitted timely advice to the Security Council.

▶ The Commission continued to support peacebuilding and development priorities in Burundi, including by focusing on youth economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and highlighting the government’s efforts to address youth unemployment. Young women and men briefed the Commission on challenges to youth economic empowerment and their experiences as young entrepreneurs.

▶ In 2021, the PBC held a meeting on Chad’s transition, bringing together the AU High Representative, the World Bank, the AFDB, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, civil society, and UN representatives. The meeting provided the transitional government a platform to pledge for political and financial support, while also adding pressure on the need for a timely and inclusive process.

▶ The PBC has been supporting regional peacebuilding priorities in the Sahel, including within the framework of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and its UN support plan (UNSP). In 2021, a meeting was held to highlight ongoing initiatives and partnerships that aim to address root causes and drivers of instability in the region, and to mobilize further support for cross-border investments and empowerment of women and youth.

▶ In 2021, the PBC reviewed progress and challenges in the implementation of Colombia’s Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the former Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), giving voice to women peacebuilders to present grassroots perspectives.

▶ The Commission held a series of meetings on Central Africa Republic, with a focus on the presidential and legislative elections, the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation of February 2019, reinforcement of the synergies of the Agreement with the national recovery and peacebuilding, and strengthening of the rule of law.

▶ In 2021, the Chair helped mobilize support for critical funding gaps for the 2021-2023 electoral process in The Gambia. The Commission stayed abreast of progress in the transitional justice process and encouraged the prompt finalization of the report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) and follow-up to the TRRC recommendations with international support.

▶ Guided by a gender strategy and action plan as well as a strategic action plan on youth and peacebuilding, the Commission delivers tangible support to numerous women and youth peacebuilders, successfully mainstreaming gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its country and regional activities. This includes strong support for the implementation of the second Liberia National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2019-2023 and the National Roadmap on Rape and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

▶ Through a series of engagements in 2021, the Commission consistently called for adequate, predictable, and sustained resources for peacebuilding, which became more relevant in view of the exacerbated inequalities and vulnerabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in conflict-affected settings. The PBC dedicated its 2021 annual session on this topic.
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Five top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions

- Bangladesh*  
- Ethiopia  
- India  
- Pakistan  
- Rwanda

Five top providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and of voluntary contributions to the United Nations fund

- Canada  
- Germany  
- Japan  
- Netherlands  
- Sweden

*2022 PBC Chair  
**2022 PBC Vice-Chair