

A NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE: A SUBMISSION FROM YALDA

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The United Nations has laid out crucial reforms and principles, but member states bear the responsibility to translate these into tangible actions on the ground to address ongoing peacebuilding challenges. The Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace aims to promote peace and prevent conflicts.

Numerous armed conflicts persist globally, each characterized by its unique complexities. In Africa, conflicts driven by religious extremism, political instability, and resource disputes engulf countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), etc.. Asia grapples with territorial disputes, as seen in the India-Pakistan conflict and China-Taiwan tensions. South America faces challenges like drug violence in Mexico and political unrest in Colombia, while the United States confronts gun violence. In Europe, the Russia-Ukraine conflict endures. As we approach the Summit of the Future 2024 and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, ending these conflicts is imperative.

Considering this, member states can find common ground in critical aspects of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, fostering collaborative responses to pressing global challenges. One such area is the prevention of the weaponization of emerging technologies, acknowledging the potential risks they pose. Member states can unite to establish international governance frameworks to address the multifaceted challenges tied to these technologies. This cooperative effort would safeguard against the misuse of technology threatening global security.

Additionally, sustainable development, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda, presents a vital arena for member states to collaborate. The complete implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is critical, not only for its inherent value, but also because it directly targets the core causes of global violence and instability such

as poverty and inequality. By working together to comprehensively implement the SDGs, member states can significantly reduce the risk of conflict while fostering sustainable development globally.

Establishing international formal frameworks that facilitate state compromises, especially in cases such as the China-Taiwan tensions, the Cameroon civil conflict, or the Sudan crisis, could offer a viable solution to bypass divisive and polarizing mechanisms within democratic states. The United Nations should assume an active role in ensuring states accede to frameworks and address domestic dissension diplomatically rather than resorting to aggression. Developing a multilateral framework that specifically addresses grievances can be instrumental in achieving peaceful resolutions.

To bolster the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) effectiveness, improvements are essential. Fostering strategic alliances with regional and non-governmental organizations will allow the PBC to use their knowledge and resources and increase the breadth of its peacebuilding efforts.

The Summit of the Future in 2024, and the assessment of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025, should prioritize crucial areas for enhancing and sustaining peace efforts. Promoting the Rule of Law and Good Governance and integrating peacebuilding with sustainable development to line with the SDGs, are among them.

In conclusion, the path to global peace and security requires collective action from member states. It is through such collaborative efforts that the United Nations can achieve its mission of promoting peace and preventing conflicts on global scale.