

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission – Annual Session

Commemorative Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Lessons from Peacebuilding Success Stories

Date 19 June, 3pm / Conference Room: ECOSOC

Concept Note

Background

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has long recognized the critical importance of showcasing and learning from national experiences in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Countries that have navigated the challenging path from conflict to peace offer valuable insights into overcoming political, economic, and social obstacles to building sustainable peace.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Peacebuilding Architecture and building on momentum from the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (PBAR), the fourth such review since the PBC's creation, this meeting will reflect on how the PBC has contributed to shaping context-specific, nationally owned, and sustainably financed peacebuilding strategies across diverse regions.

The meeting will also serve as a platform to examine how the PBC's evolving engagement model characterized by flexible, demand-driven dialogue and strategic accompaniment has enhanced its ability to support countries across the peace continuum.

In this context, the PBC will convene an Ambassadorial-level meeting featuring the participation of Foreign Ministers and senior officials to amplify the success and impact of efforts to building and sustain peace across multiple regions, offering important lessons on national ownership, inclusive governance, transitional justice, institutional strengthening, and regional cooperation.

The Gambia, following the 2017 democratic transition, with the accompaniment of the PBC, embarked on an ambitious peacebuilding and transitional justice agenda, demonstrating strong political will and civil society engagement in shaping a new social contract. Timor-Leste has actively promoted South-South and Triangular Cooperation by sharing its experiences with other conflict-affected countries and assisting international and regional partners in enhancing their efforts. In Sierra Leone, the PBC has played a crucial role in aiding the country's response to health crises, such as the Ebola outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic. This support has been vital in maintaining peacebuilding progress and facilitating recovery efforts.

The Peacebuilding Commission's Country-Specific Configuration on Liberia, chaired by Sweden, has successfully supported Liberia's efforts to sustain its hard-won peace over the past two decades. In the Central African Republic, the Country-Specific Configuration led by Morocco continues to support national peacebuilding efforts and helps to gather international support for peacebuilding priorities. In Guinea-Bissau, the Country-Specific Configuration, chaired by Brazil, has made efforts to foster institutional capacity-building, promote inclusive political dialogue, and the empowerment of women and youth, supporting the country in its pursuit of sustainable peace and development.

Guatemala's peace process, following the 1996 Peace Accords, presents valuable lessons in indigenous peoples' participation, truth and reconciliation processes, and institutional transformation. The country's experience underscores the importance of inclusivity, local leadership, and long-term international accompaniment. It also highlights ongoing challenges that require sustained investment in peacebuilding beyond the signing of peace accords.

This meeting will build on the PBC's recent work on national prevention strategies, including its 2024 ambassadorial meeting with Kenya, Norway, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste, to deepen understanding of long-term, nationally driven peacebuilding approaches that integrate development, governance, and reconciliation.

Objectives of the Meeting

This meeting will serve as an opportunity for UN Member States to reflect on peacebuilding "success stories" and will provide a platform for countries who have engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission throughout the last two decades to share their experiences, lessons learned, successes, and challenges in their efforts to build and sustain peace. By highlighting how the PBC has supported these national journeys, from early recovery and transitional justice to inclusive governance and institutional reform based on national ownership, the meeting will celebrate the Commission's unique convening and accompaniment role over the past two decades and explore pathways for the future of peacebuilding.

As the Peacebuilding Commission nears two decades of existence, Member States have the opportunity to ongoing Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture given the multitude of discussions on the future of the United Nations' peace operations.

Agenda (indicative)

- Opening remarks by representative of Germany, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
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- Keynote speech
- Briefings by:
 - H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Gambia
 - H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway
 - H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (TBD)
 - H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Timor Leste
 - Civil society youth briefer
- Interactive discussion: Interventions from Member States and Observers
- Remarks by Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support
- Closing remarks by the PBC Chair

- Evening reception (6.15 p.m. to 7.45 p.m.) Curved Wall, Conference Building, Level 1