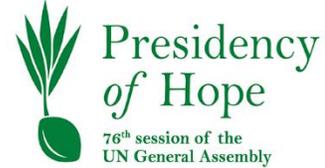




High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Financing for Peacebuilding



Wednesday, 27 April 2022, General Assembly Hall

CONCEPT NOTE

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace have become more urgent in the past decade owing to an increase in violent conflicts to a level not seen since 1945, as well as the changing nature of conflict, which is driven largely by a range of complex political, economic, social and environmental factors.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace are critical activities of the United Nations, primarily aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing the root causes of conflict, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, facilitating national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction, rehabilitation and development.

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), established in 2006 as recommended in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), is an indispensable resource, through which the United Nations can work to prevent and respond to violent conflict effectively.

In the twin resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/75/201 and the Security Council (S/RES/2558(2020)), at the conclusion of the 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, Member States note that peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge, and therefore decided to convene the High-Level Meeting “to *advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.*”

The Secretary-General has continually stressed that since 2015 too little progress has been made towards securing adequate, predictable and sustained financing for critical peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities, including in his 2020 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/74/976-S/2020/773), his report on “*Our Common Agenda*” (A/75/982) and his 2022 interim report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/76/668-S/2022/66). Member States have similarly recognized that there remains a “peacebuilding financing gap,” including in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313, 27 July 2015, para. 8), and the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session (A/76/678–S/2022/89).”

The demand for the financing of peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities has been steadily outpacing available resources, which has been the case for the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund. In the same vein, the current level of financing for conflict prevention and peacebuilding / sustaining peace initiatives remains grossly inadequate, especially given the increase in violent conflicts, their changing, protracted and complex nature and their dire consequences for peace, security, human rights and development in the affected countries and beyond. The costs of responding to these multifaceted conflict situations have become unsustainable, and as we are aware, effective conflict prevention and investing in building and sustaining peace have a robust potential to reduce costs for Member States on crisis response.

In February 2020, the Secretary-General appointed a group of Independent Eminent Persons to provide their perspectives on the third review of the peacebuilding architecture, and they issued a set of recommendations in June, including for the consideration of a yearly assessed contribution, either within the regular budget, or the peacekeeping budget, to the Peacebuilding Fund, in order to ensure its long-term financial viability. Evidently, an array of financing mechanisms and sources are required for peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities of national Governments, civil society, women, youth and United Nations entities, including through domestic resources, voluntary and assessed contributions from Member States and innovative partnerships. The high-level meeting will explore the way forward in this regard.

Guidance Questions for Member States:

Member States in their interventions are requested to reflect on measures needed to be taken to:

1. Increase the availability of resources for the Peacebuilding Fund and improving their predictability, including through the possibility of assessed contributions, a greater breadth and depth of voluntary contributions, and more multi-year agreements.
2. Increase support for innovative financing options and help foster greater collaboration with the private sector, in order to mobilize peace-responsive investments in conflict-affected countries.
3. Increase Member States' support for, and commitment to, the Secretary-General's target that all UN funding mechanisms in support of peacebuilding projects ensure a dedicated minimum of 15 per cent to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women as a principal objective.
4. Strengthen commitments to spending at least 20 per cent of ODA on peacebuilding priorities in post-conflict settings.
5. Advance greater strategic alignment of funding and enhancing transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

Format

The High-Level Meeting will take place in-person on Wednesday 27 April 2022, with a possible spill-over of the plenary on 29 April.

There will be a high-level opening segment on 27 April, starting at 10:00 a.m., followed by plenary segments, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Outcome

The High-Level Meeting will look forward to pursuing action-oriented outcomes, in accordance with Assembly resolution 75/201 and Security Council resolution 2558 (2020)