



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

“Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding: Two Years On, From Theory to Practice”

High level off-site side event featuring a panel discussion¹ followed by reception

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The adoption of the UN General Assembly's Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding (A/RES/76/305) in 2022 marked a pivotal moment in the journey towards transforming how the international community finances peacebuilding efforts. The Summit of the Future offered an opportunity to harness the momentum generated by the resolution, and to advance collective efforts to create a more inclusive, networked multilateralism.

The purpose of the event was to **portray the journey since the adoption of the Resolution (A/RES/76/305) which has spurred the development of concrete initiatives and partnerships that exemplify the principles it enshrines.** It served as an important opportunity to both reflect and take stock of the achievements over the past two year, but more importantly, encouraged attendees to join the peace finance ecosystem consisting of investors, private sector actors, development finance institutions and other development actors, governments, peacebuilders, civil society, and communities, to ensure integrated solutions that catalyze resources for long-term peacebuilding solutions. Invitees and attendees included representatives of Member States (Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United Kingdom, and the United States), Foundations, the United Nations and related Agencies, private sector (UBS, J.P. Morgan), INGOs (WEF, CCCPA), academia, think tanks and the civil society.

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **Flexible funding modalities, cross-function coordination, and sustained engagement are needed to ensure adequate financing for peacebuilding efforts.** National conflict prevention strategies (i.e., UK CSSF, U.S. GFA), and cross-functional administrative coordination in Switzerland and Sweden, are paving the way towards strengthened political commitment and momentum for cross-departmental policies that mobilize resources needed to address the root causes of conflict and build long-term resilience.
- **The recent UNGA resolution to provide USD 50 million in assessed contributions annually to the UN PBF is an important symbolic step** towards recognition of shared responsibility for peacebuilding, amidst the current deadlocks at the Security Council on critical peace and security issues. In practice, however, the international community has not reached the quantum leap for the funding that many had hoped for; the PBF struggles to attract multi-year funding essential to move beyond projectized and earmarked traditional funding modalities.
- **In fragile or conflict-affected contexts, development finance is often not sequenced to, or supportive of, diplomatic of conflict prevention objectives:** more advocacy needs to be done at the executive level of IFIs to make the case for investing in tailored peacebuilding strategies. **Peacebuilding is a form of insurance:** while development finance actors provide critical credibility and resources, peacebuilding actors operating through localized interventions can pro-actively manage and mitigate risks for communities and investors.
- **Private sector development can serve as a crucial pathway out of fragility.** Building on the lessons learned shared by South Africa, governments, as well as the UN, must incentivize the private sector, through business forums, chambers of commerce, or through representation in the steering committees overseeing PBF projects. This will help ensure that private sector harnesses innovative approaches that intentionally contribute to peace.

¹ Moderated by Brian Williams, Chief, Financing for Peacebuilding Branch, UN-PBSO, with opening remarks by H.E. Amb. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, and closing remarks by H.E. Amb. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations. Panelists included H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, Executive Director, NYU-CIC; Itonde Kakoma, President, Interpeace; Elizabeth Spehar, ASG, UN-PBSO; Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Executive Secretary, UNCDF; and Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex, AfDB.



- **AfDB was recognized for the systematic engagement on fragility issues in Africa, and ongoing internal reform process to continue meeting the needs of populations most affected by multidimensional sources of fragility.** In its new Ten-year Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience, the Bank recognizes peace and stability as regional and global public goods, and consequently, its own responsibility to ensure they benefit society as a whole. AfDB's Transition Support Facility extends catalytic funding to least developed countries, recognizing the need for additional resources beyond standard concessional and non-concessional instruments.
- **The partnership between the AfDB and Interpeace is an example of how development finance and peacebuilding actors can join hands to enhance coordination, efficiency, scale and impact.** In Mozambique, partners are supporting the Government in establishing a Peace & Security Investment Hub to (i) mobilize resources for key national development and peacebuilding plans; (ii) generate a pipeline of locally-informed, nationally-owned peace-positive investment concepts for execution by development finance and private sector.
- **The UN-PSBO – AfDB partnership** including the joint peacebuilding initiative launched in Central African Republic is a prime example of how MDBs and the UN can maximize their efforts for the attainment of shared peacebuilding and development goals. PSBO launched the Peacebuilding Impact Hub to provide an evidence-based case for governments
- to scale-up investments in prevention and peacebuilding.
- **UN-PBSO, GFFO, UNCDF lead the Investing for Peace (I4P) initiative aimed at harnessing public and private sector resources to provide catalytic funding that supports peacebuilding efforts,** notably through the deployment of a Special Purpose Vehicle by the UNCDF, based on its track record of absorbing risks in last-mile contexts to create space for larger institutions. UNCDF's Blue Peace Financing initiative also leverages peace expertise to deploy peace-positive financial mechanisms in West Africa to invest in infrastructure, green energy transition, and critical development needs through pipeline development and guarantee provision for impact.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1. **Mobilize new partnerships and sources of funding that increase not only the scale of peacebuilding financing, but also its quality and sustainability,** through innovative financial instruments that mobilize resources at scale in riskier environments, including from capital markets, notably to invest in prevention. New partnerships with humanitarian and peacebuilding actors are essential for coordinated and collective action by key actors and are crucial for the design of integrated solutions that de-risk investments for investors and communities.
2. **IFIs and regional development banks such as the AfDB can play a catalytic role in financing peace, by shifting the way in which they allocate private and public capital,** through new approaches that promote economic investment and social development that positively impacts peace. This involves integrating peacebuilding into long-term development projects and working closely with humanitarian and peacebuilding actors.
3. **Coordinate policy engagement and advocacy for Peace Finance at the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review:** Capitalize on the opportunity to reflect on the UN's role and practice of peacebuilding through the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review to operationalize the UN SG's call for IFIs to 'become agents for peace'.
4. **Ensure quality and predictable resources for the PBF,** fitted with a catalytic potential to fund origination and market intelligence for peace-aligned investments in FCS, working with peacebuilding and local civil and private partners to identify peace impact financing ideas at small and large scale.
5. **Scale investments in initiatives such as I4P,** to unlock the potential of multi-stakeholder coalitions to attain shared peacebuilding and development goals, through UN agencies with the mandate to mobilize finance in LDCs such as the UNCDF. In partnership with the UN-PBSO, the UNCDF can deploy peace-responsive, catalytic capital for socio-economic development in last-mile contexts, pooling more investors in high-risk environments.
6. **Develop evidence-based, impact narratives to make the case for investing in peacebuilding and prevention.** We have to position peacebuilding as a form of assurance that enhances the long-term viability of investments in FCS through inclusive, participatory processes that align development finance with communities' needs.
7. **Incentivize the private sector to be part of the solution.** There are untapped opportunities in global financial markets: sustainable debt issuance has reached USD 1.6 trillion in 2021; if only 1% of these investments became peace-positive, it would generate more than USD 16 billion for peacebuilding activities in FCS. Adopting the set of norms and guidance developed by Interpeace's Finance for Peace initiative, rooted in peacebuilding expertise, is thus essential to create a 'market for peace', and harness resources needed to sustain peace.



Webpage to find more information: <https://bit.ly/4d5MOcd>