In 2005, in resolutions A/RES/60/180 and resolution 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 landmark twin 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 2020, twin 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 22 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 2020, the PBC held Ambassadorial-level meetings focused on 15 country and region-specific contexts, including new engagements on the Central Africa region and the Pacific Islands. In addition, the PBC’s thematic meetings included briefings on peacebuilding priorities in a number of countries and regions, including Bosnia and Herzegovina; Kyrgyzstan, and Sudan/UNAMID.

Since its inception, the PBC has actively engaged on a number of thematic and cross-cutting issues that are important for peacebuilding. In 2020, these included dedicated discussions on women, peace and security and youth, peace and security as well as a series of consultations within the framework of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture. In a letter dated 2 July (A/74/935-S/2020/645) the Commission shared with the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and with the Secretary-General the main elements that emerged throughout the consultations, including areas of progress, outstanding challenges, and recommendations to be considered during the formal phase of the review. In addition, with DPPA support and drawing on UN system-wide analysis, the Commission adjusted its program of work from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic to serve as a platform in support of national and regional responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, in collaboration with ECOSOC and the Security Council.

In line with its gender strategy, the PBC promotes gender-responsive peacebuilding through the systematic engagement with women peacebuilders and better mainstreaming of gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its country-specific and regional activities. In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, the Commission increased its efforts in 2020 in support of women, peace and security in line with the commitments set out in its gender strategy, leading to a record 25 women peacebuilders who briefed at PBC meetings in 2020.

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 2020, the PBC provided advice to the Security Council a total number of 12 times, through letters, formal briefings, and Informal Interactive Dialogues (IIDs), on country-specific and thematic issues including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as mandate renewals for UNIOGBIS and MINUSCA.
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. In doing so, the PBC places great value on hearing from leadership voices in the field, and in 2020, SRSGs and DSRSGs were the plurality of UN briefers.

With an emphasis on national ownership, the PBC also regularly engages non-United Nations partners such as national and local government officials, and civil society organizations (CSOs). The PBC also has enhanced partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, including by convening annual interactive dialogues with the African Union’s Peace and Security Council. The Commission continues to engage international financial institutions (IFIs) and to promote strengthened collaboration between the UN and the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund in an effort to mobilize coordinated support for national peacebuilding priorities and development plans.

HIGHLIGHTS ON RECENT PBC ENGAGEMENTS

- The PBC’s engagement with Burkina Faso in 2020 resulted in expression of strong multi-partner support and a written communication to the government summarizing existing and planned contributions of PBC members to the government’s priorities – totaling over $400 million dollars.

- In 2020 the Commission held its first meeting outside New York, hosted by the President of Colombia in Cartagena. PBC members met with women former combatants and survivors who described opportunities and challenges they faced in their reintegration and entrepreneurship efforts. This form of engagement was unique for the Commission and highlights the importance of Commission members hearing directly from local actors, including women with lived experience of conflict and their peacebuilding recommendations.
PBC engagement in support of the Great Lakes region was designed by women in the region for women in the region through a series of regional consultations organized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.

During a PBC meeting on Papua New Guinea in May 2020, national authorities urged the international community to support their investments in sustainable development, with particular emphasis on empowering women and addressing climate change. Several delegations committed to help mobilize resources in support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Papua New Guinea.

By presenting its own roadmap for continuous engagement with the Commission, Sierra Leone enhanced awareness about ongoing efforts to consolidate national reconciliation and social cohesion, which merit attention and support.

By reengaging with the Commission, Somalia helped mobilize further international support for its National Development Plan and its National Reconciliation Framework, placing emphasis on the importance of anchoring the National Reconciliation Framework and the Somali Women’s Charter among Somali stakeholders.

Through a series of engagements in 2020, the Commission consistently called for adequate, predictable and sustained resources for peacebuilding, which became all the 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 2020 annual session on this topic, during which members highlighted that at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic risks undermining global peace and security, it is critical to ensure investments in peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive responses to the pandemic.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Members elected by the General Assembly
- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Egypt*
- Lebanon
- Peru
- Slovakia**
- South Africa

Members elected by the Security Council
- China
- France
- Kenya
- Russian Federation
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- United Kingdom
- United States

Members elected by the Economic and Social Council
- Colombia
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Republic of Korea
- Switzerland
- Thailand

Five top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions
1. Bangladesh
2. Ethiopia
3. India
4. Pakistan
5. Rwanda

Five top providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and of voluntary contributions to the United Nations fund
1. Canada**
2. Germany
3. Japan
4. Netherlands
5. Sweden

*2021 PBC Chair  **2021 PBC Vice-Chair