BUILDING PEACE LOCALLY AMIDST

A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: Infrastructures for Peace in the Era of COVID-19

GPPAC

A Network of People
Building Peace

The COVID-19 pandemic offers a unique opportunity to seek out and invest in skills, capacities, resources, tools and institutions infrastructures for peace that are embedded in communities and societies dealing with this multidimensional crisis. Building resilience to crises and shocks ahead of 2030 requires policy action for strengthening I4Ps and advancing structural transformation towards sustainable peace.

This requires prioritization of the following action:

Priority 1: **Expand multi-stakeholder and inclusive Infrastructures for Peace.** This means conducting regular mapping of diverse stakeholders; facilitating dialogues that connect local peacebuilders, national governments and multilateral partners, among others; and institutionalising partnerships and engagement models to sustain multi-stakeholder relationships in the long term.

Priority 2: **Ensure coordination and complementarity among Infrastructures for Peace.** This means improving coordination between I4Ps operating at different levels and in different contexts; promoting cross-regional and cross-sectional dialogues; and integrating remote engagement channels for dialogue while consistently working to address the existing digital divide.

Priority 3: **Promote, engage and support local peacebuilding actors in all efforts to sutain peace.** This means providing an accessible space, opportunities and protections for a diverse range of local peacebuilders and their networks to meaningfully organise, engage and participate in decisions that affect them.

Priority 4: **Integrate the principles of human security and conflict sensitivity into the work of Infrastructures for Peace.** This includes better understanding diverse experiences and tailoring conflict resolution strategies to these experiences and ensuring that local peacebuilders have an opportunity to meaningfully contribute to defining security threats and response strategies. Subsequently, a commitment to trauma healing is critical so that peacebuilders can operate at their full potential.

Priority 5: **Ensure adequate, predictable and quality financing for Infrastructures for Peace.** This means adjusting existing funding strategies and developing innovative mechanisms to support local I4Ps and local peacebuilders in an unrestricted and flexible way that provides for core funding and institutional support towards I4Ps. National governments can further enhance I4Ps by providing funding through budgetary allocations and political support in fundraising.

Priority 6: **Measure impact of Infrastructures for Peace through locally-articulated methodologies.** This means supporting reflective learning and community-led determination of impact; encouraging story-telling and other not-indicator-based methods of conveying data; and allowing adequate capacity to local networks to carry out data collection with streamlined channels of rapid analysis. These processes should directly feed into decision-making to ensure that information meaningfully informs further action.