

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Ambassadorial-level Meeting on The Gambia's development of a National Strategy on Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding

Tuesday 21 April 2026, 10AM – Conference Room 2

Concept Note

Background

The Gambia last engaged with the PBC on 21 June 2024, when it updated the Commission on its journey in peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([PBC Chair's Summary](#)), highlighting progress in consolidating democratic institutions and advancing transitional justice.

There have been a range of positive national efforts including the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Committee (TRRC) Final report, the Government's 2022 White Paper on the TRRC recommendations, the 2023-2027 Implementation Plan to the White Paper, and the Security Sector Reform Strategy. Together, these frameworks set out The Gambia's commitments across the five pillars of transitional justice: truth, justice and accountability, reparations, peace and reconciliation, and guarantees of non-recurrence. Taken together, these efforts commit The Gambia, inter alia, to pursuing accountability for those most responsible, promoting reconciliation through acknowledgment and memorialization, and enacting far-reaching legal and institutional reforms to prevent recurrence.

Since then, the government of The Gambia partnered with the UN Country Team and the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO), through its Peacebuilding Impact Hub, to further analyze the transitional justice process and better understand its contributions to peacebuilding in the country. This is the purpose of the Peacebuilding Impact *Spotlight* in The Gambia, a thorough and participatory research into what transitional justice has achieved and where it still needs to deliver for the people of The Gambia.

The *Spotlight* seeks to generate evidence of the catalytic effects of transitional justice on prospects for sustained peace, identify strategic lessons for policy and programming, and present these insights in a form that engages diverse audiences and is actionable for government, civil society and international partners. This exercise stands as a nationally-led "in-depth peacebuilding impact review" and is designed to inform South-South and Triangular exchange and experiential learning for other nations navigating political transitions. Following a national consultation in November 2024 and the endorsement of Terms of Reference in May 2025, a research team led by Cowater International and the Banjul-based Centre for Research and Policy Development (CRPD) was commissioned to lead research and consultations for the project. The key deliverables include a research report, which will be made available to PBC members, and an accompanying 25-minute documentary of which a trailer will be screened during the meeting.

With the *Spotlight* report being developed, the government of The Gambia is now leveraging its key findings as well as learnings from catalytic peacebuilding programmes supported by the

Peacebuilding Fund since 2017 and by other partners, to inform the development of a national strategic document on transitional justice. This strategy will aim to consolidate lessons learned from the transitional justice process and identify priority actions required to sustain peace and strengthen democratic governance. The emerging strategy will build on and complement existing national frameworks.

Purpose of the Meeting

In this context, the meeting will provide an opportunity for The Gambia to further highlight its peacebuilding priorities, share lessons from its democratic transition and transitional justice process.

It will provide a space to:

1. Highlight key achievements in the transitional justice process, its contributions to peacebuilding, and share lessons with other countries;
2. Discuss the Government's planned national strategy for transitional justice;
3. Identify remaining challenges and priorities for sustaining peace, including in relation to justice and accountability, reparations, reconciliation, and guarantees of non-recurrence; and
4. Share how international support has been catalytic and has been sustained by national resources while mobilizing continued bilateral and technical support.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to showcase the human dimension of The Gambia's peacebuilding journey, including through the screening of the trailer from the documentary being developed under the Impact *Spotlight* exercise.

Guiding Questions:

- How can The Gambia's national strategy help consolidate progress made in transitional justice and peacebuilding in ways that are focused on women's empowerment, while identifying realistic priorities for the next phase?
- What lessons can be drawn from The Gambia's experience in advancing truth, reparations, institutional reform and democratic transition with a women empowerment lens, ensuring inclusive participation, and promoting women's leadership, and how might these inform peacebuilding efforts in other contexts, in the spirit of South-South and Triangular Cooperation?
- What are the most pressing challenges that remain in implementing the Government's commitments on justice and accountability, reconciliation, and guarantees of non-recurrence?
- How can the Commission continue to accompany The Gambia's nationally led peacebuilding efforts in ways that strengthen women empowerment outcomes and help mobilize sustained support?

Agenda:

- Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.
- Screening of the trailer of the Spotlight Documentary (3 min)
- Briefing by Hon. Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of The Gambia.
- Briefing from the UN Resident Coordinator Karl-Frédéric Paul
- Briefing from Director and Deputy Head of Office for Peacebuilding and Peace Support, Ms. Awa Dabo.
- Briefing from the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Mr. Emmanuel Joof.
- Interventions from Member States.
- Closing remarks by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.