

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict



A Network of People
Building Peace

Strategic Plan 2026–2030



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Foreword

In July 2005, the GPPAC Global Conference at the UN General Assembly Hall, held in response to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's call, marked a historic shift "From Reaction to Prevention."

Over 1,000 civil society organisations across 15 regions came together to collaborate. Experts and research institutes were joined by grassroots groups to work bottom-up to draft the "Global Action Agenda," presented at the gathering, which was held amid the Iraq War and the escalating Darfur conflict.

This gave birth to GPPAC, a global peacebuilding network that has now been sustained for over 20 years.

As one who participated in the initiation of that historic conference, looking back today, I can say that it was undoubtedly the catalyst that evolved GPPAC from a mere network into an infrastructure for international solidarity and action.

Direct dialogue and shared experiences built trust and friendship, laying the foundation and energy for collective, cross-regional action - a principle I have seen firsthand through 40 years with Peace Boat.

Over the two decades since, GPPAC's International Steering Group, bringing together representatives of regional networks, and the tireless dedication of the Global Secretariat have sustained and further developed this rare and precious global presence I am confident that our new Strategic Plan reflects this bottom-up process and respectful, constructive dialogue, just as with the original Global



Action Agenda. I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone involved.

Yet, after 20 years, the world is not more peaceful. We face unchecked military expansion, the rising risk of nuclear war, the climate crisis, and real emerging threats like AI. If peace means not simply the absence of war but a sustainable global society, we remain far too distant from it.

However, as peacebuilders, the path we choose should not be pessimism or despair. Let us believe in "Stubborn Optimism," and take action together to build a peaceful, sustainable world!

Yoshioka Tatsuya

GPPAC Board Chair
Peace Boat Founder and Director

There is a wartime survival principle known as the rule of two walls. When sirens warn of incoming rockets or drones and no shelter is available, the safest place at home is a windowless space protected from the outside by at least two walls. Today, far too many people living through conflict know this rule.

The coming years are unlikely to make such knowledge less necessary. Armed conflict is rising, and emergency governance will continue to normalise, favouring crisis response. New risks will emerge in ways we cannot foresee. Yet other futures are also possible: futures where communities preserve agency under pressure, governments make long-term investments in inclusive policies and institutions, and political courage protects cooperation. GPPAC works to make these futures more likely.

Locally grounded and globally connected, GPPAC members are active before, during, and after conflict. Together, more than 300 civil society organisations bring locally rooted knowledge, trusted relationships, and a long-term presence in societies affected by violence.

As a network, GPPAC can do what individual organisations often cannot. We connect and learn from experiences across regions and bring local leadership into policy discussions at national, regional, and global levels. We also connect actors across conflict divides through the trust GPPAC members have built.

The development of this strategy, too, has been a collective effort. It draws on extensive consultations with members around the world, staff of the Global Secretariat in The



Hague, and partners and friends who have accompanied GPPAC over many years. My thanks go to all who shared their experience and ideas for the years ahead.

The future will not unfold in one direction only. It will be shaped both by crises and by political will, by sudden shocks and by long-term work, by forces that divide and by relationships that keep cooperation possible.

GPPAC steps into this future clear-eyed about the difficulty ahead, and with confidence in our collective capacity to shape it. This strategy reflects that confidence. It is a commitment to work more effectively, as a network, to safeguard the security of people, communities and societies.

Zahid Mövlazadə
Executive Director

1. Introduction

About GPPAC

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is the world's largest global network of local peacebuilders. We bring together over 300 local, regional and international civil society organisations and activists working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Present and active before, during, and after conflict, it is these local members who lead our network.

Founded in 2003, we consist of fourteen regional networks, each with their own priorities, character, and agenda, tailored to regional context and needs. We work through partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels. We specialise in connecting, convening, exchanging ideas and learning and working together to find peaceful solutions to conflict. We firmly believe that conflict prevention initiatives need to be locally grounded and internationally supported.

Throughout this strategic plan, 'we' refers to the GPPAC network as a whole: Our individual members around the globe; the regional networks and working groups that they form; and the Global Secretariat that supports and facilitates the work of the network.



300+
Member
Organisations



14
Regional Networks



104
Countries



Active
before, during, and
after conflict



Vision

GPPAC seeks a peaceful world where violence and armed conflicts are prevented or resolved by nonviolent means, based on justice, gender equity, sustainable development and human security for all.

Mission

GPPAC is a global network that links civil society, communities and relevant local, national, regional and international actors and institutions, to contribute collectively to a fundamental change in dealing with violence and armed conflicts: A shift from reaction to prevention.

Aim for 2026-2030

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding practices and policies, from the local to the global, are more effective **in enabling the security of people, communities and societies** because they are locally-grounded, adaptive and inclusive.

2. The evolving landscape for conflict prevention

The following trends, informed by analysis and reflections from GPPAC members around the world, will define the context for conflict prevention and peacebuilding over the next five years.



The trends shaping our context

1. Normalisation of emergency governance

Crisis response frameworks are becoming institutionalised across political systems. Measures originally introduced for exceptional circumstances are now embedded in standard governance practices. Executive authority is expanding, and decision-making cycles are shortening, prioritising stabilisation and risk containment over long-term structural prevention. As a result, preventive engagement operates within compressed time horizons and heightened security sensitivities, limiting the space for sustained, transformative action.

2. Fragmented multilateralism and transactional statecraft

The international system is marked by geopolitical fragmentation and reduced cohesion within multilateral institutions. States increasingly prioritise sovereignty, alignment blocs, and strategic influence, with aid and development cooperation tied to geoeconomic interests and immediate strategic returns. Power is becoming more fragmented and less anchored in cohesive multilateral institutions, increasingly exercised through geoeconomic and technological means, and more widely distributed across state and non-state actors. There is renewed emphasis on military capability and deterrence postures, selective adherence to international legal frameworks, and the consolidation of more centralised, illiberal and authoritarian forms of governance. Diplomatic engagement has become more interest-driven, and civic space is further tightening due to regulatory and political constraints.

3. Information distortion and escalation dynamics

Digital information ecosystems are central to conflict dynamics, contributing to polarisation. Conflicts are more likely to escalate due to misperception, contested legitimacy, manipulated information or algorithmic amplification. This weakens traditional deterrence and diplomacy assumptions, and hybrid tactics are increasingly integrated into security strategies. These dynamics alter the conditions for diplomacy and prevention, making it harder to build trust and foster dialogue.

4. Climate and environmental security pressures

Climate change and resource stress are reshaping security dynamics and act as a threat multiplier, intensifying fragility. Armed conflict further degrades environmental systems through infrastructure destruction, land contamination, weakened resource governance, and disrupted adaptation. Climate-related mobility and resource pressures interact with fragile governance and restrictive migration policies, creating new challenges for peacebuilding. Simultaneously, the prioritisation of national self-interest in the Global North's "green transition" risks triggering new land and human rights tensions as demand for critical minerals and territory expands.

5. Systemic weakening of prevention agendas

The cumulative effect of the preceding dynamics is that peacebuilding and conflict prevention face declining political support in an environment dominated by power competition and deterrence priorities. Prevention is often portrayed as ineffective or misaligned with prevailing security realities. Funding is shifting toward military readiness and security-led approaches, further narrowing the policy space for long-term structural prevention. This trend is exacerbated by the limited recognition of peacebuilding's transformative impact among donors, political leaders, media, and broader society, which restricts influence and support for prevention efforts.

3. Why our work is more urgent than ever

For communities affected by violent conflict, the five trends identified in the previous chapter translate into daily insecurity. They affect livelihoods, social cohesion, and access to justice. Each year, violent conflict causes tens of thousands of civilian deaths and displaces tens of millions of people.

In this environment, GPPAC's role as a global, member-led network of peacebuilders becomes ever more important.

Locally grounded and globally connected, GPPAC members are active before, during, and after conflict. They bring contextual knowledge and trusted relationships across conflict lines that external actors often lack. As a network, GPPAC is able to connect this lived experience across regions, translate it into shared learning, and bring it into regional and global policy discussions

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without displacing local leadership. This combination of sustained local presence, cross-regional exchange, and coordinated engagement enables GPPAC to strengthen both practice and policy in ways that individual organisations or purely global actors cannot.

During the 2021–2025 strategic period, we experienced both the value and the complexity of working collectively. By linking local peacebuilders to one another and to regional and global arenas, we created access, visibility, and in some cases a measure of protection that individual organisations would struggle to secure alone.

Our engagement in global and regional intergovernmental policy spaces demonstrated the added value of coordinated, grounded input. As a network, we contributed to UN processes, informed policy discussions, and shaped preventive approaches. At the same time, reliance on multilateral forums alone proved insufficient in a context of shifting power centres and fluctuating trust in international institutions. In the coming period, we will diversify engagement more deliberately, strengthening regional and bilateral strategies alongside global advocacy.

Collaborative learning through regional exchanges and working groups improved our ability to analyse trends, adapt approaches, and translate experience into practical tools. To increase its impact, we will embed learning more systematically across the network to translate our experience into stronger practice for communities and more credible input for decision-makers.



The past period also highlighted areas requiring improvement. Communication and coordination has been uneven, governance structures have grown complex, and collaboration does not always emerge without facilitation. We will simplify processes, strengthen internal communication and coordination, reinforce mutual accountability, agility, and coordinated action. This will strengthen cross-regional problem solving and ensure that accumulated experience directly informs coordinated action.

Our experience reaffirmed that inclusive peacebuilding produces more sustainable outcomes. Initiatives integrating gender, youth, and intersectional perspectives have demonstrated greater resilience. However, power imbalances persist within the network and the wider field. Inclusion will therefore be strengthened through clearer expectations for shared leadership and influence over priorities and strategy.

These lessons shape our understanding of the period ahead. The normalisation of crisis governance, fragmented multilateralism, information distortion and polarisation, climate and environmental pressures, and the resulting weakening of prevention agendas

reinforce one another. Individual organisations cannot address these dynamics alone. A connected network is better positioned to pool expertise, coordinate advocacy, and be more effective in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

By bringing community-based practice into regional and global policy discussions, we ensure that prevention strategies are informed by lived experience. By sustaining solidarity across regions, we support members operating in restrictive environments. By continuing to embed learning and adaptation, we strengthen our collective capacity to respond to emerging risks.

At the centre of this work are communities affected by violence. Sustainable conflict prevention depends on local ownership, trust, and legitimacy. Yet local actors often lack equitable access to funding, partnerships, and influence. As a network, we work to address these structural gaps by advocating for fairer resourcing, strengthening cross-regional collaboration, and safeguarding space for locally-led approaches.

Individual organisations cannot address these dynamics alone. A connected network is better positioned to pool expertise, coordinate advocacy, and be more effective in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

The coming years are likely to remain volatile. These conditions require stronger internal cohesion, clearer governance, and sustained collective engagement.

Building on the previous strategic period, we will strengthen connectivity across the network, embed learning more systematically, broaden our policy engagement, and reinforce inclusive leadership so that peacebuilding work on the ground can be more impactful. In doing so, we will work towards our overarching aim:

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding practices and policies, from the local to the global, are more effective in safeguarding the security of people, communities and societies because they are locally grounded, adaptive, and inclusive.



Our Theory of change

IF

1.

WE MODERNISE OUR NETWORK GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, COORDINATION AND PROCESSES,

and strengthen the vitality of the network, connecting members, improving communication, fostering solidarity and collaboration, strengthening cross-regional partnerships.

2.

WE EMBED LEARNING IN ALL THAT WE DO,

as a driver of adaptation and decision-making, with all strategies informed by ongoing learning loops and reflection. Collaborative learning, knowledge exchange and creation and capacity strengthening: Generate and share actionable peacebuilding expertise to inform practice and global dialogue.

3.

WE INVEST IN RESOURCING AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE,

mobilising funding and leveraging technology to support adaptive, resilient, and locally led peacebuilding.

4.

WE ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY AND POLICY INFLUENCE,

amplifying local perspectives, experiences, expertise and evidence to shape inclusive policy and practice and strengthen GPPAC's credibility.

5.

WE ENSURE VISIBILITY FOR POSITIVE PEACE AND OUR IMPACT AS GPPAC MEMBERS.

We leverage storytelling to amplify our voices, demonstrate our impact, and actively counter divisive narratives and disinformation.

THEN..

1.

STRONGER NETWORK

We will strengthen our position as an active, cohesive, inclusive, and resilient peacebuilding network,

facilitating connections and collaboration; embodying trust and solidarity, intentionally integrating gender, youth, and intersectional perspectives.

2.

STRONGER LOCAL ACTION AND IMPACT

We will strengthen local peacebuilding action, capacities and impact,

sharing and co-creating skills, resources, and knowledge to initiate and sustain meaningful, community-grounded peacebuilding. Individually and collectively, we apply what we learn, turning knowledge into joint action and adapting our work based on new insights.

3.

STRONGER COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR PEACE

We will act as an influential collective voice for peace,

affecting change in policies, practices and narratives from the local to the global based on evidence and insights from the network, shifting the narrative toward peace and the power to local peacebuilders.

SO THAT..

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING PRACTICES AND POLICIES, FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL, ARE MORE EFFECTIVE
IN ENABLING THE SECURITY OF PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES
BECAUSE THEY ARE LOCALLY-GROUNDED, ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE.

5.

A deeper look at our goals and strategies

Our goals set out the change we want to see over the next five years, and our strategies describe how we will contribute to achieving our aim. While the strategies are interconnected and contribute to all three goals, they are presented under the goals to which they are most closely connected.



1.

A more active, cohesive, inclusive, and resilient peacebuilding network



Why this goal?

A strong, well-connected network is the foundation for all our work. In a context of shrinking civic space, fragmented multilateralism, and rising authoritarianism, our collective strength enables us to overcome isolation, pool expertise, and amplify impact. Without a resilient network, our ability to learn, advocate, and innovate is limited.

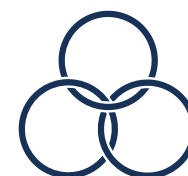


How it contributes to our aim:

By fostering solidarity, collaboration, and shared leadership, we create the conditions for locally grounded, adaptive peacebuilding. A cohesive network ensures that diverse voices, especially those of women, youth, and marginalised groups, shape our priorities and actions, making our work more inclusive and effective.

Through our network strengthening strategy we will:

- ▶ **Improve communication** and coordination between members, secretariats, governance bodies and working groups.
- ▶ **Modernise our governance structures and processes**, increasing our mutual accountability, ownership and leadership of the network as members, while reducing the complexity and administrative burden of how we work.
- ▶ **Strengthen network vitality, agility and resilience**, increasing our ability to connect with one another as members, foster solidarity and collaboration, and strengthen cross-regional partnerships.
- ▶ **Embed network strengthening** across all our work, ensuring that relationships, communication and collaboration are at the heart of everything we do.



Synergies with other goals:

A strong network enhances our learning by facilitating knowledge exchange and boosts our advocacy by providing a united, credible voice. It also ensures that local peacebuilders have the support and platforms they need to thrive.

2. Strong local peacebuilding action and capacities



Why this goal?

Local peacebuilders possess the deepest understanding of their contexts and the most effective solutions to conflict. However, they often face barriers in accessing resources, skills, and platforms to amplify their impact. This goal focuses on facilitating peer-to-peer exchange, collaborative learning, and joint action among local peacebuilders, particularly through South-South and regional partnerships, to strengthen community-led peacebuilding.



How it contributes to our aim:

By creating spaces for local peacebuilders to share knowledge, skills, and expertise with one another and collaborate in their peacebuilding work, we ensure that peacebuilding practices remain rooted in experience and evidence and are continuously adapted to local realities. This approach challenges traditional power dynamics, centres local leadership, and makes conflict prevention more effective and sustainable.

Under our learning strategy, we will:

- ▶ **Utilise learning as a driver of adaptation and decision-making**, with all strategies informed by ongoing learning loops, reflection, and sensemaking
- ▶ **Engage in collaborative learning, knowledge exchange and creation and capacity strengthening**, generating and sharing actionable peacebuilding expertise to inform practice and global dialogue.
- ▶ **Under our resourcing and innovation strategy** we will mobilise funding and accessible and appropriate technology to support **locally designed and led** peacebuilding initiatives, ensuring they are adaptive and resilient.



Synergies with other goals:

Strong local action and peer learning strengthens our network by building trust and solidarity and amplifies our collective voice by grounding advocacy in authentic, local expertise and evidence.

3. An influential collective voice for peace



Why this goal?

Policies and narratives about peacebuilding are often shaped by distant actors with little understanding of local contexts. This goal ensures that local expertise and evidence drives global and regional discussions, making peacebuilding more inclusive, relevant, and effective.

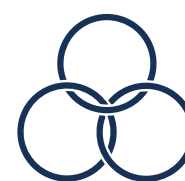


How it contributes to our aim:

By amplifying local perspectives and countering divisive narratives, we shift power toward those most affected by conflict. This not only improves policies and practices but also strengthens trust in locally led solutions and increases opportunities for members to influence change.

Two strategies contribute primarily to this goal. We will:

- ▶ **Amplify local perspectives, experiences, expertise and evidence of impact** to shape inclusive policy and practice and strengthen GPPAC's credibility.
- ▶ **Ensure visibility for positive peace and our impact as GPPAC members.** We leverage storytelling to amplify our voices, demonstrate our impact, and actively counter divisive narratives and disinformation



Synergies with other goals:

Our collective voice is strengthened by a cohesive network which provides credibility and reach and informed by local capacities and action, which supplies evidence and real-world examples.

How our goals reinforce each other

Our three strategic goals are interconnected. Together, they create a stronger network, drive local impact, and amplify our collective voice for peace.



Together, these goals ensure that:

A strong network enables learning and local action, which in turn fuels our collective voice.

Local action and learning provide the evidence and legitimacy needed for effective advocacy.

Advocacy and visibility create opportunities to mobilise resources and support, further strengthening the network and local capacities.



Together, these goals ensure that **conflict prevention and peacebuilding are locally grounded, adaptive, and inclusive**, delivering greater security for people, communities, and societies.

Our commitment to inclusive peacebuilding

At GPPAC, inclusivity is not a standalone workstream but a core lens through which we view all conflict prevention. Our approach is built on three pillars:

Gender-Transformative Action:

We go beyond gender parity to challenge the root causes of inequality that fuel conflict. We support women peacebuilders not just as victims of war, but as primary drivers of nonviolent solutions.

Youth Leadership:

Recognizing that youth are often at the forefront of social change, we prioritize the meaningful participation of young peacebuilders in network governance and local-to-global advocacy.

Intersectional Solidarity:

We acknowledge that individuals hold multiple identities including ethnicity, religion, and political affiliation and that these intersections affect their safety and influence. Our network serves as a protective space that honors these diverse lived experiences.

Our Thematic Focus

GPPAC members have collectively identified the following four areas where they see an opportunity for stronger collaboration, joint learning, and collective action over the coming years.

Yet, these priorities do not define the full scope of expertise across the network. GPPAC members will continue to collaborate and learn from each other on other thematic areas, including resilience to hybrid threats, Women, Peace and Security, and improving peacebuilding practice, as priorities and opportunities evolve.

Climate, Peace and Security

Climate change increasingly shapes conflict dynamics through competition over land, water and livelihoods, displacement, and environmental degradation. Across the GPPAC network, members already work at the intersection of climate, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in diverse contexts. Building on this experience, GPPAC will continue to strengthen learning, collaboration and advocacy on Climate, Peace and Security, advancing practical approaches to conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, environmental cooperation, and just energy transitions that contribute to sustainable peace.

Civil Society-Led Dialogue

Dialogue remains one of the most effective tools for preventing violence, building trust and addressing the drivers of conflict. Across regions, GPPAC members facilitate community dialogue processes, convene dialogue platforms, and contribute to Track 1.5 and Track 2 peace processes. GPPAC will continue to strengthen this body of practice by fostering exchange between practitioners, documenting effective approaches from different contexts, and advancing knowledge on the design and facilitation of inclusive dialogue processes.

Peace Education

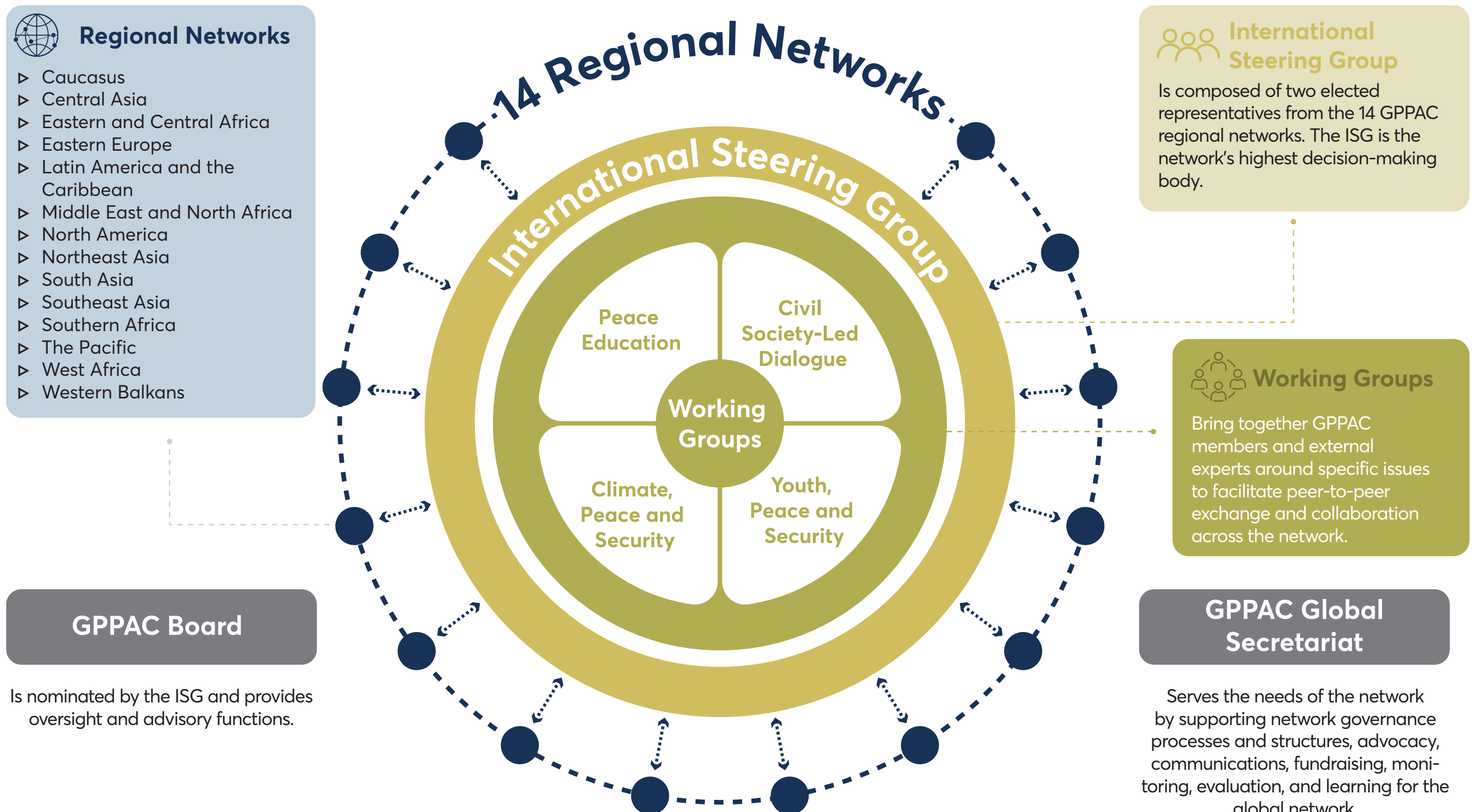
Peace education has been part of GPPAC's work since its early years and remains fundamental to building resilient, peaceful societies. Across the network, members use formal and informal education to strengthen dialogue, nonviolent conflict transformation, critical thinking and social cohesion. During this strategic period, GPPAC will continue to connect practitioners, promote learning and exchange, and strengthen collaboration to advance peace education approaches across regions and contexts.

Youth, Peace and Security

Young people are essential actors in preventing conflict, building peace and shaping inclusive societies. Since 2018, GPPAC has strengthened its engagement with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, supporting meaningful youth participation across the network and in policy processes. Building on this foundation, GPPAC will continue to promote youth leadership, strengthen collaboration among young peacebuilders, and ensure that youth perspectives and expertise are integrated throughout our peacebuilding work at local, regional and global levels.

GPPAC Network Structure

300+ member organisations around the world



Annex - Key terminology

Peacebuilding encompasses the actions, institutions, processes and policies at all levels that aim to prevent the escalation, continuation, or recurrence of conflict by addressing its root causes. At GPPAC, we know peacebuilding works best when it is shaped, led, and owned by the communities themselves, ensuring that solutions are grounded in local realities, adaptable to changing contexts, and designed to last.

Locally-led peacebuilding is at the heart of everything we do: we prioritise community-driven solutions and locally-informed approaches, ensuring that peacebuilding is rooted in local realities. By strengthening local networks and legitimacy, we enhance ownership, effectiveness, and inclusivity in peace initiatives.

We seek to prevent violent conflict. We understand **conflict prevention** to be structures, mechanisms and interactions that achieve societies where people and governments elect peaceful means to achieve greater justice, sustainable development, and human security. Conflict prevention can take place before violence occurs, but also after it has ended, preventing its reoccurrence.



A Network of People
Building Peace

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