

ECOSOC Ministerial Meeting 2023

Sustaining Peace through Social and Economy Empowerment: Empowering the Underprivileged, Enabling Inclusive Growth

Guiding questions

- On what elements of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace can Member States begin to find common cause?
- What steps can Member States take through the multilateral system to address shared challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as we approach the Summit of the Future and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review?
- How can the Peacebuilding Commission help generate renewed commitment to multilateralism, and what changes are needed to elevate its work for greater impact?
- What priorities should be addressed through the Summit of the Future in 2024 and in the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to further strengthen the work of the United Nations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace?

Inputs from YCAB Foundation

The UN's call for a new peace agenda highlights the growing disparities among nations, particularly in the Global South (Asia, Africa, and South America), which are still recovering from the economic aftermath of COVID-19 and in need of support for significant economic growth and to address rising inequalities.

Our objective is to create a more equitable world through inclusive growth, focusing on economic empowerment and education. And to achieve peace, intervention must be tightly aligned with resolution for economic problems through the advancement of the inclusive growth agenda through tangible actions that empowers families. This implies that the world requires an integrated, family-oriented intervention where financial inclusion and education are addressed.

This is where YCAB Foundation stands and believes, and this approach has proven to be the beacon of hope for thousands of families served over the past twenty-four years.



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We propose a minor alteration to the microfinance model to enable education of the next generation. A more mission-centric approach to microfinance can secure financial access for micro-women entrepreneurs and link this access to their children's education. Thus, the education of their children becomes the precondition for acquiring small productive loans and their consistent client loyalty can provide their children with higher education scholarship opportunities.

This model distinguishes us by positioning our microfinance mission, not as a tool to maintain a generational pool of client – as often seen in global microfinance operations—but to graduate them so they can leap out of poverty when their children are given the opportunity to go to higher education. As we all know that higher education, or some vocational skills, can better equip the next gen of these empowered mothers and open more job opportunities. And as we experienced in some of our vocational skill classes, some of these individuals become job creators.

In this regard, we see the potential in subtly innovating the use of microfinance as a tool to achieve education for all can create a lasting impact.

We are determined to provide a clear pathway towards jobs promoting education or skill building for the children of the productive poor is the key driver of upward social mobility.

The second agenda we propose is the development of a stronger social enterprise ecosystem. It would be characterized by partnerships between the public and private sectors, as well as collaborative initiatives. The overall goal of this ecosystem is to promote sustainability.

We aim to boost social investment in the Global South, emphasizing economic empowerment and education with innovation and aligned regulations. Collaboration between social enterprises, NGOs, and public-private efforts is vital. Tailored agendas are essential to combat extreme poverty, focusing on equitable resource distribution and regional customization for sustainable growth.

Our goal is to address inequality and poverty in the Global South through robust SMEs, quality education, and a measurable social impact-driven ecosystem, guided by trust and fair agreements among stakeholders for inclusive growth and resource equity.
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