



# Lessons Learned and Strategic Operationalisation of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Americas

*Expert-Level Consultation for the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review*  
**Outcome Document**

June 2020

## Summary of the consultation

Ahead of the 2020 United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Architecture Review, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the Permanent Missions of Colombia and Peru to the United Nations and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted an online *expert-level consultation* entitled “*Lessons Learned and Strategic Operationalisation of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Americas*” on 18 May 2020. The consultation created an opportunity to assess the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Americas. Experts from local and international civil society, Member States, regional organisations, and the United Nations participated and shared their experiences and thoughts on good practices and lessons learned in their efforts to build and sustain peace in their respective contexts.

In this document, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) summarises the main findings from the consultation<sup>1</sup>. This outcome document serves to inform the 2020 Secretary-General’s Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace and the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review by presenting key messages and recommendations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace from the perspective of the Americas, including on UN leadership; operational and policy coherence; strong and operational partnerships; and financing for peacebuilding.

**The consultation underscored some key recommendations that the United Nations could prioritise to strengthen progress and support action to address multidimensional risks to peace. These include:**

- **Becoming more flexible and adaptable in addressing context-specific risks to peace;**
- **Supporting capacities to implement peacebuilding and sustaining peace in an inclusive and complementary manner;**
- **Taking a greater coordination role to engage all peacebuilding stakeholders;**
- **Mobilising needed additional support for early action and prevention.**

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations and conclusions do not necessarily reflect the view of the organisers but serve to encapsulate the discussion that took place.

## Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace and the Americas

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace is an evolutionary development that builds upon decades of progress in the understanding of peacebuilding and recognises peacebuilding no longer as solely a post-conflict enterprise, but rather as a central tenet of prevention. Member States in the Americas, specifically of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, have played an important role in leading the adoption of the 2016 dual resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/RES/70/262; S/RES/2282), most notably with Bolivia as the Americas' UN Security Council member at the time.

As the context of the Americas demonstrates, peacebuilding and sustaining peace is different for every country from Chile to Colombia to El Salvador to Mexico and beyond. It is clear that context-specific analyses, assessments and responses are necessary to manage and communicate expectations about what needs to be done and what the UN peacebuilding architecture could do and what it cannot do. **The 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review needs to recognise the complex and context-specific nature of peacebuilding and encourage the United Nations to be flexible in its mission to support all national stakeholders across the region and worldwide.**

### Critical multidimensional risks to peace in the Americas:

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace require the analysis of risks and root causes of conflict (S/RES/2282, PP 12). In the Americas, social, economic, and environmental risks as well as security challenges linked to illicit trafficking, gang violence, increasing land and resource scarcity, and gender-based violence are the most prominent risks that are closely interlinked. Socio-economic risks are further impacted by security challenges and most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**To initiate the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the region, the multidimensional risks to peace in the Americas require holistic and coordinated peacebuilding action that relies on the principles of social cohesion and resilience building and prioritises social and economic reforms, that is informed by local realities and conflict analysis, and that is developed and implemented in an inclusive manner. The roles of the United Nations in this process is to create spaces for dialogue on peacebuilding needs and priorities and support inclusive national and regional capacities for holistic and coordinated peacebuilding action.**

## Peacebuilding Architecture in the Americas

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace are the prime responsibilities of Member States (S/RES/2282, OP 3). However, today's realities dictate that sustaining peace cannot be accomplished by individual Member States alone and solely at the national level. Current conflict dynamics too often have regional and cross-regional trajectories and linkages; local realities could be unaccounted for in national responses; and capacities of Member States vary from context to context.

Each country in the Americas is unique in the way it approaches peacebuilding, and, as such, contributes to the creation of a very dynamic and complex regional peacebuilding architecture

that includes a wide gamut of local peacebuilding coalitions and networks, a variety of regional organisations and sub-regional partnerships, bilateral arrangements, UN support and multilateral agreements. Some of the roles include:

- *National governments* have been leading the process of creation of national peace infrastructures. This includes the Secretariat for Peace in Guatemala; the Commission for Truth and Justice in Peru; a complex infrastructure established in Colombia that includes the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Transitional Justice Model which includes a territorial approach, the Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition Integral Scheme and the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation. Many countries have increasingly adopted a gender perspective into their policies, programmes and institutions. For instance, there are a number of countries, including Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, that have ministries with a mandate to address violence against women, women's economic empowerment and women's political participation.
- *Regional and sub-regional arrangements* support capacities to tackle the multidimensional risks and support operationalisation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Americas. As such, the Organisation of American States (OAS) 1) supports capacity building of Member States through their Judicial Facilitators Programme in countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, and Honduras to reinforce access to justice for citizens especially those who live in rural, isolated areas; and 2) conducts missions across the region to promote dialogue, engage in mediation efforts and facilitate compromise amongst political stakeholders<sup>2</sup>. However, numerous regional arrangements created in the region, including the OAS, the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), have created competition for resources and political support among regional organisations, challenging the coordination and complementarity of peacebuilding capacities.
- *Tri-national project* for resilience and social cohesion between El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras contributes to maintaining, preserving and consolidating peace through an expressed national commitment to adhere to the human rights principles enshrined in the Charter of the OAS, the American Declaration of Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the American Convention on Human Rights.<sup>3</sup>
- *The United Nations'* recent reforms contributed to strengthening regional capabilities for supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Starting in 2019, the UN Department of Peacebuilding and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), together with the OAS Political Secretariat, re-established "desk-to-desk dialogues" to address a wide range of topics, such as good governance, electoral reforms, civic engagement, the implementation of Colombia's peace process, and international cooperation.
- *Multilateral engagement* in Colombia's peace process represents a unified response from the international community, including the United Nations, the European Union and the Organisation of American States, and donor countries, to address the country's long-

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<sup>2</sup> The example of an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding is the work of the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP). It works with victims of conflict to include their perspectives and empower communities to encourage new generations and citizens to strive towards peace. More info: [https://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=S-017/16](https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=S-017/16)

<sup>3</sup> The tri-national project between Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala exemplifies a collective commitment to sustaining peace. More info: <https://unpeacebuildingfund.exposure.co/sustaining-peace-in-el-salvador-27years-after-the-chapultepec-peace-accords>



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standing conflict, while further promoting the links between sustainable peace and development. This arrangement demonstrates that when funding is appropriately mobilised, efforts to build peace are more coherent, comprehensive and sustainable.

- *Local peacebuilders* support policy and action in a meaningful way by contributing to the analysis of conflict dynamics, power relations, actors, gender analysis, and enabling early warning and response. For instance, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES) has organised several workshops on the Venezuelan crisis to develop a proactive strategy for engaging national governments, local communities and international organisations.<sup>4</sup> In Colombia, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (LIMPAL) continues to support the 2016 Peace Accord by providing critical insights on its implementation as experienced by women in rural areas and marginalised communities to support the government in advancing gender-sensitive peacebuilding.<sup>5</sup>
- *Private sector* has not yet been significantly involved in peacebuilding in the Americas; however, there is support for better engagement. This is because the private sector is closely connected to local realities and can address some of the socio-economic risks. On the other hand, there are concerns about the private sector gaining more power as a donor in the absence of clear peacebuilding priorities. Their engagement, therefore, would require building stronger capacities to carry out conflict and risk-informed activities and ensuring that all work of the private sector is carried out through a "do-no-harm approach".

**The strong and operational partnerships between various stakeholders allow for dialogue, joint analysis and action, and need to be supported by the United Nations. Depending on the context and capacity, the United Nations can play the role of a facilitator through the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) or by providing political and conflict analysis expertise from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), in addition to facilitating relevant operational support for best-suited actors to lead operationalisation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.**

## The role of the United Nations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Americas

The role of the United Nations in the Americas can be assessed by the analysing the shift in its action around four key areas outlined by the Secretary-General in his January 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707; S/2018/43): UN leadership; operational and policy coherence; strong and operational partnerships; and financing for peacebuilding.

The UN presence in the region advances an integrated response to multidimensional risks and mobilises inter-agency and external collaboration to support all national stakeholders in building and sustaining peace across the peace continuum.

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<sup>4</sup> The Venezuelan Crisis: What role of intergovernmental actors?, Gino Pauselli, GPPAC, 2019: <https://gppac.net/publications/venezuelan-crisis-what-role-intergovernmental-actors>

<sup>5</sup> Agenda on Women, Peace and Security, LIMPAL (WILPF): <https://www.limpalcolombia.org/en/our-work/women-peace-and-security>

### *UN Leadership: Supporting peacebuilding needs and priorities*

Some of the good practices from the United Nations in strengthening its leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace include:

- *Diversity of experience:* The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Colombia has established the Resilience Programme<sup>6</sup> which supports rural communities by working with ex-combatants and other members of the communities to understand and address their common needs and priorities. They have also adapted the rapid response model focused on social and economic justice for internally displaced persons and demobilised ex-combatants from the FARC-EP and have created strategies for the inclusion of small-scale farmers in agriculture markets.
- *Integrated planning:* The UN Country Team in Colombia links peacebuilding and development in the 2020–2023 UN Development Cooperation Framework, where around half of the resources are dedicated to peacebuilding and transformation of risks. The Framework has been developed through extensive consultation with national government and local communities to develop solutions that work for society as a whole. Such a process helped identify peace initiatives that can be built on and possible areas of collaboration to avoid possible duplications.
- *Provision of appropriate expertise and surge capacity:* The presence of Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) created by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Americas' Division ensures intensified conflict-sensitive programming and strengthened attention to conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peacebuilding in general. In Ecuador, the work of the PDA contributed to conflict prevention through a variety of efforts to prevent recruitment into armed groups, promote social cohesion, and foster local development.<sup>7</sup>
- *Integrated support for peacebuilding:* The Regional Office of the UN Development Programme conducts research to identify economic and social triggers of instability and to identify development-peacebuilding linkages in analysis for prevention.

### *Operational and Policy Coherence: Providing coherent and strategic action to support sustaining peace*

The United Nations has committed itself to use an integrated assessment and planning policy to improve coherent and complementary actions across the UN system in support of sustaining peace. In the Americas, these include:

- *Integration:* The United Nations engagement in Colombia demonstrates several models of efforts to maximise the impact of its work in the field. There is a close collaboration between the Verification Mission in Colombia and the UN Country Teams, where the joint working group meets regularly, including around the UN Security Council visits to the

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<sup>6</sup> Colombia Resilience Programme 2017–2020, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), 2017: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/903120/>

<sup>7</sup> Peace and Development Advisors - Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. <https://dppa.un.org/en/peace-and-development-advisors-joint-undp-dppa-programme-building-national-capacities-conflict>



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field.<sup>8</sup> In Bolivia, the UN Country Team and the UN Development Programme supported peaceful dialogue between all actors involved during a time of political crisis.

- *Cross-pillar cooperation:* The Verification Mission, the UN Country Team and the national government have joined forces by signing a new 2020–2023 UN Development Cooperation Framework that incorporates peace and stabilisation, humanitarian work, and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>9</sup>
- *Progress on UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions<sup>10</sup>:* Gender-sensitive approaches have been seen in the region's peace agreements. Guatemala was the first country in the Americas to adopt a gender-sensitive peace agreement with the support of the UN by recognising violence against women and creating specific justice mechanisms for indigenous women.<sup>11</sup> In Colombia, the 2016 Peace Accord has over 130 gender-related provisions<sup>12</sup>, in part due to the policy and advocacy engagements of women and ethnic minorities. Connecting civil society with multilateral actors, including the United Nations, helped build capacity to engage with women's groups and develop and maintain gender-sensitive provisions in peace agreements through the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.
- *Coherent strategies and actions:* During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Resident Coordinator in Venezuela has worked alongside UNICEF to coordinate an emergency shipment of 28,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as concentrators, paediatric beds, and hygiene kits for frontline workers. This effort was financed by the international donor community, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the UN Agencies' own funds.

### *Partnerships for Peacebuilding: Creating inclusive platforms for dialogue and joint analysis*

The United Nations' role as a convenor and facilitator is critical to enabling strong and operational partnerships and supporting complementary and comprehensive joint analysis and action. In the Americas, this role plays out as follows:

- *Partnership modalities:* In 2018, the Special Advisor in Venezuela supported the SDGs Caravan Initiative, which developed multi-stakeholder dialogues around the SDGs with a view to create a network of diverse local actors, bridge differences with national and inter-governmental actors, and develop joint solutions for common needs and priorities.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Security Council Press Release, UN Security Council visit to Colombia, July 2019:

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13896.doc.htm>

<sup>9</sup> UN Secretary-General report on UN Verification Mission in Colombia, S/2020/239, para. 80, 2020:

[https://colombia.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/en\\_n2007152.pdf](https://colombia.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/en_n2007152.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security: 1325 (2000); 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2010); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019)

<sup>11</sup> UN Women Guatemala: <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/donde-estamos/guatemala>

<sup>12</sup> Titled "Toward sustainable peace along the path of gender equality," the report provides a qualitative analysis of progress in implementation of the gender approach and quantitatively measures implementation of the 130 commitments with a gender focus from the beginning of implementation in 2016 through August 2019:

[https://kroc.nd.edu/assets/345128/120519\\_informe\\_genero\\_digital.pdf](https://kroc.nd.edu/assets/345128/120519_informe_genero_digital.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Joint UNDP–DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention 2018 Annual Report:

[https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/jointprogramme\\_annualreport\\_2018.pdf](https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/jointprogramme_annualreport_2018.pdf)

- *The role of the Peacebuilding Commission*<sup>14</sup>: The Peacebuilding Commission Meeting in Cartagena in 2020 provided a critical space to learn from peacebuilding processes in Colombia first-hand, engage with donors, and share best practices and reflect critically on the need to prioritise financing for peacebuilding to enable peacebuilding and sustaining peace.<sup>15</sup>
- *Partnership frameworks*: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supported civil society in Mexico to help amplify the claims for justice of the families of victims of enforced disappearances.<sup>16</sup>
- *Community-engagement strategies*: Through UNDP's Reconstruction and Development Programme, the UN supported civil-society peacebuilding efforts in Colombia by mobilising local actors from both civil society and government through the formation of associations and networks (such as agricultural producers, artisans, businesspeople, mayors, church members, women and youth). This multi-stakeholder engagement helps to reduce local conflicts and to provide alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution.

### *Financing for Peacebuilding: Supporting donor engagement and strategic resource mobilisation*

The role of the UN as a donor and convenor of donors supports strategic resource mobilisation. In the Americas, this role plays out as follows:

- *Supporting national action*: A unique feature of the Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) activities in Colombia is the use of a trust fund under the leadership of the national authorities. The fund focuses on the implementation of the peace agreement through the support provided for economic recovery and youth empowerment, social and economic reintegration, and transitional justice.<sup>17</sup> The PBF also launched the 'Respira Paz' campaign that reached more than 32,000 people to help increase awareness of the peace process. The initiative was implemented through an inclusive and engaging approach, including the use of mobile cinema, radio serial dramas and social mobilisation for peace.<sup>18</sup>
- *Supporting local action*: The PBF has invested millions in the region over the last decade, in countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, and Guatemala, to support local action. An example is a PBF-funded program in Guatemala aimed at addressing the links between Q'eqchi' women's claims for land and ancestral territories, and the use of rape to repress their demands, generating knowledge-based transformative

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<sup>14</sup> The Peacebuilding Commission remains the only UN body with a mandate to bridge cross-pillar discussions.

<sup>15</sup> Chair's Summary of PBC Meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, January 2020:

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary-cartagena\\_20200114.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary-cartagena_20200114.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Enforced Disappearance Law in Mexico:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22588&LangID=E>

<sup>17</sup> The Peacebuilding Fund in Colombia:

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/colombia\\_two-pager.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/colombia_two-pager.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund in Colombia Report. January 2020:

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/colombia.pdf>



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reparation standards, including non-repetition measures, and potentiating the leadership of indigenous women.<sup>19</sup>

- *Innovative means of financing:* The Peacebuilding Fund in Colombia has encouraged the creation of initiatives and has brought different actors together which allowed the testing of innovative partnerships which attracted private sector investments in areas impacted by conflict.
- *Peacebuilding activities in peacekeeping:* The mandate of the recently withdrawn UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) supported peacebuilding by creating programmes to reduce community violence thorough activities aimed at promoting community dialogue and capacity development.<sup>20</sup>

**Overall, the consultation has indicated that the United Nations has made some progress across the four areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including in the areas of facilitating resource mobilisation, supporting national peacebuilding capacities, advancing integrated planning, and encouraging strong and operational partnerships. Moving forward, there is a need to focus on building on these good practices by supporting capacities for peacebuilding and conflict analysis across the Americas in an inclusive and complementary manner.**

## Lessons Learned

The consultation indicated several obstacles to peace, however, that call for the United Nations to upscale its capacities to strengthen action in the following areas:

- *Developing partnership frameworks:* While the need for the United Nations to facilitate spaces for dialogue and joint analysis is critical, the lack of common understanding of risks and root causes of violence needs to be taken into consideration. Where needed, the United Nations could prioritise establishing concrete strategies to support facilitation and mediation efforts beyond providing a space for discussion.
- *Mobilising financing for peacebuilding:* Financial resources available for peacebuilding and sustaining peace remains scarce, with the lack of access for local peacebuilding organisations, with priorities focused on countries on the agendas of the UN Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission. This provides lesser opportunities for countries that are not on these agendas to receive sustainable funding to uplift inclusive peacebuilding capacities. Colombia took the initiative of making its way on the international peace and security agenda of the UN by advocating with global peacebuilding actors; however, other regional contexts may have a more difficult time replicating this method. The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs could

<sup>19</sup> Guatemala, Project 2017 - 2020: Realising the transformational effect of the Sepur Zarco reparation sentence to break the continuum of conflict and post-conflict related sexual and other forms of violence against women, the Peacebuilding Fund: <http://mpf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00108092>

<sup>20</sup> MINUJUSTH completed its mandate, putting an end to 15 consecutive years of peacekeeping in Haiti. See more: <https://minujsth.unmissions.org/en/minujsth-completes-its-mandate-putting-end-15-consecutive-years-peacekeeping-haiti-0#:~:text=MINUJUSTH%20completes%20its%20mandate%2C%20putting%20an%20end%20to%2015%20consecutive.of%20peacekeeping%20in%20the%20country>.



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accelerate its assessing capacities in all contexts, providing critical support, including around mobilising donors' attention.

- *Mapping peacebuilding resource needs:* There is a perception of a lack of coordination among stakeholders, which can generate duplication and inefficiencies on matters of implementation and technical assistance. Peacebuilding stakeholders (i.e., Member States, UN agencies, regional organisations, local peacebuilders) are competing to secure financial sustainability and increase their capacity to operate, while their initiatives are often duplicate efforts and could complement each other. The United Nations could engage the donor community in relevant context-specific discussions at the technical and political levels, which would allow for the identification of synergies and jointly agreed roadmaps towards the achievement of common goals within specific timeframes.
- *Community engagement:* Civic space remains an issue in many countries in the region. This includes the prosecution of human rights defenders, environmental activists and indigenous social leaders. Many countries have adopted controversial laws that allow governments to impose legal and regulatory barriers to the registration of civil society organisations who receive international funds<sup>21</sup>. Civil society experiences difficulties participating in meetings organised by Member States, regional organisations and the United Nations because of the lack of institutionalised processes for engagement. They also have no financial capacities to establish liaison offices in New York or Geneva, where they can establish collaborative contact with policy makers. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, local peacebuilding work faces further limitations, including financial and mobility constraints; there are wide-spread concerns about the use of the situation to further the reduction of civic space. The United Nations could establish more consistent, sustained and transparent modalities to ensure civil society inclusion in long-term sustained policy development relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and support Member States and regional organisations in developing such modalities.
- *Joined-up conflict analysis:* The experiences around the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates that socio- and economic challenges created by the crisis do not only need to be addressed on their own but rather from a broader holistic perspective rooted in improving social cohesion which requires conflict analysis to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace effectively in the region. The United Nations could strengthen long-term inclusive national capacities to apply conflict analysis and develop partnerships with peacebuilding actors who conduct such an analysis to overcome duplication and encourage partnerships.

**These obstacles to peace in the Americas could be seen by the United Nations as an opportunity for learning and strengthening its action through the process of the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review.**

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<sup>21</sup> Decree 4-2020 amends legislation commonly referred to as Guatemala's "NGO Law," by imposing executive controls on the day-to-day financial and administrative activities of non-governmental organisations operating in the country. See more: <https://www.wola.org/analysis/qa-guatemalas-controversial-ngo-law/>

## Recommendations from the Consultation

The multidimensional risks to peace in the Americas require holistic and coordinated peacebuilding action that relies on the principles of social cohesion and resilience building and prioritises social and economic reforms, that is informed by local realities and conflict analysis, and that is developed and implemented in an inclusive and integrated manner.

The main roles in peacebuilding and sustaining peace could be assigned to those closer to the problem. *Inclusive national ownership* provides an opportunity for achieving better impact on the ground, when all national peacebuilding stakeholders are working together. *Strong and operational regional partnerships*, where relevant, will help find common understanding and engage around joint priorities.

**The 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review needs to recognise the complex and context-specific nature of peacebuilding and encourage the United Nations to be flexible in its mission to support all national stakeholders across the region and worldwide.**

With this, there are several opportunities for action:

### *UN Leadership: Supporting peacebuilding needs and priorities*

- The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund where necessary, could equip regional and country UN presence to provide ongoing operational support for **strengthening long-term inclusive national capacities to apply conflict analysis, address root causes and drivers of conflict and fragility**; strengthen factors that contribute to resilience; and ensure adopted measures are aligned with the commitments under other UN peace agendas, including on Women, Peace and Security.
- The UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme for Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention could **support peace and development advisors to develop clear frameworks for conflict analysis** that prioritise conflict sensitivity and include mechanisms to integrate different streams of information and analysis.
- The United Nations, including its agencies, funds and programmes could ensure that all its **programmatic work is based on a comprehensive contextual analysis and stakeholder mapping** by supporting community-based monitoring capacities as well as national infrastructure needed to mobilise a timely response to early-warning signs of conflict.
- The UN Resident Coordinator Offices could **establish working groups or other inclusive communication channels to share analysis and coordinate common messaging and strategies**. These could consist of experts at UN agencies, regional organisations, local peacebuilding organisations, Member States, financial institutions and donors. As much as possible these mechanisms could build on the existing structures in each local context such as women's groups, civil society networks and alliances and partnerships.
- The UN Country Teams could seek that the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework **align with other national policies and framework and integrate data and analysis collected by local peacebuilders**. Civil society expertise and contributions



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could be properly resourced as most of the local peacebuilding organisations are struggling to ensure sustainable funding for their work.

- The UN Country Teams and Regional Offices could continue building capacity of and support Member States in **achieving the environment that enables local peacebuilders, especially women and youth peacebuilders, to freely and securely conduct peacebuilding work, collect disaggregated data and meaningfully inform peacebuilding work across different levels.**

### *Operational and Policy Coherence: Providing coherent and strategic action to support sustaining peace*

- The United Nations needs to upscale its capacities in ensuring coherence and complementarity of peacebuilding actions in a particular context. This can be achieved by mapping existing actors and their mandates, with specific attention to peacebuilding action in rural areas and marginalised communities and adopting **a flexible approach that allows for providing support only where the gaps remain.**
- The United Nations presence in the field, including agencies, funds and programmes could adhere to their respective thematic mandates and find avenues to **coordinate their complementary capacities in an integrated, indivisible and balanced manner,** without overstepping their respective mandates.
- The respective UN entities could assume a coordinating role to ensure that **global cross-cutting frameworks, including on Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security and human rights, are effectively implemented across all UN peacebuilding efforts** and mechanisms to support peacebuilding activities.
- The Peacebuilding Commission could proactively engage with the UN Security Council through its advisory function to encourage that all **peacekeeping missions and peace operations have the capacities to implement basic peacebuilding tasks.**
- The 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, as well as other relevant assessment processes could **feed into the upcoming Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)** process later this year to further strengthen operational and policy coherence across the UN System.

### *Partnerships for Peacebuilding: Creating inclusive platforms for dialogue and joint analysis*

- The UN could, at a minimum, develop commonly agreed processes for all peacebuilding stakeholders to share, access and discuss their separate analyses **to ensure a common understanding of risks and jointly determine which actors are best placed to respond to them.** Where required, the United Nations could have capacity to facilitate and mediate the dialogue.
- The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs could equip regional UN presence to better engage with and **provide technical and normative support for the development and strengthening of peacebuilding capacities for regional and sub-regional organisations.**
- The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs could establish more consistent, sustained and transparent modalities to ensure inclusion of local



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peacebuilders in long-term sustained policy development relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and support Member States and regional organisations in developing such modalities. This could include supporting field level operations in the implementation of the **recently developed Community Engagement Guidelines on peacebuilding and sustaining peace to institutionalise strong and operational partnership between the UN and local peacebuilders.**

### *Financing for Peacebuilding: Supporting donor engagement and strategic resource mobilisation*

- The Peacebuilding Commission, or otherwise at the initiative of the UN in-country and regional presence, could facilitate **spaces for dialogue between donors and all relevant peacebuilding stakeholders** to make sure that funding better reflects priorities and needs within a specific context and is coordinated across different streams of work with no duplication.
- The Peacebuilding Fund could prioritise **filling gaps that appear** as a result of comprehensive analysis of the available funding streams.
- The United Nations could encourage **'good peacebuilding donorship'**, by supporting strategic and coordinated approaches within and between donors and financial institutions.
- The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in partnership with the UN Development Programme where relevant, could call on donors to **mobilise reliable funding and sustainable staffing for the resident coordinator offices and peace and development advisors.**
- Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peacebuilding Commission could encourage **flexible funding for peacebuilding work** that allows peacebuilding response to be sustained during the crisis.
- The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs could further investigate **the opportunities and challenges of engaging with the private sector** and, as the first step in building a partnership, engage to support stronger capacities to carry out conflict and risk-informed activities.
- The Peacebuilding Fund could invest in initiatives that bring different actors together and allow for the testing of innovative partnerships with a diversified group of funders.
- The Peacebuilding Commission could **upscale its partnerships with regional organisations** to assess peacebuilding capacities in all contexts and, where needed, provide critical support in mobilising donors' attention.