



## PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

### **Ambassadorial-level 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interactive Dialogue on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund 18 March 2026, 10AM-1PM ECOSOC Chamber**

#### **Concept Note**

#### **Introduction**

The inaugural Interactive Dialogue of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) was held on 12 March 2025 and emphasized national ownership as a foundational principle of the Fund's work, alongside the importance of maintaining flexibility and addressing persistent funding constraints. Building on these discussions, the PBC will convene its 2nd Annual Interactive Dialogue with the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO) to examine how the Fund is operationalizing Member State priorities through its 2026 programme plan, the allocation of assessed contributions, and the development of its next strategic cycle.

The meeting takes place in the wake of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), whose twin resolutions strengthened the relationship between the PBC and the PBF, tasking both bodies with supporting Member States, upon request, in advancing nationally-owned prevention and peacebuilding strategies. The resolutions also call for the implementation of resolution A/RES/78/257, under which the General Assembly approved the annual allocation of US\$ 50 million in assessed contributions to the PBF. With the assessed contribution now entering its second year of programming, the dialogue offers an opportunity to take stock of how this structural shift in the Fund's financing architecture is shaping its ability to respond to programming demand and to look ahead at its pipeline for 2027.

In 2025, 53 projects spanning 29 countries were approved by the PBF to bolster peacebuilding and prevention efforts, totaling US\$ 125 million. Working through UN country teams and other partners, the Fund supported a range of countries requesting assistance for sustaining peace after periods of conflict and major transitions. The PBF annual report of the Secretary-General covering 2025 is currently being finalized and should be published by late March, providing more information on challenges and achievements.

In 2026, the PBF programme plans for approximately US\$ 104 million in approvals across 26 countries. A prioritized approach this year emphasizes countries fully eligible for the Fund's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) and prioritizes programmes with strong national ownership to support peacebuilding policies. Proposed programmes range from small interventions supporting timely engagement of youth in dialogue to longer-term programmes supporting transitional justice efforts and building infrastructures for peace.

PBPSO is also advancing preparations for the independent evaluation of the PBF Strategy (2020-2026) alongside development of the new Strategy for 2027-2030. A draft report is expected mid-2026, with final findings anticipated by year-end to directly inform the design of the new strategy. PBPSO will be engaging with a broad range of stakeholders throughout this process.

### **Purpose of the meeting**

The dialogue will engage the Commission in a substantive, forward-looking and advisory exchange with PBPSO across four interconnected areas: (1) the operational implications of the PBPSO integration for UN peacebuilding coherence; (2) the PBF programme plan for 2026, including thematic and regional priorities and allocation decisions in a resource-constrained environment; (3) lessons from the first year of assessed contribution programming and their implications for 2027; and (4) progress on both the evaluation of the current PBF strategy (2020-2026) and development of the strategy for 2027-2030. Finally, the dialogue serves to prepare for Peacebuilding Week (22-26 June), which will provide a platform for engagement on peacebuilding priorities, the evolving financing landscape, and gather strategic reflections.

Commission members will hear from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support, as well as directly from Member States on their experience of engaging with the Fund, with UN Resident Coordinators available to participate in the discussion. The Chair will invite Member States to pose questions and offer policy and strategic advice, as foreseen in resolution 78/257 and reaffirmed in the 2025 PBAR resolutions.

### **Guiding Questions**

- What thematic and geographic priorities should the PBF be seeking to emphasize and encourage? Given insufficient resources to meet demand, what criteria should the Fund use to prioritize?
- What lessons can be drawn from the first year of assessed contribution programming in 2025 and how should these inform the Fund's programming approach going forward?
- As the PBF develops its next strategy, what should be its core priorities to remain responsive to evolving peacebuilding challenges while aligning with the broader UN peacebuilding architecture?
- How can the establishment of the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO) in response to UN80 strengthen coherence, coordination, and strategic alignment across the UN peacebuilding architecture, and what implications does this have for the PBF's role, priorities, and operational modalities?

### **Agenda**

- Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.
- Briefing by Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support.
- Briefing by partner Member States of the Peacebuilding Fund: TBD.
- Interventions from Member States and interactive discussion (including with a UN RC [TBC]).
- Closing remarks by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

**Background**

The PBC Chair's summary of the March 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Interactive Dialogue can be found here:

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_pbc-pbf\\_strategic\\_dialogue.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_pbc-pbf_strategic_dialogue.pdf)

Information about the current members of the Advisory Group to the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund can be found here:

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/eighth-ag>

Information about the Peacebuilding Fund and its work can be found here:

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund>

Information about the Peacebuilding Fund's Strategy Extension 2025-26 can be found here:

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf\\_strategy\\_extension\\_2025-2026\\_2025-05-14.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_strategy_extension_2025-2026_2025-05-14.pdf)

Information about the projects supported by the Peacebuilding Fund can be found here:

<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/pb000>