

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE

GENEVA CONSULTATIONS

Ensuring the challenges of our time are
addressed from a prevention perspective

Executive Summary and Recommendations

MARCH 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. BACKGROUND

As outlined in the 2021 Report on Our Common Agenda, the UN Secretary-General has initiated a process for developing a New Agenda for Peace in time for a Summit of the Future to be held in 2024. In this respect, Our Common Agenda outlined six potential areas for the New Agenda for Peace, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1.** Reducing strategic risks;
- 2.** Strengthening international foresight and capacities to identify and adapt to new risks;
- 3.** Reshaping responses to all forms of violence;
- 4.** Investing in prevention and peacebuilding;
- 5.** Supporting regional prevention; and
- 6.** Putting women and girls at the center.

To bring the expertise based in Geneva into this process, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform facilitated a consultative discussion in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-17 March 2023. Geneva-based International Organizations, International Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and Academia contributed their expertise throughout the consultations.

The discussions focused on seven themes:

- A.** Strategic foresight;
- B.** Human Rights;
- C.** Mediation;
- D.** Climate, peace, and security;
- E.** Good governance;
- F.** Regulation of conventional weapons; and
- G.** Financing for peace.

These discussions provided recommendations that could feed into the New Agenda for Peace drafting process. Brief summaries of the sessions, as well as key recommendations addressed to the penholders of the draft report to be published in June 2023 are available below. The full summary and recommendations of the Geneva Consultations can be found on our website at: www.gpplatform.ch

II. SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Strategic foresight

Strategic foresight and related anticipatory approaches contribute to a better understanding of how a given and potentially conflictual setting may evolve over time. Longer time horizon can prevent undesirable futures from occurring (including conflict erupting or developing) and instead encourage a peaceful future to unfold. As a process, foresight can be framed as a highly participatory peacebuilding tool to create consensus around contentious issues, which may help bring different expertise together and therefore build collective intelligence and foster inclusion.

1. Make use of foresight as a highly participatory peacebuilding tool to create consensus around contentious issues, encouraging and ensuring the integration of diverse expertise and multiple perspectives through explicit process design.
2. Ensure that strategic foresight and other anticipatory activities are effectively integrated and linked to decision-making with regard to conflict, including by investing at the local level.
3. Foster long-term partnerships with academia, research and think tanks as well as with the private and public sectors to foster strategic conversations within a fragile country, as well as a common understanding of signals and emerging trends across society (such as the UN Futures Lab Network).

B. Human Rights

Respect for human rights contributes to the prevention of conflicts. In this regard, the New Agenda for Peace needs to ensure that the integration of human rights approaches remains a priority for the United Nations' policies, programs, and missions. Diverging views among States around the centrality of human rights hamper the capacity of the UN to deliver on its mandate. Human rights promotion should be seen as a way to strengthen stability and peace rather than an encroachment on sovereignty. To adequately promote prevention and peacebuilding, States and the international community at large, should adequately and sustainably invest in human rights, including at the financial level. Critically, States and the UN should ensure the protection of human rights by adopting rights-compliant counter-terrorism legislation and policies.

1. Make use of the Human Rights Council's (HRC) potential for conflict prevention, e.g. by encouraging the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the HRC to create spaces for informal discussions, inviting the PBC Chair to brief the HRC and more broadly strengthening the exchange between New York and Geneva-based intergovernmental bodies.
2. Ensure the protection of local peacebuilders and human rights defenders.
3. Foster media development efforts in fragile contexts by enhancing collaboration between UN bodies around public interest media.

C. Mediation

Mediation is a key tool not only with regard to violent conflict but also with regard to emerging threats. The UN is well positioned to play a lead role, since it has both mediation expertise and works on many substantive areas of interest for mediators. Participants also pointed to the importance of input legitimacy, i.e. the importance of inclusion.

1. Expand the application of mediation to tackle new and emerging issues, such as insecurity in urban areas, ecological problems or trade issues.
2. Emphasize the need for mediation to build buy-in at the grassroots level, and ensure involvement of marginalized groups and on engaging with youth and women. In that context, mediators should draw on technology to bridge divides and to scale participation in peace processes.
3. The New Agenda for Peace should help to reinvigorate the UNSG's good offices function as a tool for mediation, including in inter-state conflicts in a new multipolar world. Efforts should be made towards a constant respect of international norms, which should be seen as an enabler for pragmatic engagement rather than a hindrance.

D. Climate, Peace and Security

Climate change is a risk multiplier. Climate change, natural resources, and biodiversity considerations need to be factored into peacebuilding approaches. There is a need for better connection between national or local actors to multilateral institutions, particularly to foster the exchange of best practices and support to the actors who are most often responding to these shocks. Finally, the way States support communities' responses to climate impacts has a direct influence on the level of trust they place in their government.

1. Identify concrete avenues in the New Agenda for Peace to integrate climate change, natural resources, *and* biodiversity into the peace sphere ("climate, peace and security"), as well as to recognize climate change as a risk multiplier.
2. Policy should scale nexus funding instruments across environment, climate change, and peace, ensuring that peace responsiveness and conflict sensitivity are integrated across the board into climate finance and adaptation.
3. States and the international community should support and leverage local knowledge, and seek to support and uplift locally driven and indigenous resilience to the effects of climate change.

E. Good governance

Preventing violent conflict requires strengthening the good governance of public institutions, particularly of security and justice institutions. More generally, as good governance is based on principles of non-discrimination, participation, accountability, transparency, rule of law and efficiency/effectiveness, it matters in all sectors. Good governance is a vehicle, which can address all challenges we face, from transnational organized crime to violent extremism, climate justice, and violent conflict. It should therefore become a fundamental component of national prevention strategies.

1. Reinvigorate how we understand good governance and to ensure that the language used resonates globally. The ECOSOC principles of governance to accelerate efforts to strengthen national and local governance capacities to achieve the 2030 Agenda provide a useful reference point.
2. There is a need for more inclusive processes which include i) women, youth and other under-represented groups to build commitment to reforms; ii) bottom-up approaches that engage with municipalities at the local level and, iii) increased efforts to leverage the good offices of SRSGs and UN Resident Coordinators to support sensitive political discussions on reforms.
3. Ensure allocation of adequate human or financial resources to sustain long-term governance-driven reforms, which cannot be tackled through ad hoc or short-term efforts.

F. Regulation of conventional weapons

While conventional weapons were not referred to in the Key Proposals of Our Common Agenda, they continue to be key drivers of violent conflict. Armed conflicts, armed groups, criminal gangs and perpetrators of domestic violence all use conventional weapons. The Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions have been consistently importing large numbers of conventional weapons as States seek to use conventional weapons as an insurance policy in an uncertain global security environment. Moreover, government calls to increase arms production by the private sector in response to emerging security threats will be difficult to reverse in the near future and may undermine efforts to promote conflict prevention efforts that do not rely on conventional weapons.

1. The New Agenda for Peace should refocus conventional arms instruments on their original purpose of preventing human suffering and harm to civilians. The New Agenda for Peace could also provide for an updated narrative on how disarmament and the control of conventional weapons contribute to peace and security.
2. The New Agenda for Peace should develop ways to engage non-state actors, including the private sector, which should be seen as both a potential partner and as a spoiler. It should challenge the increased military spending that takes away available resources for full realisation of human rights and human security.

3. The New Agenda for Peace should encourage the various conventional weapons instruments and treaties to refocus efforts on addressing the root causes that led to their creation - ensuring that arms control and disarmament is embedded in addressing the grievance-based drivers of armed violence and the human rights impacts of that violence.

G. Innovative Financing

Private and public sector investment is key to develop a market for Peace Finance. To facilitate the creation of a market for Peace Finance, the international community has to agree on standards and frameworks to guide and incentivise public and private investors, such as UN agencies, development and humanitarian actors, finance institutions (including the World Bank), second party opinion and financial industry service providers. The alignment with such standards and frameworks would contribute towards the realization of peace outcomes of investments in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Such funding should complement alternative sources of funding, whether public, private, or blended, in addition to the Peacebuilding Fund.

1. The United Nations, in particular the UN Peacebuilding Fund, could initiate a process with existing Peace Finance partners to specify how different UN agencies can play different roles in growing the Peace Finance market, leveraging their distinct mandates and capacities.
2. Specialized development agencies, such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP), IOM, UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) could mainstream joint approaches with Development Finance Institutions and private partners to help public and private investment become intentional at seeking positive peace impact in their investment approaches.

ANNEX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA CONSULTATIONS ON THE NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE

High Level Opening Panel Speakers

1. **Mr. Jonas Pasquier**, Deputy Permanent Representative a.i. of Switzerland to the United Nations and to the other international organisations in Geneva.
2. **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Director, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP).
3. **Elizabeth Spehar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Department of Political & Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA, UN, NY) (online).
4. **Mr. Asif R. Khan**, Director, Policy and Mediation Division, Department of Political & Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA, UN, NY) (online).
5. Moderation – **Dr. Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP)

Opening Plenary Participant List

1. **Andrea Aeby**, Counselor, Peace & Security, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
2. **Mehmet Balci**, Co-Director and Founder, Fight for Humanity
3. **Will Bennett**, Programme Manager, Interpeace
4. **Alexandra Boivin**, Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
5. **Hans Born**, Assistant Director and Head of the Policy and Research Department, DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
6. **Othman Boucetta**, Chief of Staff, International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)
7. **Rebecca Brubaker**, Director of Policy, Learning and Advisory Services, Interpeace
8. **Christina Buchhold**, Project Manager, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)
9. **Delia Burns**, Partnerships Officer (Peacebuilding Specialist), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
10. **Ambassador Nathalie Chuard**, Director, DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
11. **Gregory Connor**, Policy Specialist, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

12. **Adam Day**, Head of the Geneva Office, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)
13. **Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer**, Policy and Government Liaison, International Campaign to Ban Landmines
14. **Samuel Emonet**, Executive Director, Justice Rapid Response
15. **Ambassador David Fernandez Puyana**, Permanent Observer of the United Nations University for Peace to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Permanent Delegate of UPEACE to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris
16. **Enrico Formica**, Senior Mediation Officer, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Office in Geneva
17. **Florence Foster**, Representative, Peace and Disarmament, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO)
18. **Valéry Freland**, Executive Director, International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)
19. **Erik Friberg**, Deputy Chief Methodology, Education and Training Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
20. **Silja Halle**, Manager, UNEP-EU Climate Change and Security Programme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
21. **Annika Hilding Norberg**, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
22. **Agnes Hurwitz**, Global Lead on Rule of Law, Governance, and Peacebuilding, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
23. **Arafat Jamal**, Coordinator, Global Refugee Forum 2023, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
24. **Béatrice Jotterand**, Peace and Human Rights Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
25. **Felix Kirchmeier**, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Platform, Geneva Academy
26. **Richard Lennane**, Policy Advisor, Legal Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
27. **Giulio Levorato**, Doctoral candidate in Political Sciences, Università di Genova
28. **Hine-Wai Loose**, Geneva Lead, Control Arms
29. **Ariana Lauren Lopes Morey**, Policy Advisor, Policy Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
30. **Phil Lynch**, Executive Director, International Service for Human Rights
31. **Emilie Max**, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

- 32. Stephan Maurer**, Geneva Representative, Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- 33. Will McDermott**, Principal Programme Manager - International Policy Frameworks, DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- 34. Sacha Meuter**, Head of Research, Legal and Policy Advisor, Fondation Hirondelle
- 35. Juuso Miettunen**, Senior Policy Officer, Principles for Peace
- 36. Sabrina Mignone**, Peace and Disarmament Programme Assistant, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO)
- 37. Michael Møller**, Board Member, ICT4Peace
- 38. Corinne Momal Vanian**, Executive Director, Kofi Annan Foundation
- 39. Erica Mumford**, Associate Researcher, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- 40. Emily Munro**, Head of Strategic Anticipation and Senior Advisor, Research & Policy Advice, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- 41. Hiroko Nakayama**, Senior Specialist, Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention Programme, Division of Peace, UN Institute for Training and Research, UNITAR Geneva.
- 42. Peter Prove**, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches (WCC)
- 43. Bertrand Ramcharan**, Former Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 44. Trisha Riedy**, Manager and Senior Trainer Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- 45. David Rochat**, United Nations Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- 46. Maud Roue**, Deputy Director for Programmes, Kofi Annan Foundation
- 47. Nozizwe-Madlala Routledge**, Director, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO)
- 48. Sarah Saugier**, Junior Professional Officer - Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- 49. Vincenza Scherrer**, Deputy Head of the Policy and Research Division, DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- 50. Jamie Scudder**, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Methodology, Education and Training Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 51. Damiano Sguaitamatti**, Peace and Human Rights Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

- 52. Ambassador Fred Tanner**, Visiting Professor, Geneva Graduate Institute
- 53. Nieves Thomet**, Technical Specialist, Job for Peace, International Labor Organization (ILO)
- 54. Sophie Torelli Chironi**, Deputy Head of the Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Chief of NGO Liaison Unit, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
- 55. Daniel Torres**, Director, Small Arms Survey
- 56. Marlene Urscheler**, Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Geneva (OHCHR)
- 57. Eliza Urwin**, Head of Research, CCDP
- 58. Achim Wennmann**, Director for Strategic Partnerships, Geneva Graduate Institute

Organizations & Institutions

1. ALIPH, Alliance internationale pour la protection du patrimoine dans les zones en conflit
2. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
3. Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding, Geneva Graduate Institute
4. Control Arms
5. Danish Refugee Council
6. Fondation Hironnelle
7. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
8. Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
9. Geneva Centre for Security Policy
10. Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
11. Geneva Graduate Institute
12. Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
13. Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
14. Geneva Water Hub
15. Global Executive Leadership Initiative
16. ICT4Peace
17. Implementation Support Unit of the Mine Ban Treaty
18. Independent Diplomat
19. International Campaign to Ban Landmines

- 20.** International Committee of the Red Cross
- 21.** International Court of Justice
- 22.** International Crisis Group
- 23.** International Development Law Organization
- 24.** International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- 25.** International Labour Organisation
- 26.** International Organization for Migration
- 27.** International Service for Human Rights
- 28.** Interpeace
- 29.** Justice Rapid Response
- 30.** Kofi Annan Foundation
- 31.** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 32.** PAX
- 33.** PeaceNexus Foundation
- 34.** Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- 35.** Principles for Peace Foundation
- 36.** Protection Approaches
- 37.** Quaker United Nations Office
- 38.** Saferworld
- 39.** Small Arms Survey
- 40.** Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- 41.** United Nations Development Programme
- 42.** United Nations Environment Programme
- 43.** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- 44.** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- 45.** United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- 46.** United Nations Office in Geneva
- 47.** United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
- 48.** Universal Rights Group
- 49.** University for Peace
- 50.** University of Geneva

- 51.** Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- 52.** World Council of Churches
- 53.** World Trade Organisation

THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

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.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

c/o Centre on Conflict Development
and Peacebuilding
P.O. Box 1672 | 1211 Geneva 1
Switzerland
info@gpplatform.ch
www.gpplatform.ch

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