

## **UN Peacebuilding Week**

**22-26 June 2026**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

A Conversation on

*Investing in Peace When the World Pays for War*

and

Launch of the Peacebuilding Overview Report series: Building Peace in a Changing World

Friday 26 June; 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 2

In-person and broadcasted on UN WEB TV

### **Background**

Peacebuilding stands at a crossroads. Increasing conflicts, geopolitical divides, protracted crises, a global governance backsliding, mounting financial pressures, and growing strain on multilateralism and international solidarity are reshaping the conditions under which peace is built and sustained across the globe.

For the past two decades, the world has invested a mere one dollar on peace for every 100 dollars of military expenditure. This underinvestment in addressing the root causes of violence underscores both a structural challenge, which can accentuate risks, and a strategic opportunity to better align global efforts with peace objectives.

This event will convene a diverse group of practitioners and policy makers, academia and civil society leaders for a conversation on the state of peacebuilding: the urgent challenges it faces and the adaptive approaches needed to address them. The discussion will examine (a) how today's geopolitical and financial pressures are impacting efforts to build peace, (b) what is required to secure renewed political and financial commitment at this critical juncture, and (c) how governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector can better measure, demonstrate and enhance the impact of peacebuilding.

Anchoring this conversation, the Peacebuilding Impact Hub of the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO) of the UN Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) will launch its inaugural Peacebuilding Overview titled *Investing in Peace When the World Pays for War*. Drawing on contributions from governments, civil society, academia, and the UN system, and on field evidence from diverse contexts, it offers analysis and direction at a moment when the case for peacebuilding must be made with greater clarity and urgency than ever before.

A central focus of the Overview is what it identifies as a critical structural gap: peacebuilding lacks the shared data practices and common evidence frameworks that allow a sector to demonstrate its value to policymakers, donors and the broader public.

Peacebuilding operates across complex, context-specific dynamics, yet the need for more robust and shared systems to measure data and evidence and document peacebuilding's achievements is critical. Without addressing this gap, the political and financial case for peacebuilding will remain difficult to make precisely when the need for it is greatest.

**Agenda:**

1. Opening Remarks (5 min)
  - **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar** – UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support
2. Presentation of the Peacebuilding Overview report (10 min)
  - **Mr. Paul Fargues** – Political Affairs Officer, PBPSO
3. Panel discussion with key contributors (30m)
  - **Ms. Katharina Ahrendts** – Director-General for Global Order, United Nations and Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office of Germany
  - **Ms. Ana Escobar** – UN Representative, Peace Direct
  - **Mr. Cedric De Coning** – Research Professor, Peace, Conflict and Development Research Group, NUPI
  - **Mr. Jago Salmon** – Principal Policy Fellow, ODI

*Moderator: Mr. Paul Fargues, Political Affairs Officer, PBPSO*
4. Q&A with the audience (40m)
5. Closing remarks (5m)
  - **H.E. Amb. Yabesh O. Monari, MBS** – Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

**Target Audience**

Member States, UN entities, IFIs, private sector, civil society networks, academic institutions, financing experts and the general public.

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