

### 35. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace” which took the form of open debates.<sup>1067</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in the table below.<sup>1068</sup> In 2023, no decisions were adopted in connection with this item.

On 26 January, at the initiative of Japan, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>1069</sup> the Council convened an open debate under the sub-item “Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”.<sup>1070</sup> Council members heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, the representative of Bangladesh, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2023, and the President of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region.

During her briefing, the Deputy Secretary-General recalled that peace was the core mission of the United Nations, which was under grave threat, and emphasized that rethinking efforts towards achieving sustainable peace was an absolute necessity.<sup>1071</sup> She indicated that the only route to durable peace was sustainable development. She explained that development deficits drove grievances, corroded institutions, and allowed hostility and intolerance to flourish. She further impressed upon the Council four observations for building and sustaining peace as a foundation for inclusive, sustainable development. First, she indicated that efforts to achieve peace had to be based on a shared understanding of peace and its pathways, and noted that prevention and peacebuilding, as well as inclusion, would be at the core of the New Agenda for Peace. Secondly, she emphasized that conflict prevention and conflict resolution efforts should be shaped through inclusive processes, involving the leadership of women and youth, and reflecting their priorities. Thirdly, she underlined the importance of the peacebuilding architecture, in particular the need to explore how the Council could further leverage the role and advice of the Peacebuilding Commission for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Lastly, she

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<sup>1067</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>1068</sup> See [A/78/2](#), part II, chap. 27.

<sup>1069</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter dated 5 January 2023 ([S/2023/19](#)).

<sup>1070</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) and [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#).

<sup>1071</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#).

noted that the success of the collective efforts to advance sustainable peace would depend on adequate investment in peacebuilding.

The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission reported that the challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace had multiplied, particularly in the context of the prevailing global pandemic and resulting economic downturn, exacerbated by climate change and the changing nature of conflict dynamics. He added that a critical lesson that had repeatedly emerged from the Commission's engagement in various parts of the world was the importance of supporting nationally owned and nationally-led efforts to build effective, accountable, inclusive and responsible institutions aimed at reducing vulnerability and protecting and empowering citizens. He also indicated that as the demand for peacebuilding support continued to grow, there was a need to place greater emphasis on efficiency and coherence in addition to leveraging comparative advantages. In that context, he was pleased to note that the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Council represented a good practice and that the Commission had considerably strengthened its advisory role to the Council at the Council's request.<sup>1072</sup>

The President of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region presented her views in response to the guiding questions of the open debate;<sup>1073</sup> namely, how could the Council better address emerging threats and risk multipliers in order to achieve peacebuilding and sustain peace; and what needed to be done to build resilient and effective institutions and to guarantee societal inclusion. Regarding the first question, she stated that internal conflicts were related to the problem of governance, poorly organized elections and a lack of response for constitutions, and thus, the Council should find ways to prevent such situations from happening by broadening its scope of discussion and listening to other voices. She further indicated that the Council should seek approaches to rectify trends such as social inequalities and exclusion on the basis of regional, religious and ethnic differences, where they occurred in high levels. On the question regarding resilience and effective institutions, she stated that support should be given to countries who had decided to adopt innovative approaches to building State institutions through inclusive citizen-led dynamics and the need to stand alongside

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<sup>1072</sup> For further coverage of the Chair's statement concerning the relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, see part IX, sect. VI.

<sup>1073</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#).

States in advocating respect for democratic processes, free and transparent elections, and the fight against corruption – all often sources of conflict. Emphasizing that enrolling and keeping girls in school remained key in the empowerment of future generations of women, as well as ensuring the involvement of women and young people in formal peace processes, she stated that States must also strengthen the provision of basic social and community infrastructure to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups. She concluded by recommending two elements to be included into the New Agenda for Peace in the context of peacebuilding and peacekeeping: the impact of climate change on women; and the governance of natural and environmental resources.

Following the briefings, Council members and many other participants discussed the role of the Council in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and emphasized the importance of resilience-building, the strengthening of State authority and support of inclusive, people-centered peacebuilding processes with the meaningful participation of the civilian population, in particular, women, youth and minorities.<sup>1074</sup> Many speakers stressed the need to address the root causes of conflict and underlined the need to strengthen the humanitarian, peace and development nexus in that regard. Several speakers recalled the Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>1075</sup> Several speakers also discussed the role of regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and early warning.<sup>1076</sup> Many speakers also emphasized the need for more adequate, sustainable, and predictable financing for peacebuilding efforts, including through access to assessed contributions of the United Nations budget. Numerous speakers also highlighted the importance of inclusion in the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace regarding conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Council members and other participants also discussed proposals to further enhance the collaboration between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>1077</sup> Some members stated the importance of and need for consultations between the two bodies in support of a coherent all-

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<sup>1074</sup> For more on inclusivity in peace processes and the peaceful settlement of disputes, see part VI, sect. IV.

<sup>1075</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) (Gabon and Mexico) and [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Djibouti, Portugal, South Africa, Mongolia, Canada, Ireland, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Bangladesh and Armenia). For more on the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of peace and security, see part. V, sect. I.

<sup>1076</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) (Ghana, France, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ecuador and Indonesia) and [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Italy, Luxembourg, Denmark, Romania, Guatemala, Portugal, Austria, Nepal, Lebanon, Kuwait and Greece).

<sup>1077</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) and [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#). For more on the relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, see part IX, sect. VI.

of United-Nations-System strategy, as well as for the Council in providing feedback to the Commission and in considering the advice of the Commission within the context of mandate renewals and to strategically time joint meetings with the Commission in this regard. The representative of France further added that the Commission must be present in transitional and post-conflict periods and support preparations for the drawdown of peacekeeping operations, while other members. The representative of the United Arab Emirates and the representative of Japan expressed support for convening informal dialogues between the Council and the Commission. The representative of Luxembourg stated for more regular interaction between the Commission and all peacebuilding actors.<sup>1078</sup>

Some of the Council members were of the view that the Commission's role should be expanded in regional settings and cross-cutting areas,<sup>1079</sup> including human rights and climate-related peace and security risks, which would leverage the Commission's convening power and in particular, its advisory role to the Council, and for the Commission to serve as a link between peace and security efforts and development assistance, by making recommendations not only to the Council but also to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The representative of the Republic of Korea also noted that through the expansion of interactive communications, the Commission could strengthen informal coordination and a better alignment of its work plan with that of the General Assembly, the Council and the Economic and Social Council, while other speakers noted that the Commission could play a more important role in calling attention to situations that might otherwise be overlooked owing or on which the Council was unable to reach a consensus.<sup>1080</sup>

The discussion also focused on more purposeful and results-oriented dialogues, concrete recommendations, and greater interactions.<sup>1081</sup> The representative of Germany suggested that the Commission's written advice and statements of its Chair to the Council be more focused and provide concrete recommendations for the Council's consideration. The representatives of Austria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands stated that the Council should incorporate the advice of the Commission in a more cohesive manner and for the Commission to be invited to

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<sup>1078</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) (Japan, Ghana, Brazil, France, United Arab Emirates and Luxembourg).

<sup>1079</sup> See [S/PV.9250](#) (United States, Russian Federation and Republic of Korea).

<sup>1080</sup> See [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Luxembourg, Dominican Republic and Lebanon).

<sup>1081</sup> See [S/PV.9250 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Germany, Austria, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and the Philippines).

brief the Council more frequently, which would create synergies and strengthen the work of both. The representative of the Philippines also noted that the Commission could institute greater interaction with non-Council members and other United Nations bodies on matters pertaining to building and sustaining peace.

On 3 May, at the initiative of Switzerland, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>1082</sup> the Council convened a high-level open debate under the sub-item, “Futureproofing trust for sustaining peace”.<sup>1083</sup> Council members heard briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Youth Ambassador for Peace for Southern Africa, and the Vice-President and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King’s College London.

During his briefing, the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that the Charter of the United Nations was designed to futureproof the world against a repetition of the devastating wars, global recession and imperialism that preceded the Organization’s foundation.<sup>1084</sup> He emphasized that full compliance with human rights was the best antidote to the inequalities, unaddressed grievances and exclusion that were often at the root of instability and conflict, and noted that an unwavering human rights lens and strong human rights action built trust, which was the foundation of conflict prevention and sustaining peace. He elaborated that a human rights lens provided early warning and pointed to targeted preventive action, as well as indicated that when conflicts broke out, a human rights perspective brought focus to their effects on people. He underlined that human rights monitoring based on reliable, objective information and analysis also helped to establish the facts. Lastly, he noted that the full range of human rights standards were equally crucial in bringing conflicts to a close and establishing sustainable peace, and stressed that the human rights principles of accountability, non-discrimination and meaningful participation by women and girls, minority groups and young people were essential for building and maintaining trust among people and the State.

The Youth Ambassador for Peace for Southern Africa focused her intervention on how to ensure that inclusion and participation could be attained to enhance positive peace. She called for

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<sup>1082</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 18 April 2023 ([S/2023/283](#)).

<sup>1083</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#) and [S/PV.9315 \(Resumption 1\)](#).

<sup>1084</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#).

the review of the operationalization of inclusion to make it a more active, meaningful, and trust-based practice, one that was not only perceptible but evidence-based and measurable. She indicated that efforts to mitigate violent conflicts required agile policies able to absorb and mainstream existing initiatives, leverage young people's existing peacemaking potential, and promote sustainability through financial and technological support and by encouraging young people to be stakeholders in development processes.

In her briefing, the Vice-President and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London stated that futureproofing trust for sustaining peace required inclusive approaches, norms that were fit for purpose and trusted knowledge on how to think about future peace. She emphasized the importance of norms, and noted that knowledge that was trusted, available to all and transparently governed was an essential ingredient in futureproofing trust.

Following the briefings, Council members and participants discussed the relationship between building trust in the multilateral system and governance structures and sustaining peace, including through adherence to the rule of law and international law, international cooperation, and the active inclusion of women, youth, and minorities in peacebuilding efforts, building resilience and fostering social cohesion. Many speakers highlighted the need to reform the peacebuilding architecture to enable it to address long-term challenges, including climate change and terrorism and violent extremism. Many speakers also emphasized the importance of the peace and security, human rights and development nexus in peacebuilding and sustaining peace while also welcoming the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace.

Numerous speakers also underlined the importance of addressing both the root causes of conflict and evolving threats through peaceful means, while others called for a better use of mediation, good offices and peacebuilding mechanisms to build trust in the multilateral system.<sup>1085</sup> Some speakers also discussed how the Council could build trust and legitimacy by effectively discharging its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security and ensuring the implementation of its own decisions.<sup>1086</sup> Several participants highlighted the

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<sup>1085</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#) and [S/PV.9315 \(Resumption 1\)](#). For more information on the pacific settlements of disputes, see part VI.

<sup>1086</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#) (Brazil and Gabon) and [S/PV.9315 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (New Zealand, Uruguay, Guatemala, Ireland and Ukraine). For more on the functions and powers of the Council, see part V.

benefits of the Council partnering with and placing trust in regional and sub-regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the Charter, particularly in early warning and conflict prevention.<sup>1087</sup> Some speakers emphasized the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including through its advisory role.<sup>1088</sup>

### Meeting: Peacebuilding and sustaining peace, 2023

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.9250</a> and <a href="#">S/PV.9250 (Resumption 1)</a> 26 January	Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges  Letter dated 5 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2023/19</a> )		58 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, President of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations	The Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.9315</a> and <a href="#">S/PV.9315 (Resumption 1)</a> 3 May	Futureproofing trust for sustaining peace  Letter dated 18 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2023/283</a> )		51 Member States <sup>c</sup>	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Youth Ambassador for Peace for Southern Africa, Vice-President and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Head of the Delegation of the	All Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees <sup>e</sup>	

<sup>1087</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#) (Ghana) and [S/PV.9315 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (African Union and Kuwait). For more on regional arrangements, see part VIII.

<sup>1088</sup> See [S/PV.9315](#), (Japan and United States).

European Union to  
the United Nations

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<sup>a</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Pakistan, Palau, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

<sup>b</sup> Hungary was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The representative of Denmark spoke also on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; the representative of Palau spoke on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States; and the representative of Turkmenistan spoke also on behalf of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

<sup>c</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

<sup>d</sup> Japan was represented by its Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs; Switzerland (President of the Council) was represented by its Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; and the United Arab Emirates was represented by its Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications.

<sup>e</sup> Germany was represented by its Minister of State; and North Macedonia was represented by its Prime Minister. The representative of Denmark spoke also on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; the representative of New Zealand spoke also on behalf of Australia and Canada.