

The Overview of the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review Process

Please note that the summary below represents our joint understanding of the process. It does not represent the views of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

The process is continually evolving; please note that any points below may change

The 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review was mandated by the 2016 resolutions (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282) and stipulated to happen in the 74th session of the General Assembly (UNGA). While similar to the 2015 process, there will be a report input into the Member State formal discussion. This review, however, will be much less extensive than 2015 with the Secretary General's (SG) Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report as the principal input into the Member State formal review process. This report was mandated in the 2018 resolutions. The report is facilitated by PBSO, as chair of the core group for the SG report. Others in the working group include DPPA (through PBSO) UNDP, OHCHR, UN Women, DPO, and DCO.

The focus of the review will be on the assessment of the implementation of existing work; there are no expectations of proposition of new reforms and restructuring the system but rather the review will look at where success has been made and where the implementation is still lacking.

There are two processes to the review: Formal and Informal. The informal processes (Tracks 1-3 plus UNSG report- if you look at the infographics shared) will inform the Member State led formal review process and will be completed ahead of the start of the formal process.

THE INFORMAL TRACK (CONCLUDE IN JUNE 2020)

There are several tracks here, all to be completed by June 2020:

1) Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) discussions: There will be a series of thematic discussions within the PBC from January - June 2020:

A series of 3-4 meetings will be held on thematic topics, to be decided. Each is likely to be at expert AND ambassador level. These will be open to all Member States to ensure inclusion. Each will have a chair's summary and then one final letter agreed by all members of the PBC will be submitted as part of the review to Security Council (UNSC) and General Assembly. The PBC Chair and Country Specific Configuration chairs will travel during the review period and these will be likely used as visits to input into the review.

The potential thematic topics for these discussions are not decided yet, but likely to include:

- Transitions (connected to operational coherence)
- Inclusion approaches/agenda (YPS, WPS)
- Financing
- Interaction, engagement and coherence in the UN system broadly (connecting to development system reforms, human rights etc.)/ Whole of System Approach

Civil society is encouraged to think about how to ensure civil society inclusion in the thematic discussions of PBC.

2) Independent Eminent Persons (IEP): This panel will be appointed by the Secretary General

There will likely be 3-4 people on this panel. The UN is in the process of selecting who will be part of this panel. This will be announced in the coming weeks. This panel will likely travel with the PBC chair for PBC country visits and to thematic and regional consultations (unlikely to have a dedicated budget), and will produce a short report to the SG and Member States out of consultations as a review input.

3) Regional and Thematic Discussions

There are two elements to the regional and thematic discussions: Formal and Informal regional consultation

1. Formal regional consultations:

In order for a consultation to be considered formal, it has to be carried out in partnership with a UN entity **OR** a Member State. Regardless of who the partner is (meaning UN or Member State), it is important to consult with the **Member State Mission in NY** and to have the **buy in of the host country** before holding the consultation in that country. The outputs from formal regional consultations will then be attached to a letter from DPPA (ASG or DSG) to the UNGA/UNSC Presidents to inform the Member State-led formal review.

While the consultations do not have to be in partnership with PBSO, civil society organizations that are interested in potentially partnering with a Member State or UN entity to host a formal regional consultation should reach out to PBSO to inform the Office of the potential consultation, explore how to connect the consultation with the review, and reflect on feasibility and avenues forward for the consultation. In line with this, we encourage you to connect to Chelsea Payne or Rose Chung. We are happy to facilitate a connection if necessary.

It's important to note that there is no allocated UN funding to support these processes.

2. Informal CSO activities:

The UN is cognizant of the fact that this is a heavily rigid and technical process and working with host governments is a challenge for some organizations. But too notes that it is still extremely useful for the UN to learn from and receive informal inputs that come out of other activities that civil society organizations host.

Thus, this informal track is focusing on work which is connected to peacebuilding writ large- looking at challenges faced in peacebuilding, what works, gaps, and how the field has changed over the past five years. While some organizations may not see the relevance of these UN processes or their work directly connected, this is a valuable and open process to contribute and influence the UN's thinking and approach to peacebuilding in practice, how it works with civil society, how it provides support etc.

Input in this category would be an informal input that is shared with the UN (meaning it will not be attached in the above letters or made public) but would work to influence language in the SG'S report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

4) Thematic Papers

In addition to consultation, there is a stream of input through research under the theme of thematic papers. Here, again, there are two types: Formal and informal.

1. Formal thematic paper process:

Similar to the regional consultations, formal thematic papers need to be carried out in partnership with a UN entity, and will be published online (permitting that the UN entity and partners are comfortable with this. There is the ability to work with UN entities on internal papers to inform the process).

2. Informal CSO inputs:

The UN welcomes informal inputs to support the review process, and encourages civil society partners to share their reports, publications, etc. to informally impact these processes. These documents can be shared directly with PBSO.

Outcome Document Process

The outcome documents of these above processes will have two ways to inform the overall review process.

First, they will directly feed into the **drafting of the SG report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**, which will be a principal input into the formal Member State led process.

Second, the outcome documents from tracks 1-3 will then be **sent to the UNGA & UNSC Presidents at the start of the formal process as attachments in letters**. The letters will be as follows:

- **PBC Chair:** will send letter to UNGA & UNSC presidents that will include, as attachments, the outputs from PBC led process.
- **Panel:** will send letter with their output as attachment
- **DPPA:** Either DSG or ASG will send letter, with outputs from regional consultations as attachments. This is different to the SG report and will be a letter drawing on all the formal regional consultations.

PBSO is thinking of how to display this work online. This may look like a website, platform or use PBSO's website. In regard to all engagement in this informal process, colleagues should reach out to PBSO to share more about these activities or programs, and to explore how to share learning and experience with the UN. The contact persons are: Chelsea Payne (payne@un.org) and Rose Chung (kyusun.chung@un.org).

FORMAL TRACK (BEGIN IN JUNE, 2020): Member State Negotiations on outcome of the above process.

This is likely to begin in June 2020 once all input has been given, but exact timeline is yet to be finalized (defined by co-facilitators and the President of the General Assembly). This is Member State driven (same process as 2016 following AGE review). As in 2016, there will likely be two co-facilitators who will lead the negotiations and resolution drafting. It is expected that two resolutions will result from the formal process.

THE 2020 SECRETARY GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE REPORT

This has to be complete by July 2020, and thus a draft by April 2020. It was mandated by the 2018 resolutions, which came out of the SG's report presented in 2018, and led by working group of UN entities, chaired by PBSO.

The Focus of the Report:

The report is mandated to show results, implementation and gaps. It is likely to be very much aligned to the four areas of the 2018 SG reports (policy and operational coherence, leadership, financing and working with national actors), and is seen as a stocktaking of peacebuilding in NY and field:

- What has changed since passing of Sustaining Peace resolutions (focus on 2018 onwards and build off 2018 and 2019 reports)
- Gaps and areas of 'wrong direction'
- Forward looking.

The report too has been mandated be connected to YPS 2020 report, WPS 2019 report, Review of the reform of the UN's Peace and Security Architecture and UN Development System Reform Review (very important that there is a show of how these elements come together and sustaining peace is a connector of all. There is an attempt to achieve some synergy between various SG reports: Sustaining Peace, Sexual Violence in Conflict, Protection of Civilians, YPS, WPS, etc.