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Peacebuilding Commission
Background Guide 2025

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce to you our committee, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Your committee's work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year's committee staff are: Director Kendrick King and Assistant Director Lilia Stefanía Aguilar Medina (Conference A), and Director Nadine Al Ali and Assistant Director Isatu Bah (Conference B). Kendrick works as a Research Evaluator for the Georgia Health Policy Center. He studied Health Policy and Management at Georgia Southern University and has a background in socioeconomic disparities. Lilia graduated with a double degree in Law and International Relations from Universidad San Francisco de Quito. She is currently working as judicial aide of a judge in the National Court of Justice of Ecuador. Nadine has a background in Political Science and Communication Arts. She is an AI Language and Culture Specialist and Manager at Microsoft. Isatu is pursuing a Masters degree in International relations and comparative politics and currently works at the IRC as a Legal assistant and Family reunification specialist. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Vikram Sakkia (Conference A) and Christopher Duggan (Conference B) with contributions by Under-Secretaries-General for Conference Management Alliyah Edwards (Conference A) and Kyle Roberts (Conference B).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:

1. Prevention and Peacebuilding in Fragile States
2. Integrating Refugees in Peacebuilding Frameworks

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. ET on 1 March 2025 in accordance with the guidelines in the Position Paper Guide and the NMUN•NY Position Papers website.

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide, which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions.
- The NMUN Rules of Procedure, which includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at dsg.ny@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Kendrick King, Director
Lilia Stefanía Aguilar Medina, Assistant Director
Conference A

Nadine Al Ali, Director
Isatu Bah, Assistant Director
Conference B

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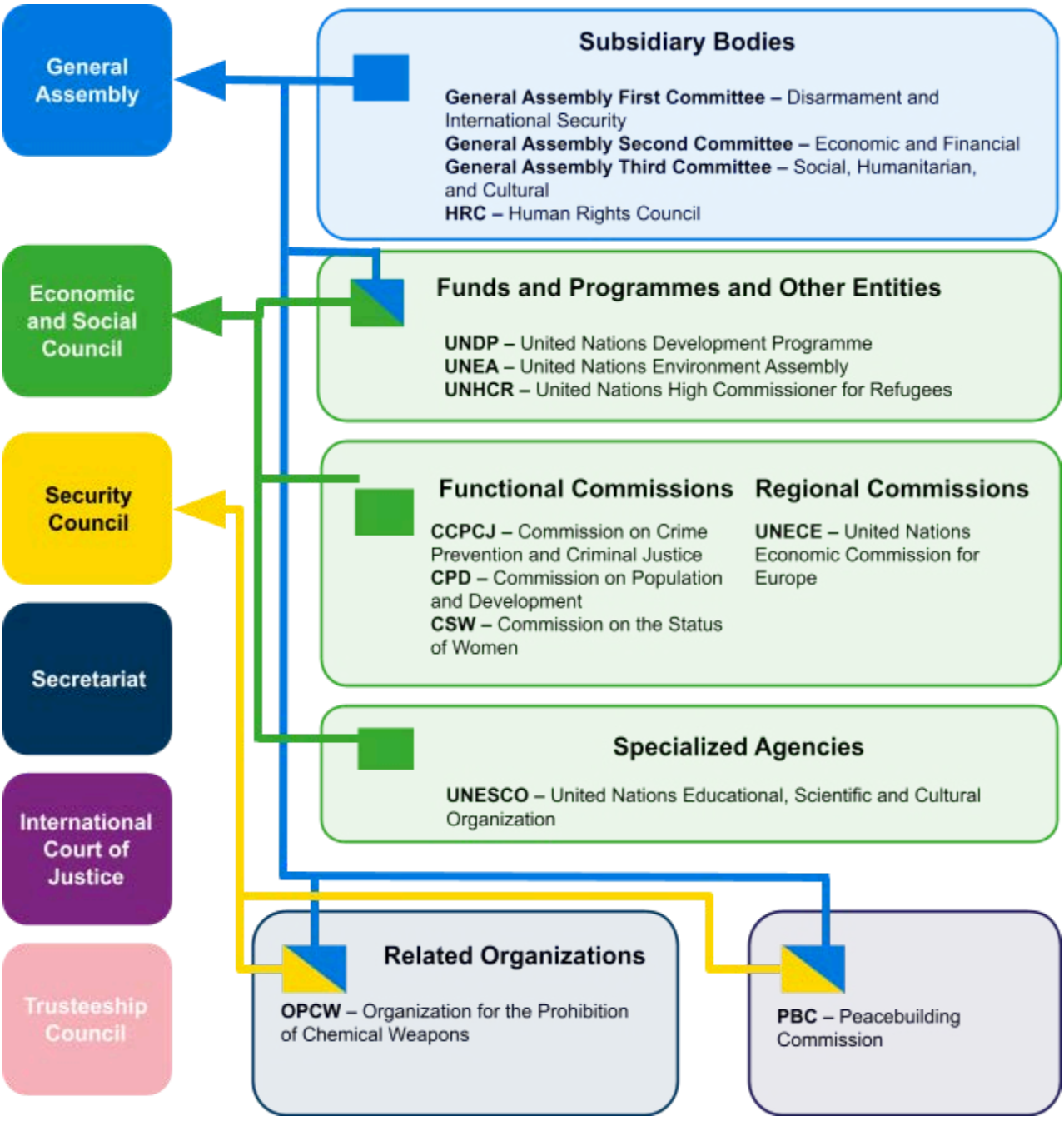
United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee "sits" within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the United Nations system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

In his 1992 report, *An Agenda for Peace*, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali emphasized that in cases where preventive diplomacy fails and conflict erupts, the United Nations must respond through the combined mechanisms of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.[1] In 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established through General Assembly resolution 60/180 on "The Peacebuilding Commission" and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" as a subsidiary body of both organs.[2] PBC acts as an intergovernmental advisory body for the promotion and support of peacebuilding efforts to advance the broader international peace agenda.[3]

As defined in the 2000 *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations*, also known as the *Brahimi Report*, peacebuilding refers to rebuilding the foundations of peace and providing the tools to do so in post-conflict environments.[4] The report outlines the scope of peacebuilding activities to include: holding "free and fair elections" to ensure the legitimacy of a post-conflict government, building governmental institutions, "upholding the rule of law and respect for human rights," and promoting national reconciliation.[5]

Mandate, Function, and Powers

As an intergovernmental advisory body of both the General Assembly and Security Council, PBC is mainly responsible for supporting and advising on peace efforts, including in conflict-affected countries.[6] PBC is mandated to coordinate relevant actors to organize resources*;* provide advice on and propose strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery*;* focus on reconstruction and institution-building efforts for post-conflict recovery while laying the groundwork for sustainable development*;* and offer recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors both within and outside the United Nations.[7]

While the following list is not exhaustive, PBC's mandate can be summarized as follows:

- PBC **will generally**: make recommendations on advancing policy and programmatic efforts to ensure conditions for peace; convene meetings and high-level events; conduct field visits and engage with stakeholders on challenges in conflict-affected regions; encourage Member States and other bodies to coordinate peacebuilding efforts in transition and conflict-affected countries, including reconstruction,

[1] United Nations, General Assembly. *An Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping (A/47/277)*. 1992. p. 6.
[2] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.
[3] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*. N.d.
[4] United Nations, General Assembly, Security Council. *Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809*). 2000. p. 3.
[5] ibid. pp. 6-7.
[6] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.
[7] ibid.

institution-building, and sustainable development; monitor progress in priority areas; encourage financial support for peacebuilding.[8]

- PBC **will not generally**: directly and unilaterally intervene in a conflict or take effective action; provide peacekeeping personnel; enforce post-conflict measures.[9]

PBC has been encouraged to continuously assist relevant United Nations entities to convene all stakeholders under one consistent, nationally-owned approach to peacebuilding.[10] General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) on "Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture" and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" both emphasized the significance of PBC in fulfilling several functions, including bringing long-term international attention to sustaining peace and providing political support and advocacy to conflict-affected countries, with their consent.[11] PBC is tasked with creating an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding by providing recommendations on peacebuilding needs and priorities.[12]

PBC has an advisory role to not only the General Assembly, to which it reports annually, and the Security Council, but also the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).[13] PBC can establish country-specific configurations to bring together different stakeholders to draft a strategic framework establishing peacebuilding priorities, objectives, and risks, and serve as an action plan to carry out the committee's recommendations.[14]

Governance, Funding, and Structure

The work of PBC is carried out by its Organizational Committee, a consensus-building body with 31 Member States.[15] The membership is determined by the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC, each of which elects seven members.[16] The top five providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions and the top five providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and voluntary contributions to United Nations funds, programs, and agencies hold the remaining

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[8] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Mandate*. N.d.; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. pp. 2-4; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Role of the PBC Membership and the Relations with UN Principal Organs: Report by the Chair*. 2013. p. 5.
[9] ibid.
[10] United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262)*. 2016; United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/75/201)*. 2020; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. p. 2; United Nations, Security Council. *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (S/RES/2558 (2020))*. 2020; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/2282 (2016))*. 2016.
[11] ibid.; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/2282 (2016))*. 2016.
[12] ibid.
[13] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. p. 2; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.
[14] United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. 2010; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Working Methods Part (I)*. 2013.
[15] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d.
[16] ibid.

ten seats.[17] Regional balance is maintained by the General Assembly, which distributes seats last and to members of regional groups with little or no representation.[18] Members serve for two year renewable terms.[19] The European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the World Bank can also participate in PBC meetings.[20] PBC is assisted by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), which provides strategic advice, administers the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and coordinates with United Nations agencies.[21] PBF is a multi-donor trust fund created to support countries transitioning from conflict to a state of recovery in cases where other funding means are inadequate or unavailable.[22] PBC and PBF act in close coordination, with the PBC receiving briefings from the Chair of the PBF's Advisory Group on the PBF's work.[23]

[17] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d.
[18] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Aide-mémoire on the election to the membership of the PBC Organizational Committe*e. 2015.
[19] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Membership*. N.d.
[20] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)*. 2005; United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005.
[21] United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientatio*n. 2010. p. 37; United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *Peacebuilding Support Office*. N.d.
[22] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *The United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund*. N.d.
[23] United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/75/735)*. 2021.

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United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Aide-mémoire on the election to the membership of the PBC Organizational Committee*. 2015. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/151019_elections_to_the_oc.pdf

United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Informative Brochure. May 2022*. 2022. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc_brochure_eng.pdf

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United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office. *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*. 2010. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf

United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/1645 (2005))*. 2005. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1645(2005)

United Nations, Security Council. *Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (S/RES/2282 (2016))*. 2016. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2282(2016)

United Nations, Security Council. *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (S/RES/2558 (2020))*. 2020. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2558(2020)

1. Prevention and Peacebuilding in Fragile States

We need a holistic approach which prioritises prevention and addresses the root causes of conflict by integrating peace, sustainable development and human rights.[24]

Introduction

Peacebuilding is a complex, long-term process which aims at creating the necessary conditions for lasting peace.[25] The United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) defines peacebuilding as activities designed to decrease the risk of conflict recurrence by enhancing national capacities for conflict management at all levels, thereby laying the groundwork for sustainable peace and development.[26] Peacebuilding activities often struggle to gain traction in unstable situations where other pressing issues, such as state fragility, take precedence.[27] As such, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) provides a platform for a variety of actors to engage in discussions on prevention and peacebuilding, in particular in contexts of fragility.[28]

Prevention and peacebuilding in fragile states are critical approaches to address institutional weaknesses, reducing vulnerability to conflict, and fostering long-term stability.[29] The International Monetary Fund (IMF) identifies the characteristics of a fragile state as having weaknesses in institutional and policy implementation, a contentious political environment, severe limitations on domestic resources, and high susceptibility to shocks.[30] Conflict, violence, and human rights violations are some of the primary challenges in addressing poverty and broader fragility.[31] The World Bank Group projects that by 2030, up to 60% of the world's poorest population could be living in areas marked by fragility.[32] In 2023, the World Bank Group also estimates that nearly 110 million individuals were subjugated to human rights violations ranging from forced displacement to unlawful persecution within fragile states.[33]

A comprehensive prevention and peacebuilding strategy requires the Member States to address various forms of issues.[34] Prevention involves proactive measures to address the underlying causes of violence and instability as not all regions in conflict are considered fragile states, but most fragile states are currently in conflict.[35] A renewed commitment to acknowledging prevention and peacebuilding within

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[24] United Nations, Secretary-General. *Secretary-General's remarks to the General Assembly high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace [as delivered]*. 2018.
[25] Marley. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Peacebuilding in Fragile Contexts*. 2020. p. 13.
[26] United Nations, Department of Peace Operations Peacekeeping. *Terminology.* N.d.
[27] Marley. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Peacebuilding in Fragile Contexts*. 2020. p. 8.
[28] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *About the Commission*. N.d.
[29] Marley. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Peacebuilding in Fragile Contexts*. 2020. p. 8.
[30] International Labour Organization. *Selected definitions and characteristics of "fragile states" by key international actors*. 2016.
[31] Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. *Poverty Reduction through Conflict and Disaster Reduction*. 2022.
[32] World Bank Group. *Maximizing the Impact of the World Bank Group in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations*. 2018. p. 31.
[33] World Bank Group. *Fragility, Conflict, and Violence*. 2024.
[34] ibid.
[35] Grono. International Crisis Group. *Fragile States and Conflict*. 2010.

fragile states starts with resolving the lack of preventative strategies that address the different actors and perpetrators of violence and fragility.[36] DPO notes that it is important to develop preventative and peacebuilding strategies that bring hostile and relevant parties to a negotiated agreement that address important sectors and issues that contribute to a Member States' continued fragility.[37]

Peacebuilding at the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus and the role of the private sector are critical to prevention efforts in fragile states.[38] The HDP or triple nexus refers to the interconnectedness between humanitarian, development, and peace actions, particularly in crises and conflict settings.[39] The HDP nexus highlights that stakeholders and partners within these areas should collaborate more effectively in addressing people's needs, reducing risks and vulnerabilities, and working towards long-term sustainable peace.[40] Similarly, for Member States affected by fragility, private sector development plays a critical role in providing jobs and income.[41] These fragile states most commonly face high levels of debt, so private sector development can mobilize financial resources without increasing the debt burden.[42]

International and Regional Framework

Protecting human rights is integral to both prevention and building peace in fragile states.[43] The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) affirms that every individual's right to dignity, justice, and peace is indivisible regardless of current economic, political, or societal instability.[44] The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) recognized that the responsibilities of Member States is to promote the universal respect for and observance of human rights and freedoms regardless of political climate.[45] These human rights treaties are central to prevention and peacebuilding efforts in fragile states, as they provide a foundation for addressing grievances, building trust, and creating stable governance structures that reduce the risk of conflict and violence.[46] Historically, fragile states have reported issues of non-compliance with United Nations treaties and human rights frameworks in uncontrolled regions.[47]

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[36] United Nations, Secretary-General. *Our Common Agenda Policy: Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace*. 2023. p. 19.
[37] United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. *Terminology.* N.d.
[38] European Commission. *HDP Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities for its Implementation*. 2022. p. 63.
[39] Nguya et al. Global Challenges Research Fund. *The Triple Nexus (H-D-P) and the Implications for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement.* 2020. p. 2.
[40] ibid. p. 2.
[41] Spicer et al. World Bank Blogs. *The private sector—an engine for growth and stability in fragile countries*. 2019.
[42] ibid.
[43] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *The Contribution of Human Rights to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*. N.d.; Mulvey. Forced Migration Review. *The Displaced Claiming their Rights in Fragile States*. 2024.
[44] United States Institute of Peace. *The Right to Peace: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70*. 2018.
[45] United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.
[46] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Human rights, prevention of conflict or crisis and building resilience*. 2024.
[47] Berkes. *Compliance of Territorial Fragile States with International Human Rights Law*. 2021. p. 17.

Preventive diplomacy and global cooperation are essential for addressing modern geopolitical challenges.[48] In 2023, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres' presented his framework strategy for cooperative efforts towards international peace and security called *A New Agenda for Peace*.[49] Building on his predecessor's *Agenda for Peace* (1992), the *New Agenda for Peace* responds to mounting geopolitical tensions, skepticism about global cooperation and open violations of international law, such as human right violations and peacebuilding by promoting the development of innovative strategies that address the causes of conflict and fragility.[50] To enhance the effectiveness of multilateral prevention and peacebuilding efforts, the framework recommends Member States to shift the focus towards prioritizing conflict prevention and the sustaining of peace, while furthering implementation of *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) to tackle the root causes of violence and insecurity.[51]

Current efforts to ensure prevention and peacebuilding are mainstreamed through key initiatives.[52] Adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the *Pact for the Future* (2024) acknowledges the interconnectedness of international peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights, and reaffirms the importance of the rule of law.[53] Action 44 of the *P*act emphasizes strengthening PBC by enhancing its role through the 2025 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.[54] The Pact aims to take a more strategic and cohesive approach to national and international peacebuilding efforts.[55] The Pact thus recommends the expansion of PBC's role as a platform for peacebuilding and sharing best practices among Member States, while also mobilizing political and financial support to prevent conflict relapse.[56] In addition, the Pact aims to strengthen PBC's involvement in supporting Member States' national peacebuilding efforts, while also bolstering PBC's collaboration with civil society, NGOs, women's organizations, and the private sector.[57]

Sustainable development is central to peacebuilding and ensuring long-term stability in fragile states.[58] In 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets.[59] SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.[60] Given this objective and its relationship to development and peacebuilding, some of the targets that require the most attention are SDG target 16.1 on reducing violence everywhere, SDG target 16.5 on substantially reducing corruption and bribery, and SDG target 16.4 on combating organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows.[61]

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[48] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Securing a peaceful future*. N.d.
[49] United Nations, Secretary-General. *Our Common Agenda Policy: Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace*. 2023.
[50] United Nations Institute for Training and Research. *Building Capacities to Further the New Agenda for Peace*. 2024.
[51] United Nations, Secretary-General. *Our Common Agenda Policy: Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace*. 2023. p. 15.
[52] United Nations, General Assembly. *The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1)*. 2024.
[53] ibid. p. 2.
[54] ibid.
[55] ibid.
[56] ibid.
[57] ibid.
[58] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission*. 2016. p. 2.
[59] ibid. p. 1.
[60] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Make the SDGs a Reality*. N.d.
[61] ibid.

Role of the International System

PBC plays a vital role as the primary intergovernmental platform for all relevant stakeholders on prevention and peacebuilding.[62] Within its mandate, PBC can bring together United Nations actors and entities, international financial institutions (IFIs), and civil societies to discuss peacebuilding and prevention on violence and conflict in fragile contexts.[63] This role was further highlighted during the 2022 Arria Meeting of the Security Council on Transitioning from Conflict and Fragility in Peace through Sustainable Development.[64] As such, in June 2023, PBC convened an ambassadorial-level meeting between representatives of the Republic of Honduras, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and other civil societies to address the outbreak of violence and the necessity of financial support during Honduras's transition in fragile contexts.[65]

PBC is an important component of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture together with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) within the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).[66] PBF provides financial resources available to Member States addressing fragile contexts and promoting peaceful transitions.[67] PBSO helps muster international support for Member States engaged in prevention and peacebuilding measures from state fragility and conflict.[68] DPPA's main goal is to support the Secretary-General's peacebuilding initiatives through involvement with the peacebuilding process and conflict preventative mediation.[69] As an office within DPPA, PBSO functions as the support team for PBC's meetings.[70]

The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture is primarily aimed at supporting governments and their citizens in preventing the outbreak, escalation, and recurrence of conflict.[71] The Security Council adopted resolution 2282 (2016) on the "Post-conflict peacebuilding" that called for the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture to conduct a review of all peacebuilding activities conducted by Peacebuilding Architecture every five years.[72] This annual review focuses on addressing existing issues and gaps within current prevention and peacebuilding measures with the goal of revising or addressing factors that impact peacebuilding.[73] In 2025, the Peacebuilding Architecture Review will

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[62] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Peacebuilding Commission Well-positioned to Bring Together Agendas of United Nations Organs, Says Its New Chair, Outlining 2024 Priorities (PBC/145)*. 2024.
[63] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Meeting and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission-2023*. 2023.
[64] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council 20 December 2022 Inputs for the PBC Chair's remarks*. 2022. p. 1.
[65] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Meeting and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission-2023*. 2023.
[66] The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. *2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review*. 2024.
[67] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The Peacebuilding Fund Strategy 2020-2024*. 2020. p. 8.
[68] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *What we do*. N.d.
[69] ibid..
[70] ibid.
[71] The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review. 2024.
[72] ibid.
[73] ibid.

reevaluate United Nations peacebuilding initiatives, emphasizing the execution and results of United Nations work on peacebuilding at the local level, to prevent the recurrence of state fragility and conflict.[74]

Prevention and peacebuilding activities in fragile contexts are also covered by a variety of actors and entities within the United Nations system and beyond.[75] The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides development support to countries in fragile contexts, helps implement Security Council mandates, and assists in developing local economies as part of its peacebuilding activities.[76] Similarly, the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) works with UNDP to develop infrastructure projects in the context of peacebuilding activities.[77] Beyond the United Nations system, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development helps (OECD) Member States promote judicial reform in fragile contexts to ensure the upholding of human rights of vulnerable groups and prevent further state fragility.[78]

Multilateral development banks (MDBs) and IFIs are able to help address fragility by funding prevention and peacebuilding activities.[79] PBSO fosters close relations with IFIs to develop strategies, like the *United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations*, that enable Member States and non-state actors to effectively identify indicators of fragility and violence during pre- and post-conflict situations.[80] This becomes particularly important as financial aid to fragile regions has been uneven and continuously declining due decreasing official development assistance.[81] IFIs and MDBs have recognized the linkage between poverty and fragility; thus, they have partnered with the PBSO to provide financial strategies geared toward the needs of regions in fragile and conflict-affected situations.[82] The *Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa* (2022-2026) is an example of the effectiveness of PBC and PBF's collaboration with an MDB.[83] This strategy developed a financial partnership between PBF and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support fragile states through the usage of Transition Support Facility (TSF).[84] The TSF will help combine available resources from the banks and other financial sources to enable Member States to identify, respond, and prevent situations that contribute to state fragility.[85]

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[74] ibid.
[75] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *States of Fragility 2022*. 2022; Marley. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Peacebuilding in Fragile Context*. 2020.
[76] United Nations Development Programme. *Breaking the Cycle of Fragility*. 2024.
[77] ibid.
[78] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *States of Fragility 2022*. 2022; Marley. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Peacebuilding in Fragile Context*. 2020. p. 17.
[79] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Peacebuilding Commission Well-positioned to Bring Together Agendas of United Nations Organs, Says Its New Chair, Outlining 2024 Priorities (PBC/145)*. 2024.
[80] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *The Peacebuilding Fund Strategy 2020-2024*. 2020.
[81] ibid. p. 8.
[82] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *IFI Partnership*. N.d.
[83] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *UN-African Development Bank-PBSO Partnership in Peacebuilding*. N.d.
[84] ibid.
[85] ibid.

Prevention and Peacebuilding at the Triple Nexus in Fragile Contexts

Fragile and conflict-affected are falling behind in achieving the SDGs.[86] The poorest performers of progress towards achieving the SDGs were fragile and conflict-affected states, which are expected to have a population of 2.3 billion people by 2030.[87] As a result, poverty in Member States in fragile contexts will also increase.[88] Similarly, Member States affected by fragility are falling furthest behind in achieving sustainable development.[89] This underlines that a major development obstacle that compromises attempts to eradicate extreme poverty in both middle- and low-income states are fragility, conflict, and violence.[90] In order to comprehensively address fragile contexts, there is an increasing need for integrating efforts at the HDP nexus with peacebuilding initiatives.[91] This involves humanitarian, development, and peace actors collaborating to address people's needs, reduce risks and vulnerabilities, and progress toward sustainable peace.[92] In 2024, around 300 million people worldwide required humanitarian aid and protection, with the majority of these needs arising from conflict.[93] Thus, in order to inform strategies that can ultimately lead to peace, humanitarians should also conduct conflict analyses, implement conflict-sensitive programming, and, when appropriate, work in conjunction with peace actors to leverage the benefits of the HDP nexus.[94]

Strengthening country ownership in prevention and peacebuilding addresses many underlying causes of fragile contexts.[95] In practical terms, this means that development and humanitarian actors work to ensure a country or government has the means to handle issues themselves after a certain time period.[96] For example, humanitarian and development actors might aim to reduce cholera infections in a city to zero in three to five years, by working side-by-side with local governments.[97] This approach acknowledges that in protracted situations, humanitarian and development actors need to work in a collaborative manner with local and national authorities.[98] Through a range of well-aligned short, medium and long-term interventions by a diverse range of actors, the *New Way Of Working* (2017) developed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, sets the path for contributing to collective outcomes to reduce humanitarian need, risks and vulnerabilities and set the ground for peacebuilding and prevention in fragile contexts.[99] Similarly, increasing evidence shows the correlation and interdependence between peace and

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[86] World Bank Group. *Fragility, Conflict, and Violence*. 2024.
[87] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *States of Fragility 2022*. 2022. p. 6.; United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Offer on SDG Implementation in Fragile Situations*. 2016. p. 6.
[88] United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Offer on SDG Implementation in Fragile Situations*. 2016. p. 6.
[89] Bousquet. IMF Blog. *Fragile and Conflicted-Affected Economies are Falling Further Behind*. 2022.
[90] World Bank Group. *Fragility, Conflict, and Violence*. 2024.
[91] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus*. 2024.
[92] Nguya et al. Global Challenges Research Fund. *The Triple Nexus (H-D-P) and the Implications for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement*. 2020. p. 2.
[93] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2024*. 2023. p. 4; United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus*. 2024.
[94] Nguya et al. Global Challenges Research Fund. *The Triple Nexus (H-D-P) and the Implications for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement*. 2020. p. 2.
[95] ibid. p. 2.
[96] United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. *Realizing the triple nexus: Experiences from implementing the human security approach*. 2021. p. 12.
[97] ibid. p. 12.
[98] ibid. p. 12.
[99] United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *The New Way Of Working*. 2017.

development.[100] Peace goes beyond merely the absence of violence; it involves maintaining and nurturing peaceful societies.[101] While there has been significant attention on linking humanitarian aid with long-term development, progress is often limited when coflict prevention is not addressed.[102] PBSO uses its coordinating position to bring together humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors, fostering coherence within the United Nations system to make the triple nexus a practical reality.[103]

The triple nexus approach in fragile contexts is also central to PBC's work.[104] Its annual meetings with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consistently highlight the linkages between humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.[105] Similarly, Member States at a PBC meeting in February 2024 emphasized the importance of triple nexus approaches in general peacebuilding activities, which they highlighted as an integral part of the *New Agenda for Peace*.[106] More specifically, the humanitarian and development actors in the context of peacebuilding are underpinned by the importance of partnerships to address the situations of fragile and conflict-affected states.[107]

Private Sector Development in Fragile States

Private sector development is essential for economic growth and poverty reduction in fragile contexts.[108] Fragile states are often unable to overcome their fragile contexts due to lack of financial resources to supplement their peacebuilding initiatives.[109] Private sector development is the process of developing infrastructure, institutions, markets, and other instruments to overcome the financial instability through increasing information sharing, improving resource allocation, and prompting greater financial investments.[110] The World Bank Group reported that the development of a Member State's private sector can yield between a 0.6-1.2% increase in annual per capita income that can help Member States escape the cycle of fragility.[111] The relationship between state fragility and private development requires Member States to address their financial gaps at the risk of failing to escape fragile.[112]

Historically, the private enterprises did not contribute to peacebuilding unless fragility and conflict impacted their business opportunities.[113] Even then, some businesses are able to continue operations in

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[100] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Input of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding to the New Agenda for Peace*. 2023. p. 2.
[101] ibid. p. 2.
[102] United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus*. N.d.
[103] ibid.
[104] ibid.
[105] ibid.
[106] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Peacebuilding Commission: Eighteenth session (PBC/18/OC/SR.1)*. 2024. pp. 3-8.
[107] United Nations, Security Council. *Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session (S/2022/89)*. 2022. p. 19.
[108] Utterwulghe. World Bank Blogs. *Fostering Private Sector Development in Fragile States: A Piece of Cake*. 2014.
[109] ibid.
[110] Calice. World Bank Group. *Financial Sector Policy in Fragile States - A Primer*. 2024. p. 15.
[111] ibid. p. 15.
[112] ibid. p. 15.
[113] Amadiegwu et al. World Economic Forum. *Mobilizing the Private Sector for Peace and Reconciliation*. 2020. p. 4.

conflict environments, leading to a potential indifference towards engaging in peacebuilding activities.[114] However, private sector development plays a crucial role in prevention and peacebuilding by fostering economic stability and opportunity.[115] In fragile states, vulnerabilities resulting from low per capita income and lack of employment opportunities further contributes to instability and promotes violence.[116] Fragile states are characterized as having weak pre-existing financial institutions and inadequate private sector development.[117] Private sector development can help break the cycle of fragility by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth that address the grievances stemming from local businesses that experienced economic exclusion during state fragility.[118]

Fragile states cannot support the development of its private sector and financial institutions alone.[119] National debt is one of the main factors that contribute to state fragility.[120] Ongoing civil unrest, weak infrastructure, and lack of regulatory frameworks often prevent fragile states from amassing the financial resources needed to revitalize their economy and develop their private sector.[121] Without private sector investment, fragile states will have limited options in implementing peacebuilding initiatives without further burdening the national debts.[122] Member States, like Côte d'Ivoire, have sought financial support from IFIs, like the World Bank and its International Finance Corporation, to support private sector development and peacebuilding activities.[123] In this context, PBC can promote private sector development by implementing public-private dialogues through its convening power and by engaging a variety of stakeholders, including the private sector, in peacebuilding dialogue.[124] PBC's annual meeting with ECOSOC in 2018 centered around building partnerships with the private sector to build and sustain peace.[125] Similarly, its first meeting outside of United Nations Headquarters in Cartagena, Columbia in January 2020, not only promoted local solutions but also leverage the fincial power of the private sector for peacebuilding.[126]

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[114] ibid. p. 4.
[115] Ganson. Institute for Security Studies. *Private sector development in fragile states: a peacebuilding approach*. 2024. p. 2.
[116] Independent Evaluation Group. *IEG Insights: The Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States*. 2011.
[117] Ghossein et al. World Bank Blogs. *Business environment reforms in fragile and conflict-affected situations: What works and why?*. 2023.
[118] Ganson. Institute for Security Studies. *Private sector development in fragile states: a peacebuilding approach*. 2024. p. 3.
[119] ibid. p. 2.
[120] Spicer et al. World Bank Blogs. *The private sector—an engine for growth and stability in fragile countries*. 2019.
[121] Calice. World Bank Blogs. *From chaos to stability: The power of financial reforms in fragile states*. 2024.
[122] Spicer et al. World Bank Blogs. *The private sector—an engine for growth and stability in fragile countries*. 2019.
[123] ibid.
[124] Ganson. Institute for Security Studies. *Private sector development in fragile states: a peacebuilding approach*. 2024. p. 3.
[125] ibid. p. 3.
[126] ibid. p. 3.

Conclusion

Prevention and peacebuilding are essential to restore state capacity in fragile contexts.[127] Conflict, poverty, and financial instability are primary contributors to state fragility.[128] Preventative strategies, inclusive financial support, and humanitarian aid can have immense impact on prevention and sustaining peace.[129] PBC is the primary global forum dedicated to discussions around prevention and peacebuilding with the power to bridge the gap between the United Nations and other actors.[130] Prevention and peacebuilding measures address the outbreak of violence and fragility within a triple nexus approach.[131] In addition, preventative and peacebuilding strategies require the financial support of private sector development to prevent recurrence of fragility.[132]

Further Research

As delegates further research the topic, they may consider: How can PBC ensure inclusion of key state and non-state actors towards addressing fragility? Keeping in mind its mandate, how can PBC initiate address prevention and peacebuilding of fragile states? What can PBC do to follow the principles and guidelines in the *New Agenda for Peace* (2023)? What are some potential findings that the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review will provide to the PBC to address state fragility? What can PBC do to ensure cooperation between private sector actors to promote peacebuilding during periods of fragility and conflict?

[127] Peace Operations Training Institute. *Peacebuilding*. 2019.
[128] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *States of Fragility 2022*. 2022.
[129] ibid..
[130] Day et al. United Nations University Center for Policy Research. *Evaluating the UN Peacebuilding Commission: Proposals for Summit of the Future*. p. 2.
[131] United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Offer on SDG Implementation in Fragile Situations*. 2016. p. 6.
[132] Ganson. Institute for Security Studies. *Private sector development in fragile states: a peacebuilding approach*. 2024. p. 3.

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2. Integrating Refugees in Peacebuilding Frameworks

Introduction

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) emphasizes the importance of integrating refugees into national development plans and ensuring their access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.[133] Due to recent conflicts, an estimated 117.3 million people were displaced by the end of 2023.[134] The *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951) (1951 Convention) defines refugees as individuals unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or their political opinion.[135] PBC supports refugee integration through country-specific peacebuilding frameworks to foster long-term development in post-conflict regions.[136] Peacebuilding, according to PBC mandate, involves restoring security, law and order, rebuilding and revitalizing the economy, fostering reconciliation and social recovery, and guiding political transitions toward more accountable governance structures.[137] The Secretary-General's Policy Committee similarly defines peacebuilding as a set of actions aimed at reducing the risk of conflict by strengthening a country's ability to manage disputes and establishing the groundwork for lasting peace and development.[138] Member States face challenges managing the responsibilities of local economies, internal politics, and infrastructure development; however, the pressing need to integrate refugees highlights the urgency of taking action to ensure self-sufficiency.[139] For example, the Central African Republic Configuration of PBC is a mobilized support group of peacebuilding officers that advocate for the restoration of state authority, planning for local elections, and investment in economic development.[140] Without structural reform to integrate refugees into peacebuilding frameworks, refugees are vulnerable to relapsing conflicts.[141]

Refugees' accessibility to financial opportunities contributes to the creation of sustainable and lasting solutions and promotes refugees' socioeconomic integration within host communities.[142] Around 22% of the global refugee population, an estimated 6.6 million, live in refugee camps.[143] Refugee camps are meant to be temporary emergency solutions, but prolonged crises often force people to live there for years, in difficult conditions where their needs go unmet.[144] Similarly, out-of-camp refugees face

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[133] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Expert-level meeting on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on-Youth, Education and Peacebuilding*. 2024.
[134] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2023*. 2024.
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[139] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The Challenge of Local Government Financing in Developing Countries*. 2017. p. 8; World Economic Forum. *How We Can Advance Sustainable Economies in Developing Countries Hosting Refugees*. 2023.
[140] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission*. 2024.
[141] World Economic Forum. *How We Can Advance Sustainable Economies in Developing Countries Hosting Refugees*. 2023.
[142] ibid.
[143] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Refugee Camps Explained*. 2021.
[144] ibid.

challenges in sub-standard dwellings and working in informal jobs, making it difficult to meet the daily needs to sustain their quality of life.[145] Fostering self-help through work opportunities increases the freedom of movement to engage in social activities by developing skills, aspirations, and responsibilities that contribute to the well-being of both the refugees and their host community.[146]

International and Regional Framework

Several key frameworks combine to form the bedrock of international protections for refugees in times of conflict such as the 1951 Convention and the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949).[147] The 1951 Convention established a legal framework for refugees' rights and obligations between states and refugees, including the right to work and legal status.[148] Following this, the *1967 Protocol Relating to The Status of Refugees* included the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits the return of refugees to territories where their lives or freedom would be threatened.[149] Finally, the *1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions* was divided into two protocols to address the right to fight against colonial domination and the rights of victims.[150] Protocol I expanded protections to victims of international conflicts, while Protocol II outlined protections for victims of non-international armed conflicts, such as civil wars.[151]

The economic and social well-being of refugees is important to achieving lasting peace.[152] For example, Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic Cultural and Social Rights (1966) recognizes the right of everyone to a decent living for themselves and their families.[153] A particular focus on youth is highlighted in The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989) which establishes rights that ensure the protection and well-being of children through non-discrimination, education, and health.[154]

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[145] World Economic Forum. *How We Can Advance Sustainable Economies in Developing Countries Hosting Refugees*. 2023.
[146] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Expert-level meeting on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture on-Youth, Education and Peacebuilding*. 2024.
[147] *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. 1949.; United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons. *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*. 1951.
[148] United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons. *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*. 1951. p. 2.
[149] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Executive Committee. *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*. 1967.
[150] Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1)*. 1977; Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)*. 1977.
[151] Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1)*. 1977; Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)*. 1977.
[152] United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.
[153] ibid.
[154] United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989.

Article 22 of the CRC emphasizes that states must take appropriate measures to ensure refugee children receive the necessary protection and humanitarian assistance.[155] Building on this commitment, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) (New York Declaration) aims to enhance global cooperation by establishing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).[156] Objective 4 of the declaration emphasizes the importance of providing all migrants with proof of legal identity and adequate documentation to access national services.[157] In addition, objective 6 commits to the review of fair facilitation and ethical recruitment that ensure decent work to migrants to maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination.[158] The CRRF aims to expand access to resettlement in developing countries offering refugees more options for finding durable solutions such as local integration, resettlement and voluntary repatriation.[159]

The 2023 Joint Meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and PBC highlighted the need to integrate peacebuilding with humanitarian, development, and peace efforts in post-conflict situations.[160] The Committee discussed action agendas for the Summit of the Future as a tool to address emerging global challenges, strengthen multilateralism, and incorporate peacebuilding frameworks into international and regional governance structures.[161] The objective of the meeting was guided by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[162] These SDGs extend the principles of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) into actionable goals that address global challenges, aiming to ensure dignity, equality, and well-being for all.[163] The Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit, General Assembly resolution 78/1, reinforced the connection between refugees and development by calling for the inclusion of refugees within peacebuilding frameworks, emphasizing the importance of leaving no one behind in global efforts to achieve the SDGs.[164]

Role of the International System

PBC serves as an advisory body to the Security Council and ECOSOC, playing a pivotal role in promoting peace and security through the approval and adoption of various strategic frameworks in post-conflict countries.[165] The Chair of PBC proposed a Sustainable Peace Network to enhance the Commission's advisory capacity, including developing national prevention strategies and forging systemic ties with

[155] ibid.
[156] United Nations, General Assembly. *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. 2016.
[157] United Nations, General Assembly. *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/RES/73/195)*. 2018.
[158] ibid.
[159] United Nations, General Assembly. *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. 2016.
[160] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission*. 2023.
[161] ibid.
[162] ibid.
[163] United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.
[164] United Nations, General Assembly. *Political Declaration adopted at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2023 (A/RES/78/1)*. 2023.
[165] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Chair's Summary of PBC Ministerial Level Meeting*. 2023.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to address the peacebuilding needs of countries and regions under consideration.[166] As a result, PBC has increased its focus on the regional dimensions of peacebuilding and enhanced cooperation with regional organizations through strategic frameworks.[167] These efforts aim to address the complex peacebuilding needs of countries and regions recovering from conflict, thereby supporting the stability of host nations and the effective integration of refugees.[168] During the 2023 joint meeting, ECOSOC and PBC met to discuss peacebuilding efforts involving displaced persons created by recurring and protracted crises to improve access to proper documentation, national services, and economic opportunities.[169] The Joint committee highlighted the Peacebuilding Fund project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in South Sudan's transitional justice program to include Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) views when considering the violations committed against them.[170]

In February of 2021, PBC approved a Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding to guide and monitor the Commission's efforts in strengthening the critical role of youth in peacebuilding.[171] This program aims to better integrate youth perspectives into its country-specific and strategic engagements through consultations..[172] Refugee youth often struggle to obtain quality education in their host countries, compromising their professional and personal development.[173] Without opportunities for education, vocational training, and employment, young people are more susceptible to violence or extremist activities.[174] As of 2022, 73 million youth are unemployed as a result of conflict or fragile states.[175] International actors have partnered to coordinate skills workshops, educational classes, and mental health resources aimed at preventing youth involvement in conflict.[176] Aligned with SDG 3 (good health and well-being), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides mental health services to children and adolescents in crises, including those displaced by conflict.[177] UNICEF programs include psychological first aid, trauma counseling, and support for caregivers allowing room for SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth that advocates for youth development.[178] Likewise, SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) attempts to address disparities between and within countries.[179]

PBC collaborates with international organizations (IGOs) to integrate refugees by focusing on sustainable participation through interagency coordination, producing policy guidance for both regional and global

[166] ibid.
[167] ibid.
[168] ibid.
[169] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission*. 2023.
[170] ibid.
[171] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *The Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding*. 2022.
[172] ibid.
[173] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Middle East and North Africa*. 2023.
[174] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *From Despair to Hope: Children Beyond Armed Conflict*. 2022.
[175] International Labour Organization. *Recovery in youth employment is still lagging*. 2022.
[176] African Union. *Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development*. 2022.
[177] United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015; United Nations Children's Fund. *No Lost Generation*. 2022.
[178] ibid.
[179] ibid.

applications.[180] Within the (Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, in Mauritania, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement a vocational training center in the Mbera Camp.[181] At the end of 2018, the vocational center was projected to train more than 6,000 refugees and young members of the host population.[182] Similarly, ILO's *Jobs for Resilience* program empowers economic resilience by providing job training, skills development, and access to employment in post-conflict areas.[183] PBC and the Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs lead the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda that aims to highlight the meaningful role of youth in peace processes.[184] PBSO, with UNDP, leads Youth4Peace, an initiative harnessing the energy and creativity of young people through various training, mentorship, and engagement activities to help integrate refugees into peacebuilding frameworks.[185] In addition, UNESCO works to empower youth initiatives to participate in intercultural dialogue and social cohesion within host countries.[186] UNICEF also addresses the needs of children and youth by using digital and conventional platforms to launch the “No lost generation” initiative to voice the priorities and perspectives of adolescents.[187]

Partnerships between IGOs and civil society organizations, such as those of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), play critical roles in advocating for marginalized populations.[188] UN Women emphasizes the importance of gender equality and empowerment in humanitarian settings, highlighted by its Second Chance Education initiative, which provides education and vocational training opportunities to women and girls affected by crises.[189] IRC provides humanitarian aid, including education, economic assistance, and responses to gender-based violence (GBV) in refugee settings as a pathway for structural reform.[190] Alongside these initiatives, Security Council resolution 1325 on “Women and Peace and Security” (2000) aligns with PBC’s mission to support refugees by fostering inclusive and sustainable development in post-conflict settings.[191] Operative clause 12 of the resolution calls for the inclusion of women and girls in peacebuilding processes, emphasizing both the disproportionate impact that armed conflict has on them and the important role they play in conflict prevention.[192] The Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian

[180] International Labour Organization. *Mbera Refugee Camp in Mauritania: ILO Training for Young People in Building Trades*. 2020.
[181] ibid.
[182] ibid.
[183] International Labour Organization. *Jobs for Peace and Resilience*. 2023.
[184] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *About Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch*. 2023.
[185] United Nations Development Programme. *Youth, Peace and Security: Fostering Youth-Inclusive Political Processes*. 2024. p. 104.
[186] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Supporting refugees and migrants through ensuring their cultural rights and participation in cultural life.* N.d.
[187] United Nations Children’s Fund. *No Lost Generation*. 2022.
[188] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response*. 2019.
[189] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Second Chance Education hub handbook: A safe space to learn, connect and thrive*. 2023.
[190] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Global Report on Gender-Based Violence in Refugee Settings*. 2023. p. 15.
[191] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Chair's Summary of PBC Ministerial Level Meeting*. 2023; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000.
[192] United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000.

Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey initiative aligns with Security Council resolution 1325 by focusing on empowering women and girls affected by the Syrian conflict.[193] It emphasizes their resilience and supports their integration into host communities through vocational, educational, and social training programs.[194] The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) within Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) with a focus on women and girls' empowerment to help with reintegration into society.[195]

Regional policies play a crucial role in mitigating conflict and supporting the reintegration of refugees by integrating their voices to shape sustainable, long-term solutions.[196] The African Union's (AU) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy and Jordan's Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 demonstrate comprehensive approaches to addressing these challenges.[197] The PCRD Policy, adopted in 2006, provides a framework for African states to recover from conflict emphasizing political governance, security, and socio-economic development.[198] PCRD advocates for inclusive, people-centered reconstruction efforts focusing on safety, access to justice, and the rule of law.[199] Jordan's Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 empowers refugees through educational programs, financial services, and vocational training.[200] This strategy integrates humanitarian assistance with development goals, promoting sustainable outcomes through improved education access and social cohesion.[201] Additionally, UNDP's Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) and Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) provide critical training and resources to enhance the livelihoods of refugees and host communities across Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan.[202]

Structural Reform for Refugees within the MENA Region

The MENA region hosts a significant number of refugees, leading to immense pressure on countries' infrastructures, necessitating structural reforms.[203] As of 2023, the MENA region had approximately 15.7 million refugees under UNHCR's oversight, highlighting the region's ongoing challenges due to conflict and instability.[204] In Jordan, the presence of over 660 thousand Syrian refugees has strained local infrastructure, leading to overburdened schools and healthcare systems.[205] Discrimination in host

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[193] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey*. 2023; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000.
[194] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey*. 2023.
[195] World Health Organization. *Introducing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies*. 2023.
[196] African Union. *Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development*. 2022.
[197] ibid.
[198] ibid.
[199] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 Summary: UNHCR Jordan*. 2023.
[200] African Union. *Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development*. 2022. p. 2.
[201] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Provisional Annual Programme of Work of the Peacebuilding Commission*. 2024.
[202] United Nations Development Programme. *Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP)*. 2023; Global Compact on Refugees. *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)*. 2015.
[203] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Mid-Year Trends 2022*. 2022.
[204] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Middle East and North Africa 2023 Overview*. 2023.
[205] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 Summary: UNHCR Jordan*. 2023.

countries complicates refugee integration and undermines basic human rights guaranteed by the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which emphasize non-discrimination and the right to seek asylum.[206] Syrian and Palestinian refugees face increased discrimination amid Lebanon's economic crisis, with restrictions on basic needs and enforced curfews.[207] Discrimination exacerbates the challenges refugees face in accessing resources, leading to social tension and instability.[208] According to the New York Declaration, addressing discrimination through legal frameworks and community initiatives is crucial to creating social cohesion and achieving SDG 16.[209] The declaration outlines essential elements for addressing these challenges through the CRRF as it emphasizes shared responsibility and urges host countries to reduce discriminatory practices and ensure equitable access to services.[210]

Improving integration policies can enhance the social and economic contributions of refugees.[211] In Egypt, the large influx of Sudanese and Syrian refugees has led to increased job competition with locals.[212] This highlights the need for policies that support both refugee integration and local employment.[213] UNHCR notes that structural reforms should include integration programs that facilitate access to education, healthcare, and employment for refugees.[214] For example, Uganda's Progressive Approach to Refugee Management framework provides refugees with land for farming; access to public services such as education and healthcare; and integrates them into the local economy.[215] Refugees in Uganda are granted the right to work and move freely, helping many become self-sufficient and contribute to the local economy.[216] Similarly, Jordan's Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 supports the economic empowerment of refugees by implementing vocational training programs and job placement services.[217] In line with SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), these strategies aim to mitigate the pressures on host communities' infrastructures, foster positive interactions between them and refugees, and enhance the region's stability.[218]

Investing in education and vocational training for refugees is essential for their integration and economic contribution.[219] These investments can equip refugees with the skills to participate in the labor market, reducing competition with locals and fostering economic development, in line with SDG 4 (quality

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[206] Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2023: Lebanon*. 2023; United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons. *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*. 1951; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Executive Committee. *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*. 1967.
[207] Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2023: Lebanon*. 2023.
[208] ibid.
[209] United Nations, General Assembly. *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*. 2016.
[210] ibid.
[211] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *The role of host countries: the cost and impact of hosting refugees (EC/62/SC/CRP.18)*. 2011.
[212] ibid.
[213] Fallah et al. *The Impact of Refugees on Employment and Wages in Jordan*. 2018.
[214] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Integration Programs Handbook*. 2024.
[215] World Bank Group. *Uganda's Progressive Approach to Refugee Management*. 2016; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Integration Programs Handbook*. 2024.
[216] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Integration Programs Handbook*. 2024.
[217] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Multi-Year Strategy 2023-2025 Summary: UNHCR Jordan*. 2023.
[218] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Written Assessment on the Implementation of the PBC Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding*. 2022.
[219] United Nations Development Programme. *Building Resilience Through Livelihoods and Economic Recovery*. 2023.

education) and SDG 8.[220] For example, in Lebanon, addressing the high unemployment rates among Syrian refugee youth through vocational training can prevent their recruitment into illegal activities and contribute to long-term stability.[221] UNDP's Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) supported the restoration of livelihoods by donating funds for the recovery of local enterprises affected by the Beirut Blast.[222] ILO promotes decent work for refugees through its *Jobs for Peace and Resilience* program, by enhancing employment opportunities and conditions for refugees and host communities in the MENA region.[223] In support of ILO's efforts, PBC has worked to ensure that refugee integration efforts are aligned with broader peacebuilding and development goals, fostering stability and long-term development in the MENA region.[224] Additionally, 3RP has introduced over one thousand projects, alleviating resource pressure and addressing the immediate needs of municipalities in Lebanon.[225] In Jordan, UNESCO's Education in Emergencies program provides educational support to both Syrian refugees and Jordanian children affected by the crisis.[226]

Incorporating gender-sensitive approaches and addressing the unique challenges faced by women is essential for integration, in alignment with SDG 5 (gender equality).[227] Refugee women often face higher levels of gender-based violence (GBV), limited access to healthcare, and economic marginalization.[228] According to UN Women, 83% of Syrian refugee women in Jordan are unemployed.[229] In light of this, UN Women has implemented the Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey initiative which has benefited over 10 thousand women and girls through gender-sensitive services and supported 4,000 women and girls in social cohesion activities.[230]

Empowering Refugee Youth to Prevent Relapsing Conflicts

High unemployment rates among refugee youth can lead to increased vulnerability and exposure to negative influences, including recruitment into criminal activities and extremist groups.[231] As of 2023, there are over 26 million refugees globally, with over half being children and youth.[232] High unemployment rates among refugee youth often result from barriers to formal employment, such as legal restrictions and

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[220] ibid.
[221] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Technical and Vocational Education and Training*. 2022.
[222] United Nations Development Programme. *Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP)*. 2023.
[223] International Labour Organization. Jobs for Peace and Resilience. 2021.
[224] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Seventeenth Session. 2024. p. 5.
[225] United Nations Development Programme. *An introduction to the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)*. 2022.
[226] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Education in Emergencies*. N.d.
[227] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls*. 2023.
[228] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response*. 2019.
[229] ibid.
[230] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey*. 2023.
[231] United Nations Children's Fund. *No Lost Generation.* 2022; United Nations Development Programme. *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace*. 2017.
[232] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2023*. 2023.

discrimination.[233] Furthermore, a report released by UNDP in 2023 entitled *Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement* found that employment was a main driving factor for male individuals to join violent extremist groups.[234]

Encouraging youth leadership and participation in peacebuilding initiatives can provide long-term stability.[235] The Youth4Peace initiative supports the inclusion of young people in peace processes and decision-making.[236] In Türkiye, as part of the initiative, Syrian refugee youth who participated in community leadership programs reported feeling more connected to their host community, reducing incidents of inter-community violence.[237] Through its advisory roles and the *Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic*, PBC has supported these initiatives by guiding on integrating youth into peace processes and facilitating access to funding through IFIs such as the World Bank to help finance youth leadership programs and increase local capacity.[238] In line with SDG 8, ILO has implemented the Skills for Youth Employment program in Uganda and Jordan to enhance the employability of young refugees through apprenticeships and training.[239] In Kenya, the Youth Employment and Skills program, implemented by ILO, focuses on providing training and job placement services to refugee youth, integrating them into the local economy.[240] Young Congolese refugees in Uganda have benefited from ILO's Skills for Youth Employment in Uganda which provides skills in agriculture and craftsmanship, ensuring improved economic opportunities and reduced conflict risk.[241]

In line with SDG 4, inclusive education initiatives can promote the social and economic integration of refugee youth.[242] UNICEF has launched the No Lost Generation initiative, focusing on providing education, protection, and opportunities for young refugees affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq.[243] UNICEFalso established the Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda to provide educational opportunities for refugees and local children, fostering social inclusion.[244] The Education Cannot Wait program in Bangladesh supports the education of Rohingya refugee children despite the challenges of displacement.[245] According to UNHCR, only 50% of refugee girls are enrolled in secondary education, compared to 70% of boys.[246] As many refugee girls face barriers to education and are at higher risk of early marriage and GBV, programs like UN Women's

[233] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Background Guide Challenge 3: Refugees' Access to Jobs and Financial Services*. 2023.
[234] United Nations Development Programme. *Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement*. 2023.
[235] United Nations Development Programme. *Youth, Peace and Security: Fostering Youth-Inclusive Political Processes*. 2024. p. 104.
[236] ibid.
[237] ibid.
[238] International Labour Organization. *Skills for Youth Employment*. 2019.
[239] ibid.
[240] ibid.
[241] ibid.
[242] United Nations Children's Fund. *No Lost Generation*. 2022.
[243] ibid.
[244] The Republic of Uganda, Ministry of Education and Sports. *Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda*. 2018.
[245] Education Cannot Wait. *Inclusive Education in Bangladesh*. 2020.
[246] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Her Turn: It's Time to Make Refugee Girls' Education a Priority*. 2024.

Second Chance Education initiative aim to provide marginalized women with educational and labor opportunities.[247]

Targeted mental health support can help refugee youth overcome trauma and foster resilience.[248] Many refugee youth experience significant trauma, which can hinder their ability to integrate and contribute to peacebuilding efforts.[249] In the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, a significant number of Syrian refugee children exhibit signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), affecting their education and integration.[250] In line with SDG 3, WHO has developed the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support program to provide mental health services and help refugees cope with trauma.[251]

Regional cooperation and support from international organizations are crucial for effective youth empowerment.[252] The African Union's Youth for Peace Africa program and the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (Madad Fund) both focus on providing educational and employment opportunities for young refugees, fostering integration, and preventing conflict.[253] The *Youth Employment and Empowerment Program* in Sierra Leone, supported by UNDP and the Government of Japan, provides entrepreneurship opportunities for young people, contributing to post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding.[254] Similarly, the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel play critical roles in promoting stability and development in the region, focusing on youth empowerment and preventing the spread of conflict.[255] These efforts are guided by international frameworks such as the CRC, which emphasize the protection and participation of youth in decisions affecting their lives, including refugee youth.[256] These bodies have called on Member States to increase funding and implement policies promoting youth inclusion, all while stressing the importance of integrating youth-specific goals into national development plans.[257] These initiatives emphasize the importance of global partnerships in achieving sustainable development, which aligns with SDG 17 (partnership and goals).[258]

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[247] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Second Chance Education hub handbook: A safe space to learn, connect and thrive*. 2023.
[248] World Health Organization. *Introducing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies*. 2023.
[249] ibid.
[250] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Jordan: Zaatari Refugee Camp*. 2022.
[251] World Health Organization. *Introducing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies*. 2023.
[252] United Nations Development Programme. *Final Report on the Evaluation of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)*. 2018.
[253] Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. *EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis*. N.d.
[254] United Nations Development Programme. *Final Report on the Evaluation of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)*. 2018.
[255] United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel. *The second Annual Youth Forum for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel calls for strengthening the role of youth in building peaceful and resilient societies*. 2021.
[256] United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989.
[257] United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel. *The second Annual Youth Forum for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel calls for strengthening the role of youth in building peaceful and resilient societies*. 2021.
[258] United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

Conclusion

Integrating refugees into peacebuilding frameworks is crucial for achieving sustainable development and long-term stability.[259] Refugee integration supports social cohesion and can prevent the relapse into conflict, while the lack of integration can exacerbate tensions and instability.[260] Access to education, healthcare, and employment for refugees is essential for their empowerment and the overall stability of host communities.[261] In line with its mandate to support peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict settings, PBC strategically incorporates refugee integration into its frameworks, advising on national prevention strategies, fostering partnerships with host countries, and facilitating the inclusion of refugees in peace processes to promote long-term stability and sustainable peace.[262] To achieve lasting peace and development, peacebuilding efforts must adopt coordinated and multidimensional approaches that prioritize refugee integration, ensuring both refugees and host communities thrive.[263] PBC's initiatives in the MENA region address structural reforms needed to integrate refugees into local systems, reducing economic pressures and fostering community cohesion.[264] Additionally, empowering refugee youth through vocational training and education programs helps prevent relapsing conflicts by addressing vulnerabilities and enhancing self-reliance.[265]

Further Research

As delegates further research this topic, they may consider: What specific measures can be taken by PBC and others in the international community to ensure the effective implementation of education and vocational training programs for refugees? How can structural reforms in the MENA region be tailored to address the specific needs of refugees and support their integration into host societies? How can PBC promote gender-sensitive approaches within refugee integration policies? In what ways can regional cooperation be strengthened to support host countries in managing refugee populations and preventing conflict? What are successful examples of refugee integration that can be replicated in other regions? How can PBC address the unique challenges faced by refugee youth to prevent their recruitment into conflict?

[259] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2023*. 2024. p. 23.
[260] ibid.
[261] United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.
[262] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Seventeenth Session*. 2024. p. 5.
[263] United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Written Assessment on the Implementation of the PBC Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding*. 2022.
[264] ibid.
[265] ibid.

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