



Promoting Youth-Led Peacebuilding for Impact: Recommendations for the Formal Phase of the 2025 PBAR

This document¹ presents recommendations for the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (2025 PBAR) outcome document, with the focus on strengthening youth participation in peacebuilding in line with the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda ([S/RES/2250](#), [S/RES/2419](#), [S/RES/2535](#)).

The 2025 PBAR outcome document should focus on the following priorities:

- **articulate what inclusive national ownership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace means;**
- **increase quantity and improve quality of financing for youth-led peacebuilding;**
- **encourage increased engagement by the Peacebuilding Commission on YPS;**
- **promote the integration of the YPS Agenda in the work of UN field presences.**

The outcome document should focus on concrete time-bound objectives to be reviewed in 2030.

PRIORITY 1: The 2025 PBAR outcome document should articulate what inclusive national ownership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace means.

According to the language of the 2016 and 2020 dual resolutions, the responsibility for peacebuilding and sustaining peace lies primarily with governments and other national stakeholders, including youth ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), PP8; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), OP3)². These responsibilities have yet to be clearly articulated. The Independent Eminent Panel for the 2025 PBAR highlights that 'strengthening bottom-up participation, particularly of women and youth, [...] are urgent and essential' ([A/79/634-S/2024/869](#), p. 3). Young people report that poor governance, exclusion and de-prioritisation of peace are among the major risks to sustaining peace.³ Commitments that can help articulate inclusive national ownership can be found in the [Pact for the Future](#), as well as in [prior Youth, Peace and Security resolutions](#).

The 2025 PBAR outcome document should:

- *Urge the full, effective and meaningful leadership, engagement and participation of diverse⁴ youth in the design, monitoring and implementation of national prevention and peacebuilding efforts* ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), OP21, OP23; [A/RES/76/305](#), OP7-

¹ The document highlights relevant agreed language from previous UN resolutions and builds on the July 2023 Member States-led Greentree Workshop 'Reinvigorating YPS Leadership to Advance Financing and Implementation of the YPS Agenda', the June 2024 AU-EU Member States Workshop on 'Reinvigorating the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda', key messages from the 2024 CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding, and additional input from the members of the Global Coalition on YPS (GCYPS).

² Specifically, the responsibilities of national governments include 'identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace', based on the principles of 'inclusivity [...] to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account' ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), PP9).

³ In 2017, poor governance was articulated as one of the major risks to sustaining peace in the first progress study on YPS ([A/72/761-S/2018/86](#), para 22). The same was reiterated in 2024 during the YPS Consultation on 2025 PBAR organised by UNFPA: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2025_pbar_unpfa_gppac_mena_coalition_youth_perspectives_on_the_2025_peacebuilding_architecture_review_-_december_2024.pdf.

⁴ During the Greentree Workshop on Reinvigorating YPS Leadership to Advance Financing and Implementation of the YPS Agenda (June 2023), Member States recommended to embrace the diversity of young people in policy, programming and financing strategies. Member States also highlighted that the implementation of the YPS Agenda should occur through a bottom-up approach with strong youth co-leadership and meaningful engagement. Also see, [A/RES/76/305](#), encouraging 'coordination and collaboration with youth on financing national priorities' (OP7).

9) and in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict ([S/RES/2250](#); OP1; [A/RES/76/305](#), OP7).⁵

- Encourage ‘a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace’ ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#) (PP12)) and request Member States to develop and implement comprehensive fully-funded and inclusive⁶ nationally-owned prevention/peacebuilding strategies and approaches ([Pact for the Future](#), Action 18 (d)). These strategies and approaches should include measures to protect the ‘human rights and fundamental freedoms’ ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#) (PP12)) of young peacebuilders; integrate the YPS agenda⁷; build on existing efforts of young peacebuilders.
- Invite Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant UN meetings ([A/RES/58/133](#), OP17)⁸.

PRIORITY 2: The 2025 PBAR outcome document should urge for increased quantity and improved quality of financing for youth-led peacebuilding.

The 2016 dual resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#)) recognise the need for UN peacebuilding efforts to have ‘adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding’ (PP16). The General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding ([A/RES/76/305](#), OP7) urges efforts to ‘address existing financing gaps for youth-led initiatives and youth organisations and encourages all financing stakeholders to ‘increase coordination and collaboration with youth on financing national priorities’ (OP7). Financing the YPS Agenda requires both increased quantity and improved quality of investment by all Member States, including through their national budget allocations and development aid⁹.

At the same time, peacebuilding financing is currently characterised by unpredictability, projectisation, unfair competition among actors with different levels of capacity, and increased transaction costs¹⁰. In 2024, the PBF’s Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) - the largest dedicated UN funding window supporting youth peacebuilding programming - did not have resources to support a single project¹¹. Realistic data on financing for youth-led peacebuilding is hard to obtain in the absence of a commonly accepted youth marker¹².

⁵ The criteria for meaningful youth participation must be clearly articulated and rooted in *strong youth co-leadership* and *adequate protection protocols* for youth in line with [S/RES/2535](#) (OP22). Protection protocols should be complemented by functional rapid response mechanisms and enhanced legal protections for youth at risk.

See UNOY, Checklist for meaningful youth engagement: <https://unoy.org/downloads/mye-checklist/> for more on meaningful youth participation and engagement.

⁶ The 2024 Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/79/552-S/2024/767](#)) highlights that ‘to be successful, these strategies should be genuinely inclusive and empower [...] young people’ (para. 65).

⁷ Similar request was made in regards to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda ([S/RES/2242](#), OP2). The request to do so for the YPS Agenda has been reiterated by the Peacebuilding Commission. See, Peacebuilding Commission (2024). Expert-level meeting on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on Youth, Education and Peacebuilding (p.5, stressing the need for developing regional action plans and comprehensive frameworks on Youth and Education to address cross-border conflicts): https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc_elm_on_pbar-youth_education_and_peacebuilding_summary-23072024.pdf.

⁸ This idea was reiterated during the June 2024 AU-EU Member States Workshop on Reinvigorating the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

⁹ Member States Greentree Workshop on Reinvigorating YPS Leadership to Advance Financing and Implementation of the YPS Agenda (June 2023).

¹⁰ DHF, GPPAC, LPI (2023). Principles for Quality Financing for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention.

https://assets.ctfassets.net/jzyrkiixcim/2FaXDE1cZrks1WyX578KFI/d6d2449f60f84800d31ce61f5004da2f/Principles_for_Quality_Financing_for_Peacebuilding_and_Conflict_Prevention_-_pdf.

¹¹ The December 2024 YPS Consultation on 2025 PBAR organised by UNFPA:

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2025_pbar_unpfa_gppac_mena_coalition_-_youth_perspectives_on_the_2025_peacebuilding_architecture_review_-_december_2024.pdf.

¹² During the Greentree Workshop on Reinvigorating YPS Leadership to Advance Financing and Implementation of the YPS Agenda (June 2023), Member States recommended implementing a youth marker in order to better track investment in YPS and the impact of investment. Some of the good practice example of implementing youth marker can be found at:

Young peacebuilders also report the loss of confidence in some donors and increasing politicisation of peacebuilding work by donors¹³. The 2022 General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding ([A/RES/76/305](#)) clearly articulates that young people should have access to adequate, predictable and sustained financing in their roles as *strategic partners and implementers* (OP 7). However, existing resources often fail to meet [the principles of quality funding](#) rooted in participatory approaches, simplified processes, sustained and flexible long-term support, youth-led definitions of impact, and realistic and transparent approaches to risk.

The 2025 PBAR outcome document should:

- Mandate a review of the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding ([A/RES/76/305](#)), including its OP 7 on financing for youth peacebuilding and OP 11 on resource mobilisation from the private sector, in the upcoming session of the General Assembly and request the Secretary-General to include updates on the implementation of all aspects of resolution 76/305 in his reporting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/RES/76/305](#), OP 20).
- Encourage increased availability of data on financing for youth-led peacebuilding by encouraging the donor community to adapt and implement a youth marker across all financial mechanisms and funds and to invest in data collection on financing for youth peacebuilding and its impact¹⁴.
- Recommend setting aside 10% of official development assistance (ODA), UN System agencies, funds and programs, or national budget allocations towards YPS-specific programming and the work of youth-led organisations¹⁵. This could include the replenishment of the Peacebuilding Fund's Youth Promotion Initiative or the development of a YPI 2.0 modelled after [GPI 2.0](#), to encourage coordination with and expand access of national civil society organisations to PBF resources.
- Emphasise the need for adequate, predictable, flexible and accessible (or [quality](#)) financing for peacebuilding and encourage testing innovative and participatory funding models based on 'coordination and collaboration with youth' ([A/RES/76/305](#), OP 7) and taking into account the way youth-led organisations operate¹⁶.

PRIORITY 3: The 2025 PBAR should encourage increased engagement by the Peacebuilding Commission on YPS.

In the YPS resolutions, the Security Council encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to support the role of young people in peacebuilding, including through the participation of youth 'in planning and stabilisation efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace' and to bring 'its observations and advice to the attention of the Security Council, as appropriate' ([S/RES/2419](#), OP15; [S/RES/2535](#), OP15). The Peacebuilding Commission adopted in 2020 its [Strategic Action](#)

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/financing_for_young_people_in_peacebuilding.220217.final_web.pdf

¹³ The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF), GPPAC and MENA Coalition on YPS (April 2024). Financing for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Lessons Learned for Impactful and Inclusive Financing for Peacebuilding and Resilience in the MENA Region: https://www.gppac.net/files/2024-07/Summary%20Note_Financing%20for%20Local%20Peacebuilding_PBAR%20Dialogue%20in%20Amman_v.2.pdf.

¹⁴ Ibid, supra note 12.

¹⁵ During the Greentree Workshop on Reinvigorating YPS Leadership to Advance Financing and Implementation of the YPS Agenda (June 2023), Member States proposed a target of \$100 billion USD by 2030, along with concrete steps to reach that target.

¹⁶ UNICEF (2022). Financing for Young People in Peacebuilding: An Overview (p.14):

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/financing_for_young_people_in_peacebuilding.220217.final_web.pdf

[Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding](#) to support such action¹⁷. The 2024 Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/79/552-S/2024/767](#)) highlights that the Action Plan provides an opportunity to systematise support for greater youth engagement in peacebuilding action, in light of the tenth anniversary of Council resolution 2250 (2015) in 2025 (para. 21).

The 2025 PBAR outcome document should:

- Encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to clarify its role¹⁸ to 'serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations' ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), OP4(d)) and clearly define the goals and purpose of the Commission in line with the needs and priorities of national peacebuilding stakeholders and in support of inclusive national ownership.
- Establish regular mechanisms for thematic consultations and expert-level meetings with youth and youth-led organisations, similar to the regular practice of meeting with women peacebuilders¹⁹, during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and local peacebuilders during the CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding.
- Encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to continue implementing its Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding²⁰, including by integrating YPS across every discussion in the Commission, and jointly reviewing the Commission's implementation of the Action Plan with young peacebuilders in a formal of an annual thematic dialogue.
- Encourage systematic engagement of young people, including independent youth-led organisations, across all aspects of work of the Commission and ensure their perspectives and recommendations are clearly represented in outcome documents²¹. (based on [S/RES/2250](#), OP3). The first step could include the efforts to increase the awareness of youth, among other peacebuilding stakeholders, of the value proposition of the Commission and its role in the broader UN Peacebuilding Architecture²².
- Invite the Peacebuilding Commission to set up an independent panel of geographically diverse peacebuilding experts, including youth, to enrich the advice that it provides to the Security Council and other intergovernmental bodies ([A/79/552-S/2024/767](#), para. 25).

PRIORITY 4: The 2025 PBAR outcome document should promote the integration of the YPS Agenda in the work of UN field presences.

The 2 July 2020 Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Chair's letter encourages measuring the success of peacebuilding and sustaining peace 'in terms of impact rather than outputs'²³. There is

¹⁷ The assessment of the Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding's implementation can be found at: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2023_assessment_of_the_implementation_of_the_peacebuilding_commission_strategic_action_plan_on_youth_and_peacebuilding26.pdf.

¹⁸ The Permanent Missions of Australia, Colombia, Norway, and the Republic of Korea, the Global Challenges Foundation, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (December 2024). Outcome Report from the Workshop on Strengthening the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture - Transforming commitments into action: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbar_workshop_report_final.pdf.

¹⁹ Peacebuilding Commission (2024). PBC Expert-level meeting on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on-Youth, Education and Peacebuilding (p.5):

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc_elm_on_pbar-youth_education_and_peacebuilding_summary-23072024.pdf.

²⁰ Ibid, supra note 19.

²¹ Ibid, supra note 17.

²² The Permanent Missions of Australia, Colombia, Norway, and the Republic of Korea, the Global Challenges Foundation, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (December 2024). Outcome Report from the Workshop on Strengthening the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture - Transforming commitments into action: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbar_workshop_report_final.pdf.

²³ UN, 'Letter dated 2 July 2020 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (A/74/935)', 7 July 2020, Accessible at: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/a_74_935-2009035e_1.pdf.

a growing recognition among donors and policymakers that the impact of peacebuilding policy and programming stems from context-specific action driven by local realities, experiences and needs. Young people use innovative and locally-rooted methodologies to promote resilience, support communities, and prevent conflict and its escalation²⁴. However, young people suggest that in their work, the UN often feels inaccessible or ‘out of reach’²⁵. The role of UN field presences in supporting young people in peacebuilding is unclear, as the peacebuilding mandate of UN field presences continues to divide Member States. It is generally accepted that the entire UN System should ‘assist countries to sustain peace and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict’ ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/ 2282](#), PP16); however, concrete mandate for doing so is not defined. Strong UN field level peacebuilding action requires a strong peacebuilding strategy and peacebuilding capacities (i.e., peace and development advisors) within the UN peace operations and country teams²⁶.

The 2025 PBAR outcome document should:

- Encourage UN field presences to engage systematically and meaningfully with diverse youth, including through youth boards and advisory groups, , in designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating peacebuilding policies and programmes ([A/RES/76/305](#), OP 7), including by fully implementing the UN System-Wide Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. The engagement with young peacebuilders should be integrated in general processes of the Resident Coordinator’s Offices, as well as all of the entities within the UN Country Teams²⁷. This would allow UN field presences to increase awareness among young people of existing and upcoming processes to ensure that young peacebuilders can properly strategise and effectively engage in respective discussions. The UN should also inform young people on how their perspectives have been reflected in the outcomes of respective processes.
- Express full support to the initiative of the PBSO to hold an [annual CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding](#) and encourage annual regional preparatory meetings with civil society and young people to contribute to the Dialogue (similar to the regional preparatory meetings for the HLPF mandated by [A/RES/67/290](#), OP13).
- Invite all UN field presences to strengthen their ‘coordination and interaction regarding the role and the needs of youth during armed conflicts’ ([S/RES/2535](#), OP19) and jointly develop and implement context-specific strategies on youth, peace and security ([S/RES/2535](#), OP21). Such strategies should include an annual review mechanism to ensure proper implementation.
- Encourages the UN Peacebuilding Architecture to develop mechanisms to broaden the participation of youth within the work of the United Nations and to redouble their efforts to improve capacity building and technical guidance across the UN system and to integrate the YPS agenda in UN strategic and planning documents, conflict analyses, frameworks, initiatives and guidance tools on peacebuilding, at the global, regional and national levels ([S/RES/2535](#), OP23).

²⁴ Ibid, supra note 11.

²⁵ The December 2024 summary of the Youth Consultation for the 2025 PBAR is forthcoming.

²⁶ Operationalising Sustaining Peace Roundtable Series (2024). Lessons Learned from the Sustaining Peace Roundtable Series Recommendations for the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review: <https://www.gppac.net/resources/operationalising-sustaining-peace-lessons-learned-sustaining-peace-roundtable-series>.

²⁷ Youth boards and advisory groups present a good practice to be implemented across all UN entities at the field and global level.

The following organisations support the above recommendations:

- Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- Generation Peace Youth Network (GenPeacePhilippines)
- United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)
- Youthful and Useful Foundation
- Amar Creative for the Social Good
- Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)
- Children Youth Peace and the Arts Research Group, King's College London
- Syrian Youth Assembly
- Youth, Peace and Security Network of Finland
- Foundation for Tolerance International
- Building Blocks for Peace Foundation
- UN Youth Delegate of Peru
- 3D Initiative for Sustainable Development
- German UN Youth Delegates
- Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security
- Young Global Citizens Assembly e.v.
- CEPRODE
- Somos CaPAZes
- World Organisation of the Scout Movement
- Research Institute and Youth Empowerment
- Upcoming African Youth Organization
- International Center for Religion and Diplomacy