

Peacebuilding Commission

Ambassadorial-level meeting on national efforts for prevention and peacebuilding from Mauritania

22 January 2026, Conference Room 2

3p.m. - 6p.m.

Background

Mauritania has emerged as an example of stability and national resilience in a Sahel region facing profound and multidimensional crises. Amidst regional insecurity, climatic stress, and mixed population movements, the country has a forward-looking, nationally led, and inclusive approach to prevention and peacebuilding. Grounded in its long-term development strategy (SCAPP 2016-2030) and aligned with the principles of sustainable development and national ownership, Mauritania is pioneering a grounded approach to peacebuilding and prevention.

Building on its engagement with the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) since 2018 and the inaugural PBC meeting on Mauritania held in March 2024, this upcoming meeting offers a platform for Mauritania to present its newly launched National strategy for Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion. Developed through extensive consultations with national and local institutions, this strategy represents the country's first holistic framework to address fragilities and prevent evolving risks and build long-term peace. It positions prevention as a practical goal and central pillar of national development, particularly in fragile border regions and vulnerable urban peripheries.

Mauritania's Peacebuilding vision and strategic approach

Mauritania's peacebuilding vision is anchored in the conviction that conflict prevention, democratic consolidation, and inclusive governance are mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable peace. With peaceful legislative (2023) and presidential (2024) elections, and the ongoing process of the National Dialogue, the country continues to invest in peacebuilding and prevention. The national peacebuilding strategy was developed in response to evolving risks, including persistent regional disparities, multidimensional poverty, youth marginalization, climate-related shocks, and cross-border insecurity. This strategy reflects the country's commitment to addressing root causes of conflict through integrated, locally anchored, and conflict-sensitive solutions. It is fully aligned with both the national framework (SCAPP 2016-2030) and the UN–Mauritania Cooperation Framework (2024–2027).

Mauritania's approach capitalizes on existing national mechanisms for peace, including pastoral codes, community peace committees, land conflict arbitration commissions, and intercommunal dialogue platforms rooted in religious and cultural traditions. Strong emphasis is placed on strengthening state legitimacy, promoting local dialogue, and reinforcing trust between communities and state institutions. As noted during the March 2024 meeting, Mauritania has made notable progress in promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, advancing social protection, and expanding access to basic services in underserved regions. The country's efforts to prevent violent extremism and address structural vulnerabilities are underpinned by a whole-of-government approach aligned with the principles of sustainable development and national ownership.

Mauritania's experience aligns closely with the vision of the United Nations Secretary-General, who has emphasized that prevention and sustaining peace requires strong national ownership, comprehensive

approaches, political courage, effective partnerships, and sustainable resources. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.1 and the Pace of the Future, a universal approach to prevention is necessary to address all forms of violence. To be effective, national government ought to develop whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches grounded in sustainable development that leaves no one behind. In line with the vision of the United Nations Secretary-General and Sustainable Development Goal 16, Mauritania's experience underscores the importance of coordinated, inclusive, and forward-looking strategies that place prevention at the heart of peacebuilding. Through its collaboration with the Peacebuilding Fund, Mauritania has piloted innovative approaches to strengthen social cohesion, empower youth and women, enhance local governance, and respond to climate and security risks in a holistic manner.

Key Pillars of Mauritania's National Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Strategy

Mauritania's national strategy for prevention and peacebuilding is structured around five interdependent pillars that address the root causes of fragility and promote inclusive, locally anchored solutions. These include: (i) reducing structural inequalities and strengthening social cohesion, particularly in underserved regions; (ii) promoting the economic empowerment of women, youth through inclusive livelihood opportunities; (iii) building climate resilience and promoting the peaceful management of natural resources to mitigate environmental conflict risks; (iv) operationalizing territorial prevention and early warning systems through community-based mechanisms; and (v) advancing inclusive and decentralized governance to reinforce state presence, social accountability, and risk-informed local planning. Together, these five pillars define a structural prevention pathway that places territories, communities, and local dynamics at the center of efforts to address the country's multidimensional fragilities.

Purpose of the Meeting

Building on the Commission's ongoing engagement with Mauritania, including its inaugural meeting in March 2024, the upcoming session will provide the Government of Mauritania with a platform to present the operationalization of its new National Strategy for Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion, as well as the platform for continued collaboration with the PBC. It will also offer an opportunity for the Government to update the Commission on impact made since the last engagement and follow up on recommendations from the PBC. The discussion will focus on the strategy's priority pillars, particularly addressing structural vulnerabilities, strengthening social cohesion, managing climate and migration-related risks, and advancing inclusive governance—while also identifying opportunities to align international support with Mauritania's evolving peacebuilding agenda. The meeting aims to foster a more regular engagement of the Government with the PBC, enabling the sustained political accompaniment, access to the experience and support of other Member States, and the mobilization of resources, including through South–South cooperation and the promotion of best practices, to advance Mauritania's prevention priorities.