

2025 UN PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE REVIEW

# GENEVA CONSULTATIONS

## OUTCOME DOCUMENT



MAY 2025

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# BACKGROUND

On the occasion of the start of the formal phase of the 2025 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (PBAR), the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) and Interpeace, in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), convened the *Geneva Consultations* on 14 February 2025. The event brought together representatives from Geneva-based international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, as well as permanent missions, for action-oriented discussions in the presence of the 2025 PBAR's two co-facilitators designated to lead the intergovernmental process in New York, H.E. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud of Egypt, and H.E. Samuel Žbogar of Slovenia.

The *2025 Geneva Consultations* aimed to help turn policy recommendations formulated over the course of the informal phase of the Review into practical proposals and possible language for the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions that will conclude the process.

The *Consultations* were also part of continuing efforts to bridge the gap between the New York-based architecture and decision-making bodies, and the experience and expertise available in Geneva, a pragmatic necessity for peacebuilding. Geneva indeed offers an unparalleled ecosystem of Permanent Missions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and major private actors, many of whom contribute to peacebuilding every day in a wide variety of ways.

**Following a general dialogue on the context and expectations for the 2025 PBAR, thematic discussions focused on:**

- 1. Financing for Peacebuilding from a Private Sector Perspective<sup>1</sup>**
- 2. Leveraging Human Rights for Just and Lasting Peace<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Convened and facilitated by Interpeace, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

<sup>2</sup> Convened and facilitated by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR).

# GENERAL DIALOGUE

## GENEVA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE 2025 PBAR

### Summary

Discussions highlighted the need to raise the level of ambitions within the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, drastically enhance cooperation across pillars, and make peacebuilding more open, inclusive, and collaborative, all the while navigating a tense political landscape, accounting for differing approaches among Member States and UN organs, and contending with uncertain financing outlooks.

Although the 2025 PBAR takes place in a challenging environment that requires subtle and pragmatic action, the recent adoption of the Pact for the Future also offers a unique opportunity to garner support for a revitalized approach to peacebuilding, one that puts results and people at its center.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure that the 2025 twin resolutions go **beyond maintaining the status quo of the 2020** resolutions and enshrine additional language and recommendations.
- Encourage further **formal and informal engagement** between the New York-based Peacebuilding Architecture and Geneva's broad peacebuilding ecosystem.
- Recommend convening an **annual peacebuilding week in New York**, ensuring the inclusion of Geneva-based actors and open dialogue reflecting a diversity of perspectives.

# THEMATIC DISCUSSION 1

## FINANCING FOR PEACEBUILDING FROM A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

### KEY MESSAGE

The 2025 PBAR should foster initiatives that strengthen financing for peacebuilding, highlighting in particular the role of the private sector and private capital and proposing avenues for enhanced A, coherence, and impact in this respect.

### Background

Financing for peacebuilding has gained considerable momentum since the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 PBAR found that peacebuilding is “critically underrecognized, underprioritized and under resourced globally.” The landmark decision in December 2023 by the General Assembly to provide assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund and an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) directed towards peacebuilding are welcome advancements. Despite this, however, ODA—which is lower than both remittances and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), respectively—represents the smallest part of financial inflows into developing economies. Moreover, ODA—which is expected to gradually decline as peace is sustained—should be leveraged to increase FDI in fragile and conflict-affected middle-income countries. In addition to FDI, the private sector can play a role in domestic financing of peacebuilding efforts. Critically, rule of law and human rights, which represent one of four categories considered to contribute to total peacebuilding investments, are the underpinning of responsible business and predictable markets. For these reasons, the General Assembly 2022 Resolution 76/305 on Financing for Peacebuilding encourages Member States and the private sector to take practical steps to strengthen partnerships in support of peacebuilding efforts. The Resolution also encourages all Member States to enhance efforts to explore and pilot innovative and flexible mechanisms to mobilize additional public and private financing for peacebuilding that can be further contextualized, implemented and scaled up in conflict-affected countries and regions.

### Objectives: using the 2025 PBAR to leverage the private sector’s contributions to peacebuilding

Two years on from the GA Resolution, the transformative roles of the private sector and finance remains under-tapped. The 2025 PBAR should recognize the various contributions the private sector can and does

make towards peacebuilding. Among many examples, private investors already routinely advocate for standards and ways to ensure conflict prevention and social cohesion because it stabilizes local markets in insecure contexts. In this regard, Geneva is spearheading innovative efforts to engage financial institutions, investors and businesses to develop new financing models for peacebuilding, and to connect them more broadly with peace initiatives—such efforts could serve as models and be expanded. The 2025 PBAR should call for further integrating the private sector in peacebuilding; increasing opportunities for the UN to provide capacity support to governments and private sector partners in areas such as human rights due diligence—including conflict sensitivity analysis; promoting and defining peacebuilding investments in the financial sector; and providing peace-oriented market analysis strategies to create new partnerships at the local level.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025 PBAR

- **Strengthen the engagement of the PBA with the private sector** through specialized partnerships—including for capacity development—and structured dialogue mechanisms.
- Leverage the UN system and its partners to **build capacity with PBC-designated member states and private sector partners** to ensure businesses act in a conflict-sensitive manner conducive to sustaining peace.
- Highlight the potential of **innovative and multi-stakeholder initiatives** and encourage more opportunities for experimentation, including through blended finance and other instruments that leverage private capital.
- Emphasize the importance of **supporting local entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises**, including through Peace Bonds and other financial instruments that can mobilize resources at scale in high-risk environments.
- Stress the need to ensure that **investments go beyond job creation and provide long-term benefits**, including by ensuring processes are community-centered, making peace outcomes an explicit part of investment design, encouraging linkages between multinational corporations and SMEs and investing in skills development.

## THEMATIC DISCUSSION 2

### HARNESSING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PEACEBUILDING: A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP

#### KEY MESSAGE

The 2025 PBAR must give a new impetus to previously agreed commitments—including by strategically reframing the contribution of human rights to peacebuilding—and prioritize practical efforts that yield concrete results.

#### Background: the unfinished integration of human rights in peacebuilding

The formal endorsement, following the 2015 PBAR, of the concept of “sustaining peace”—a call for a holistic approach to peacebuilding that extends to addressing the root causes of conflict and violence—marked a turning point in recognizing the critical linkage between human rights and peacebuilding. The 2016 twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council explicitly recognized the relevance of human rights norms and actors, and the role they can play in supporting peacebuilding objectives. The resolutions also called for institutional reform, to overcome fragmentation, and foster synergies and collaboration. A decade later, many positive steps have been taken, and the objective was reiterated in the 2023 New Agenda for Peace and the 2024 Pact for the Future. However, the human rights and peacebuilding architectures continue to operate independently and lack sufficient coordination. Human rights also often continue to be perceived as a separate issue, or misconstrued as encroachments into matters of national sovereignty.

#### Objectives: the 2025 PBAR, an opportunity for a new impetus

In the context of the 2025 PBAR, it is vital to re-emphasize the role of human rights as an intrinsic and necessary component of peacebuilding. It is also imperative to push ahead with further integrating human rights into peacebuilding: doing so will not only help improve peacebuilding in the long-term, but it will also contribute, very practically, to achieving some of the key goals identified in the Terms of Reference of this year’s PBAR. Notably, as the Secretary-General called for a “paradigm shift in approaching prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, grounded on two interlinked principles [of] universality and national ownership”, human rights can contribute a vast

network of experienced actors and dynamic initiatives at the regional, national and sub-national levels, whose entire expertise lies in navigating universal values and day-to-day implementation at the local level. As to National Prevention Strategies, not only does “placing human rights at [their] heart” mean building upon well-established norms as key frames of reference, but it also means benefiting from a broader range of actors in their development, and from effective early-warning and early-response systems in their implementation.

## Ways forward: reframing and reinventing the contribution of human rights

Overcoming remaining institutional, political, or practical obstacles is a renewed impetus to implement prior commitments. This requires fostering collaborative efforts, especially at the operational level, including by further empowering country teams. Importantly, it also requires better showcasing the concrete results of such efforts, as success stories from the ground can help promote change at the institutional and policy level. Focusing on transversal thematic issues may also prove an effective way to encourage collaboration across pillars. Ambitious institutional proposals—for instance for a strengthened PBC more effectively bridging the peacebuilding architecture and the human rights ecosystem—should also be accompanied by increased informal and technical engagement. Some efforts could also focus on emphasizing the contribution of specific actors such as UN special procedures or treaty bodies, as well as National Human Rights Institutions, among others.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025 PBAR

- Reaffirm the inherent and constructive role of human rights, beyond the language of the 2016 and 2020 resolutions. Consider reframing it through **creative language**, emphasizing the key role of notions such as “equality”, “universality”, “trust”, “empowerment”, “justice”.
- Emphasize the **complementarity of all generations of human rights**—including economic, social, and cultural rights—especially in key areas like prevention and transition.
- Stress the added value human rights offer at both a policy and operational level to **help achieve key objectives identified in this year’s PBAR**, such as localization and the development and implementation of national prevention strategies.

- Recommend **strengthening the PBC's bridging role with the human rights system**—including, but not limited to, the Human Rights Council—and further leveraging its preventive mandate.
- Beyond the Human Rights Council as such, emphasize the **breadth of the human rights system** and the value of specific under-utilized actors such as human rights special procedures and treaty bodies, as well as National Human Rights Institutions.
- Encourage the more systematic **mobilization of human rights actors' technical expertise in thematic areas critical to peacebuilding**—such as climate change, gender, displacement, labor, and others—while also strengthening related knowledge and capacity within the PBA.

# ANNEX

## LIST OF SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

### Informal dialogue speakers

- **H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York
- **H.E. Mr. Samuel Žbogar of Slovenia**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York
- **Dr. Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- **H.E. Julien Thöni**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the other international organizations in Geneva,
- **H.E. Thomas Greminger**, President of the Board, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- **Mr. Itonde Kakoma**, President/CEO, Interpeace
- **Ms. Awa Dabo**, Director and Deputy Head Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
- **Ms. Elina Mariutsa**, Senior Policy Officer, Interpeace
- **Mr. Cyprien Fluzin**, Policy and Research Fellow, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

### Informal dialogue participating organizations

#### Permanent Missions

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - <b>Andorra</b>                  | - <b>Latvia</b>             |
| - <b>Australia</b>                | - <b>Mali</b>               |
| - <b>Azerbaijan</b>               | - <b>Marshall Islands</b>   |
| - <b>Botswana</b>                 | - <b>Myanmar</b>            |
| - <b>Brazil</b>                   | - <b>Netherlands</b>        |
| - <b>Burundi</b>                  | - <b>Oman</b>               |
| - <b>Council of Europe</b>        | - <b>Pakistan</b>           |
| - <b>Cyprus</b>                   | - <b>Russian Federation</b> |
| - <b>Egypt</b>                    | - <b>Rwanda</b>             |
| - <b>Estonia</b>                  | - <b>Slovenia</b>           |
| - <b>Finland</b>                  | - <b>Switzerland</b>        |
| - <b>Ghana</b>                    | - <b>Timor-Leste</b>        |
| - <b>Holy See</b>                 | - <b>Turkmenistan</b>       |
| - <b>Italy</b>                    | - <b>Türkiye</b>            |
| - <b>United States of America</b> |                             |

## **International Organizations**

- **European Union**
- **International Labour Organization**
- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**
- **United Nations Office at Geneva**
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
- **International Development Law Organization**
- **United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
- **World Bank Group Geneva**

## **Civil Society**

- **Alliance Internationale pour la Protection du Patrimoine**
- **Caux Initiatives of Change**
- **Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)**
- **Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)**
- **Geneva Centre on Conflict, Development & Peacebuilding**
- **Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**
- **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**
- **Geneva Peacebuilding Platform**
- **Geneva Water Hub**
- **Global Center on Cooperative Security**
- **Gulf Research Center**
- **Interpeace**
- **International Committee of the Red Cross**
- **Peace Nexus**
- **Transparency International**
- **University for Peace**

## **Private Sector**

- **Oryx Impact**
- **Trustworks Global**

## Financing roundtable speakers

- **H.E. Christian Frutiger**, Vice-Director General and Head of Thematic Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- **Ms. Sidonia Gabriel**, Senior Policy Advisor, Fragility, Conflict and Human Rights, Peace, Governance and Equality Section, SDC
- **Ms. Elina Mariutsa**, Senior Policy Officer, Finance for Peace, Interpeace
- **Mr. Gregory Connor**, Policy Specialist, Business and Peace, UNDP
- **Mr. Dominique Habegger**, Vice-President, Sustainable Finance Geneva

## Financing roundtable participating organizations

### International Organizations

- **International Labor Organization**
- **United Nations Capital Development Fund**
- **United Nations Development Program**
- **United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office**
- **United Nations University – Center for Policy Research**
- **World Bank Group Geneva**

### Civil Society

- **Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**
- **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**
- **Gulf Research Center**
- **Interpeace**
- **Peace Dividend Initiative**
- **Peace Invest**
- **Peace Nexus**
- **Principles for Peace**
- **Sustainable Finance Geneva**

### Private Sector

- **Ernst & Young**
- **Pluto & Associates**
- **Trustworks Global**

## Human rights roundtable speakers

- **Ms. Peggy Hicks**, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR
- **Dr. Adam Day**, Head of the Geneva Office, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)
- **Ms. Erica Harper**, Head of Research and Policy Studies, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

## Human rights roundtable participating organizations

### International Organizations

- **International Development Law Organization**
- **International Labour Organization**
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
- **United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
- **United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office**
- **United Nations University – Center for Policy Research**

### Civil Society

- **Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights**
- **Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)**
- **Geneva Human Rights Platform**
- **Geneva Peacebuilding Platform**
- **Geneva Water Hub**
- **Global Centre on Cooperative Security**
- **Interpeace**
- **International Committee of the Red Cross**
- **Justice Rapid Response**
- **Principles for Peace**
- **UPR Info**

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a knowledge hub that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of issues and contexts related building peace. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field. The Platform's network comprises more than 4'000 peacebuilding professionals working on building peace directly or indirectly. The Platform ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues on peacebuilding practice.