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## Table of Abbreviations

ADB	African Development Bank
BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti
BPoA	Barbados Programme of Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
CNJ	Conseil National de la Jeunesse
CPPF	Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum
CSC	Country-Specific Configurations
CSO	Civil society organisations
CTITF	Countering-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
CVR	Community violence reduction
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECPS	Executive Committee on Peace and Security
EU	European Union
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GA	General Assembly
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDDRS	Integrated disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration standards
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JCI	Jeunes Chambre International
MARC	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Cult
MDRP	Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Program
MVI	Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
ODA	Official development assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OROLSI	Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
PALM	Pacific Island Leaders Meeting
PBC	Peacebuilding Commission
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
PCNA	Post-Conflict Needs Assessments
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PRP	Pacific Resilience Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SC	Security Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSR	Security sector reform
STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and math
TRM	Transitional Results Matrices
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team

UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya

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## Committee Overview

### Introduction

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) provides capacity-building support to peace efforts in Member States emerging from conflict.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) and the UN General Assembly (GA) jointly established the intergovernmental advisory body in 2005 to bring together all relevant programs and actors engaging in peacebuilding throughout the UN system.<sup>2</sup> While various peacebuilding activities had been undertaken by various UN entities throughout the history of the United Nations, peacebuilding itself was not a formalized aspect of the UN agenda until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

Established in 2006, the PBC follows three core principles for UN peacebuilding: national ownership, national capacity, and common strategy.<sup>4</sup> One of the key strategies employed by the PBC in its peacebuilding operations, particularly in areas that have undergone a civil war, is disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR).<sup>5</sup> Ultimately, the PBC coordinates with relevant actors to facilitate resources and advice on integrated strategies, directs attention on reconstruction and institution-building efforts; and provides recommendations to improve coordination, develop best practices, and ensure finances are available for early recovery activities.<sup>6</sup> Since it was founded, the PBC uses a multifaceted approach that incorporates transitional justice, education and employment, as well as security sector reform.<sup>7</sup>

### History

Peacebuilding first emerged during the Cold War as the international community looked for long-term solutions to end existing conflicts and prevent states from relapsing into conflict.<sup>8</sup> While individual Member States and some UN entities supported aspects of peacebuilding in post-conflict states during the 1970s and 1980s, such as supporting democratic transitions and institution-building, the UN did not have a coherent definition of peacebuilding until Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report, "[An Agenda for Peace](#)" (A/47/277), was published in 1992.<sup>9</sup> In his report, Boutros-Ghali defines post-conflict peacebuilding as "action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict."<sup>10</sup> "[An Agenda for Peace](#)" (A/47/277), also highlights the importance of addressing social, economic, cultural, and humanitarian problems within a state that might compromise the development of sustainable peace.<sup>11</sup> In 2000, the final report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations titled the "[Brahimi Report](#)" (A/55/305) further clarified the definition of peacebuilding and specified the types of activities considered as part of peacebuilding processes.<sup>12</sup> The "[Brahimi Report](#)" (A/55/305) identified the following aspects of peacebuilding: ensuring democratic governance and institution-building, strengthening the rule of law, upholding human rights, efforts to promote national reconciliation, and DDR of former combatants.<sup>13</sup>

During this time, the UN increased its involvement in formal peacebuilding processes, largely initiated by the transition to complex multidimensional peacekeeping missions.<sup>14</sup> When the first peacekeeping mission was deployed in 1948, peacekeeping was envisioned as a support operation to monitor ceasefires and support

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<sup>1</sup> UN PBC, *UN PBC*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission>

<sup>2</sup> UN PBC, *Mandate of the PBC*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>

<sup>3</sup> UNGA, *An Agenda for Peace: preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping: Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/277)*, 1992. <https://undocs.org/A/47/277>

<sup>4</sup> UN Peacebuilding Support Office, *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*, 2010. [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding\\_orientation.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> UNGA, *The Peacebuilding Fund (A/RES/60/287)*, 2006. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/287>

<sup>7</sup> Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform, *A Beginner's Guide to Security Sector Reform (SSR)*, December 2007. <https://statebuildingandfragilitymonitor.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/a-beginners-guide-to-security-sector-reform-ssr1.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> UN Peacebuilding Support Office, *UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation*, 2010. [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding\\_orientation.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> UNGA, *An Agenda for Peace: preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping: Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/277)*, 1992. <https://undocs.org/A/47/277>

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> UNGA, *Report of the Panel on UN Peace Operations (A/55/305)*, 2000. <http://undocs.org/A/55/305>

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7-8.

<sup>14</sup> UN Department of Peace Operations, *Our History*. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history>

stabilization efforts in fragile situations.<sup>15</sup> As the breadth and nature of conflicts changed – particularly after the Cold War – peacekeeping efforts transitioned from more traditional observer missions to larger and more complex multidimensional peace operations whose mandates included supporting elections, reforming security sectors, and initiating peacebuilding projects.<sup>16</sup> In addition to peace operations authorized by the SC, many other UN entities initiated peacebuilding projects in various post-conflict Member States, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), among others.<sup>17</sup> Given the importance of sustainable peacebuilding and the need to coordinate between agencies on peacebuilding activities, the GA and SC jointly established the PBC with the adoption of GA resolution 60/180 on 20 December 2005.<sup>18</sup> The core principle was to strengthen the coordination of peacebuilding activities across the UN system and to have an entity dedicated to reviewing and advising on peacebuilding standards and practices.<sup>19</sup>

## Structure and Organization

The PBC reports jointly to the SC and GA.<sup>20</sup> There are three configurations within the PBC: the Organizational Committee, country-specific configurations, and the Working Group on Lessons Learned. The Organizational Committee is composed of 31 Member States that each serves two-year terms. The GA, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the SC each elect seven members to serve on the Organizational Committee.<sup>21</sup> In addition to the elected membership, five seats are allocated to the top providers of military and civilian personnel to UN missions, and five seats are allocated to the top contributors to the UN budget, including voluntary contributions to funds, programmes and agencies.<sup>22</sup> In addition to these members, the European Union, International Monetary Fund, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the World Bank participate in all PBC meetings.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to the PBC, there are two related organizations that work closely in cooperation with the PBC: the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).<sup>24</sup> The Peacebuilding Support office was also created by the Secretary-General under request from GA resolution 60/180 to act as a secretariat to the PBC and support its work.<sup>25</sup> The PBSO is also responsible for administering the PBF, which was launched by the Secretary-General in 2006, also under recommendation by GA resolution 60/180.<sup>26</sup> The PBF provides resources to various peacebuilding initiatives and programs, and also has an independent advisory group to provide advice on the allocation of funds, which consists of 10 experts.<sup>27</sup>

## Mandate and Powers

The PBC was established by the GA and the SC to “to bring together all relevant actors, to marshal resources and advise on, and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery”.<sup>28</sup> The PBC provides a forum where Member States, as well as international financial institutions, UN entities, and other actors can discuss best practices in peacebuilding and support peacebuilding programming in post-conflict states.<sup>29</sup> The PBC also provides recommendations to various governments and UN entities on peacebuilding, coordinates cooperation on peacebuilding projects, and reviews and monitors progress of existing peacebuilding programs.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> UN PBC, *Review of the progress of in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/4/CAF/2)*, 2010. <http://undocs.org/pbc/4/caf/2>

<sup>18</sup> UNGA, *The PBC (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> UN PBC, *PBC members for 2022*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/membership>

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> UN, *Peacebuilding Support Office*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/supportoffice>

UN, *The Fund*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/fund>

<sup>25</sup> UNGA, *The PBC (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>

<sup>26</sup> UN, *About the Peacebuilding Support Office*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/supportoffice/about>

<sup>27</sup> UN, *Sixth Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund*, 2020. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/advisory2>

<sup>28</sup> UNGA, *The PBC (A/RES/60/180)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>

<sup>29</sup> UNGA, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all: Addendum, the PBC: Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005/Add.2)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/59/2005/Add.2>

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

As the key coordinating body for the UN's peacebuilding activities, the PBC may decide to focus on particular post-conflict Member States. The Organizational Committee may establish Country-Specific Configurations (CSCs) to bring together relevant actors within and outside of the UN system, including government representatives, regional actors and UN personnel to draft a Strategic Framework that will guide peacebuilding activities in the state concerned. In supporting the implementation of these frameworks, the PBC regularly conducts monitoring and review to assess progress and guide future programming.

### Recent Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

The fifteenth session of the PBC in 2021 was characterized by a broader geographic scope and increased coordination with UN organs.<sup>31</sup> The Commission held 29 meetings and adopted 66 outcome documents.<sup>32</sup> It addressed country, regional, or thematic topics at 27 of its meetings and procedural issues at two.<sup>33</sup> PBC held 13 country- and region-specific meetings addressing peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Gambia, the Great Lakes Region, Guinea-Bissau, the Lake Chad Basin, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Sahel, as well as addressing piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.<sup>34</sup> PBC's thematic work increased to 40% of its meetings, including new discussions on security sector reform, mental health, and DDR.<sup>35</sup> Efforts to increase PBC partnerships with UN agencies and non-UN entities included increasing briefings from the UN's country-level Resident Coordinators and representatives of organizations outside the UN system, including intergovernmental organizations and major financial institutions.<sup>36</sup> Commission members noted PBC's increasing advisory role for the GA and SC, including formally sharing its work program with those organs for the first time.<sup>37</sup>

Recent PBC work has emphasized its strategic plans on gender and youth.<sup>38</sup> The Peacebuilding Commission Gender Strategy calls for including gender analysis in all relevant documents and collaborating with national and regional actors to identify "priority areas of gender-responsive peacebuilding," including the integration of gender equality work into peacebuilding programs.<sup>39</sup> From 2020 to 2021, the Commission focused on increasing the number of women peacebuilders invited to deliver briefings, ultimately raising the share of meetings with input from women peacebuilders to 74%.<sup>40</sup> Another improvement in PBC's gender mainstreaming effort was increasing the number of submissions to UN organs referencing gender issues (94%) and citing information from women peacebuilders (35%).<sup>41</sup> PBC's 2022 meeting on women, peace, and security focused on women's roles on peacekeeping and peacebuilding and heard calls for continued Peacebuilding Fund support for local women peacebuilders.<sup>42</sup>

The PBC Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding, particularly mainstreaming the UN's Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, has also seen recent progress.<sup>43</sup> The Commission's priorities in this area include empowering youth peacebuilders and supporting youth-led organizations.<sup>44</sup> By 2022, nearly four in five PBC outcome documents

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<sup>31</sup> UN, *Evaluating PBC's Performance over Past Year, Speakers Highlight Stronger Advisory Role, Gains in Supporting Countries Emerging from Conflict (SC/14984, 27 July 2022)*, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14984.doc.htm>

<sup>32</sup> UNGA, *Report of the PBC on its fifteenth session (A/76/678)*, 2022. <http://undocs.org/A/76/678>

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> UN, *Evaluating PBC's Performance over Past Year, Speakers Highlight Stronger Advisory Role, Gains in Supporting Countries Emerging from Conflict (SC/14984, 27 July 2022)*, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14984.doc.htm>

<sup>38</sup> UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Programme of Work of the PBC (2022)*, [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2022\\_pbc\\_work\\_plan\\_-\\_approved\\_002.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2022_pbc_work_plan_-_approved_002.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> UN PBC, *PBC's Gender Strategy*, 2016. [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-pbc\\_gender\\_strategy\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-pbc_gender_strategy_final_1.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> UN PBC, *Implementation of the PBC's Gender Strategy and Action Plan October 2020-October 2021 (2021)*, [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2021\\_pbc\\_gender\\_strategy\\_and\\_action\\_plan\\_written\\_update\\_0.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2021_pbc_gender_strategy_and_action_plan_written_update_0.pdf)

UNGA, *Report of the PBC on its fifteenth session (A/76/678)*, 2022. <http://undocs.org/A/76/678>

<sup>41</sup> UNGA, *Report of the PBC on its fifteenth session (A/76/678)*, 2022. <http://undocs.org/A/76/678>

<sup>42</sup> UN PBC, *Meetings and Activities of the PBC (2022)*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission>

<sup>43</sup> UN PBC, *Written Assessment of the Implementation of PBC Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding: From 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/written\\_assessment\\_on\\_implementation\\_of\\_pbc\\_strategic\\_action\\_plan\\_on\\_youth\\_and\\_peacebuilding.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/written_assessment_on_implementation_of_pbc_strategic_action_plan_on_youth_and_peacebuilding.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

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referenced youth, while a record 12 young people briefed the Commission.<sup>45</sup> Gaps in implementing the plan include many outcome documents' vague references to youth and the conflation of women and youth without identifying the specific needs of each.<sup>46</sup> Some PBC members have also suggested the Commission increase information-sharing on best practices on youth and peacebuilding.<sup>47</sup>

PBC's 2022 agenda has emphasized national ownership, inclusivity, coherence of the UN system's peacebuilding efforts, and effective partnerships with regional organizations and international financial institutions.<sup>48</sup> Financing is a central concern, and the Commission has responded by pursuing greater engagement with financial institutions and submitting action-oriented input on peacebuilding financing to the General Assembly.<sup>49</sup>

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, PBC's work has occurred mostly through online meetings.<sup>50</sup> In 2021, the Chair acknowledged the pandemic's impact on peacebuilding, such as increasing governance gaps between African Member States and reducing women's participation in peace processes.<sup>51</sup> The Commission stressed the role that the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development should play in pandemic recovery.<sup>52</sup>

## Conclusion

Since its establishment in 2005, PBC has proven to be a central coordinating body in peacebuilding affairs.<sup>53</sup> The intergovernmental advisory body also supports coordinating efforts with actors outside of the UN framework and ensures that funding is available for its projects.<sup>54</sup> Reporting to both the GA and SC, the PBC stands as the leading voice in policy development and recommendations on institution-building efforts and best practices.<sup>55</sup> As the Commission continues to improve its working practices while confronting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in peacebuilding settings, issues of gender, youth, and inclusive governance are among its top priorities.<sup>56</sup> As with its missions to date, the PBC will continue to ensure that all effective capacity-building support is provided to Member States emerging from conflict.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Programme of Work of the PBC* (2022),

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2022\\_pbc\\_work\\_plan\\_-\\_approved\\_002.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2022_pbc_work_plan_-_approved_002.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> UNGA, *Report of the PBC on its fifteenth session (A/76/678)*, 2022. <http://undocs.org/A/76/678>

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> UNGA, *The PBC (A/RES/180)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>

<sup>54</sup> UNGA, *The Peacebuilding Fund (A/RES/60/287)*, 2006. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/287>

<sup>55</sup> UNGA, *The PBC (A/RES/180)*, 2005. <http://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>

<sup>56</sup> UN PBC, *Provisional Annual Programme of Work of the PBC* (2022),

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2022\\_pbc\\_work\\_plan\\_-\\_approved\\_002.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/2022_pbc_work_plan_-_approved_002.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> UN PBC, *UN PBC*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission>



## I. Impact of Climate Change on Peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands

*We will not stand idly by as the water rises around us. We are not just talking in Tuvalu; we are mobilizing collective action at home, in our region, and on the international stage to secure our future. – Simon Kofe<sup>58</sup>*

### Introduction

Pacific Island States are home to more than 2 million people reliant on the sea for their livelihoods.<sup>59</sup> The effects of climate change, especially rising sea levels and worsening natural disasters, present grave threats to the welfare of Pacific Islanders, already displacing more than 50,000 of them a year and threatening their natural resources and key industries like agriculture and fishing.<sup>60</sup> This level of vulnerability is typical of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), a category that includes Pacific Island States and other island countries around the world that face development challenges like vulnerability to economic and environmental shock and inability to build large-scale economies.<sup>61</sup> Pacific Island leaders view climate change as top policy priority, declaring that that “climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific.”<sup>62</sup>

Among Pacific Island countries, peacebuilding has been an important process in Member States afflicted by armed conflicts that emerged from decolonization in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially Fiji and the Solomon Islands.<sup>63</sup> In the past two decades, Fiji has grappled with reestablishing democracy following a series of military coups, while the Solomon Islands government has worked to prevent a return to civil conflict.<sup>64</sup> The impact of climate change on peace and security has become the focus of discussions among Pacific Island States in recent years, but the effects of climate change on peacebuilding in the region are not yet well understood.<sup>65</sup> The Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund predicts that worsening climatic conditions could result in forced migration, degraded ecosystems and food supplies, and tensions over access to land and fisheries.<sup>66</sup> According to the Lowy Institute, climate change is a “threat multiplier, exacerbating existing grievances” and potentially creating new conflicts.<sup>67</sup>

Among the challenges to peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands region in the face of climate change are climate finance, risk and vulnerability assessments, and gender equality, which are all interrelated.<sup>68</sup> SIDS like the Pacific Island States receive insufficient and shrinking financing for climate adaptation and are excluded from certain funding sources that they could access if supported by the right vulnerability assessment tools.<sup>69</sup> Gender equality is a

<sup>58</sup> Cook Islands News, *In brief: News from around the Pacific*, 2021. <https://www.cookislandsnews.com/internal/regional/pacific-islands/in-brief-news-from-around-the-pacific-30/>

<sup>59</sup> B. Bafana, *Climate Change is No ‘Future Scenario’ for Pacific Island Nations; Climate Change is ‘Real,’* 2022.

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/11/climate-change-is-no-future-scenario-for-pacific-island-nations-climate-change-is-real/>

<sup>60</sup> UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, *Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement*.

<https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/events/pacific-regional-consultation-internal-displacement>

UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security and Peacebuilding*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/brief\\_climate\\_security\\_20200724\\_2.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/brief_climate_security_20200724_2.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> UN Conference on Trade and Development, *Constructing a criteria-based classification for Small Island Developing States: an investigation*, 2021. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ser-rp-2021d9\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ser-rp-2021d9_en.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*, 2018. <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>

<sup>63</sup> Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, *Peace building in the Pacific Islands: Lessons from Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Fiji*, 2006.

<https://hdcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2006/11/119PeacebuildinginthePacificIslands-LessonsfromBougainville-November-2006.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> Lowy Institute, *Instability in the Pacific Islands: A status report*, 2018. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/instability-pacific-islands-status-report>

Security Council Report, *Update Report No. 4: Fiji*, 2009. [https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/update-report/lookup\\_c\\_gkwlemtisg\\_b\\_5108563.php](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/update-report/lookup_c_gkwlemtisg_b_5108563.php)

UN PBC, *PBC Informal Meeting on the Solomon Islands*, 2017.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc\\_solomon\\_islands\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc_solomon_islands_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>65</sup> UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security and Peacebuilding*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/brief\\_climate\\_security\\_20200724\\_2.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/brief_climate_security_20200724_2.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> A. Naupa et al., *Boe Declaration: navigating an uncertain Pacific*, 2018. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/boe-declaration-navigating-uncertain-pacific>

<sup>68</sup> UNGA, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

UN DESA, *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS*. <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states/mvi>

UNDP, *International Women’s Day 2021 – Women and Climate Security in the Pacific*, 8 March 2021.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/news/international-womens-day-2021-women-and-climate-security-pacific>

<sup>69</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

cross-cutting issue in the connected efforts to fight climate change and sustain peace, as women are more vulnerable to many of the environmental and economic effects of climate change and to violence resulting from these stressors.<sup>70</sup>

The Peacebuilding Commission's primary tools for addressing peacebuilding matters are holding dialogues between all relevant actors and providing recommendations to improve the coordination of peacebuilders within and outside the UN system, including developing best practices.<sup>71</sup> The General Assembly and Security Council have emphasized PBC's role in "promot[ing] an integrated...approach to peacebuilding" recognizing that "security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing."<sup>72</sup> The Commission has the opportunity to use its competence to coordinate peacebuilding across multiple issues and actors to strengthen the international community's efforts to build and sustain peace in the Pacific Islands as they face the social and economic pressures wrought by global climate change.

### International Framework

The principles of the UN Charter include "unit[ing] our strength to maintain international peace and security" and "employ[ing] international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples."<sup>73</sup> In pursuit of the Charter's aims, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees everyone life, liberty, and security of person, as well as "the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for [their] dignity."<sup>74</sup> UDHR also enumerates "the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being" of oneself and one's family, including "lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond [one's] control."<sup>75</sup> The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) declares that all peoples may "freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development" and prohibits depriving a people "of its own means of subsistence."<sup>76</sup> Every individual has rights to work, an adequate standard of living, freedom from hunger, and participation in cultural life.<sup>77</sup> The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Woman (CEDAW) expands on the provisions of UDHR and ICESCR to enumerate States' responsibilities to ensure women's full economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and the elimination of sexist discrimination in all areas.<sup>78</sup>

Global climate action is largely governed by the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change.<sup>79</sup> UNFCCC requires parties to "give full consideration to...actions related to funding, insurance and the transfer of technology" to meet the needs of developing countries impacted by climate change and responses to it, especially small island countries.<sup>80</sup> UNFCCC's Paris Agreement (2015) seeks to prevent the increase of global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by requiring national targets for reduced greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring sustainable development and poverty eradication, requiring every party to submit "nationally determined contributions," i.e. progressive targets for reduced emissions.<sup>81</sup> The agreement acknowledges the special circumstances that affect SIDS' ability to reduce emissions and calls for enhanced support for developing countries to set more ambitious climate targets.<sup>82</sup> It emphasizes the importance of responding to the immediate needs of the most vulnerable countries and urges stronger cooperation on assisting them with adaptation to the changing climate.<sup>83</sup>

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UN DESA, *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS*. <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states/mvi>

<sup>70</sup> UN-Women, *Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected*, 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>

<sup>71</sup> UN PBC, *Mandate*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

<sup>74</sup> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>76</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1966. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>78</sup> *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 1979. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/cedaw.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, About the Secretariat*. <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

<sup>80</sup> *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992. <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> *Paris Agreement*, 2015. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

The main UN frameworks for sustainable development in SIDS are the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA, 1994) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014).<sup>84</sup> The BPOA was created as a plan for implementing the UN's former Agenda 21 program for sustainable development tailored to SIDS, emphasizing the financial and infrastructural challenges to island States' development and mitigating the effects of climate change.<sup>85</sup> The Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 adopted the SAMOA Pathway, which notes many island States' lack of progress on sustainable development and acknowledges "that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action...require[s] appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda."<sup>86</sup> The SAMOA Pathway identifies several priority areas for a new path toward sustainable development in SIDS, including mitigating climate change impacts through disaster risk reduction; promoting human health and social development, including promoting gender equality; and partnerships for sustainable development policies.<sup>87</sup>

In 2018, national leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) adopted the Boe Declaration on Regional Security to structure their cooperation on climate change as a security issue.<sup>88</sup> The Boe Declaration affirmed "that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific" and expounded an "expanded concept of security" that emphasizes human and environmental security.<sup>89</sup> Signatory States committed to addressing "traditional and non-traditional" security issues in the region by strengthening national security capacities and regional security structures.<sup>90</sup> The PIF Secretariat developed the Boe Declaration Action Plan in 2019 as its strategy for implementing the Declaration's principles of climate, human, and environmental security in the context of the PIF's vision of the Pacific as a region of peace and prosperity.<sup>91</sup>

In 2017, Pacific Island States adopted the non-binding Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) to address climate change, including its effects on energy, food, and water security.<sup>92</sup> FRDP's three goals are strengthened adaptation and risk reduction, low-carbon development, and strengthened disaster preparedness.<sup>93</sup> It identifies climate change and natural hazards as threats to SIDS' integrity and populations and outlines voluntary actions for governments and civil society to address climate change and disaster risk managements as development challenges.<sup>94</sup> Priority actions recommended for national and subnational governments include ensuring financial institutions and annual budgets support climate change and disaster resiliency and strengthening institutions responsible for hazard and risk assessment.<sup>95</sup> FRDP encourages civil society organizations to support cost-effective, gender-responsive climate resiliency programs and adopt a human rights perspective to support vulnerable groups, also calling for private businesses to integrate risk management into corporate social responsibility plans.<sup>96</sup>

Other regional agreements relevant to climate action or peacebuilding and security include the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now (2019), which demands more aggressive implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the Biketawa Declaration, which establishes principles for security cooperation among Pacific Island States (2000).<sup>97</sup>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges that SIDS are among the most vulnerable countries to the negative effects of climate change and commits to strengthening "[their] voice and participation...in

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<sup>84</sup> UN OHRLLS, *About Small Island Developing States*. <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>85</sup> UN OHRLLS, *About Small Island Developing States*. <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>  
UN, *Report of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994. <https://undocs.org/A/CONF.167/9>

<sup>86</sup> UN OHRLLS, *About Small Island Developing States*. <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>  
UNGA, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

<sup>87</sup> UNGA, *SAMOA Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

<sup>88</sup> Naupa et al., *Boe Declaration: navigating an uncertain Pacific*, 2018. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/boe-declaration-navigating-uncertain-pacific>

<sup>89</sup> *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*, 2018. <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>91</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, *Boe Declaration Action Plan*, 2019. <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BOE-document-Action-Plan.pdf>

<sup>92</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, 2017. [https://www.resilientpacific.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/FRDP\\_2016\\_Resilient\\_Dev\\_pacific\\_0.pdf](https://www.resilientpacific.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/FRDP_2016_Resilient_Dev_pacific_0.pdf)

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup> *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action*, 2019. <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/50th-Pacific-Islands-Forum-Communique.pdf>

*Biketawa Declaration*, 2000. <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BIKETAWA-Declaration.pdf>

international economic decision-making” and the development of better indicators and reporting mechanisms to support their sustainable development.<sup>98</sup> The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs identifies Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17 as especially relevant to SIDS.<sup>99</sup> Goals 13, “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,” and 16, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies,” are most directly connected to the impact of climate change on peacebuilding.<sup>100</sup> The SDGs mention SIDS in two targets and eight indicators, notably target 17.18 (building capacity to increase the availability of disaggregated data for indicator tracking,) 7.b (modern and sustainable energy for all through infrastructure and technology improvements), 9.a (sustainable and resilient infrastructure development through financial and technical support), 10.b (development assistance where it is needed most), and 13.b (effective climate management capacity).<sup>101</sup>

Title	Author	Year
Boe Declaration on Regional Security	Pacific Islands Forum	2018
Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific	Pacific Islands Forum	2017
Boe Declaration Action Plan	Pacific Islands Forum	2019
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	United Nations	1992
SAMOA Pathway	United Nations General Assembly	2014

### Role of PBC and the International System

PBC has addressed climate change’s impact on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands at two ambassadorial-level meetings held in 2020 and 2022.<sup>102</sup> The 2020 meeting was its first discussion of the Pacific Islands region and dealt primarily with COVID-19’s impact on peacebuilding there.<sup>103</sup> Several attendees stressed that climate change is the greatest threat to Pacific peoples.<sup>104</sup> The director of the United Nations Development Programme’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific opined that Pacific Islands states face a triple challenge of “COVID-19, climate change and threats to human security, resulting in the resurfacing of unaddressed conflicts.”<sup>105</sup> The Commission highlighted the importance of multilateral peacebuilding efforts in the region, including the importance of the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in bridging funding gaps and the work of the Pacific Islands Forum.<sup>106</sup>

Another ambassadorial-level meeting on 31 May 2022 focused on climate change.<sup>107</sup> The representative of Fiji explained that climate change threatens “health, food security, development goals, disaster resilience, COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts, territorial integrity and social cohesion in the region,” urging further

<sup>98</sup> UNGA, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

<sup>99</sup> UN DESA, *Small Island Developing States*. <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states>

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>102</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_-\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_-_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)

<sup>103</sup> UNGA & UNSC, *Report of the PBC on its fourteenth session (A/75/747 – S/2021/139)*, 2021. <https://undocs.org/A/75/747>

UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_-\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_-_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>104</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_-\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_-_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> UNGA & UNSC, *Report of the PBC on its fourteenth session (A/75/747 – S/2021/139)*, 2021. <https://undocs.org/A/75/747>

UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2020.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_-\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_-_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>107</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)

development of knowledge products like the Regional Climate Change Security Assessment Framework.<sup>108</sup> An official from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) called for more ambitious National Adaptation Plans and their full funding with public and private investments.<sup>109</sup> Several attendees stressed that climate change can exacerbate conflict by causing displacement and competition over land and natural resources, especially water.<sup>110</sup> Climate finance was a major theme, with Member States voicing concern at the difficulty SIDS face accessing multilateral funding and urging stronger partnerships with international financial institutions.<sup>111</sup> Speakers at the meeting requested that the Commission increase its role in connecting Member States and other actors to address the topic of climate and peacebuilding in the region.<sup>112</sup>

The Commission, Member States, and UN officials have all cited the importance of support from the Peacebuilding Fund in the Pacific Islands region.<sup>113</sup> The PBF is the UN's primary resource for sustaining peace in countries at risk of conflict, funded by contributions from 64 Member States.<sup>114</sup> The PBF's current effort benefiting Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu has contributed more \$3.2 million US to the Climate Security in the Pacific project run by UNDP and the International Organization for Migration.<sup>115</sup> Launching in July 2020 and set to run until 16 January 2023, the project has worked to strengthen climate risk management in participating Member States by engaging local communities in consultations on climate security, developing security risk assessments, and implementing pilot projects for climate adaptation in sectors like fishing and horticulture.<sup>116</sup>

Despite its "primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security" and role in setting UN policy on peacebuilding, the Security Council has not taken concrete action on climate and security.<sup>117</sup> A draft resolution proposed in 2021 and sponsored by 113 Member States would have requested the Secretary-General to report on "the security implications of the adverse effects of climate change...as well as recommendations on how climate-related security risks can be addressed" while requesting peacekeeping and political operations to undertake climate security work.<sup>118</sup> China, India, and the Russian Federation voiced concern at the lack of scientific support for treating climate change as a security issue and argued that adopting a resolution on the matter would interfere with the inclusive participation of all Member States through the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change.<sup>119</sup> Russia ultimately vetoed the draft resolution, and since then, the Council's work on climate and security has consisted of one Arria-formula meeting on climate finance in March 2022 and a debate on climate and security in Africa in October 2022.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>114</sup> UN, *The Fund*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/fund>

<sup>115</sup> UNDP, *PBF/IRF-362: Pacific Island Countries with a focus on Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands (Tuvalu)*, 2023.

<https://mptf.undp.org/project/00122865>

UNDP, *Climate Security in the Pacific*, 2022. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/projects/climate-security>

UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair's Summary*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)

<sup>116</sup> PBF, *PBF Project Document: Pacific Island Countries with a focus on Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands*, 2022.

[https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/ProDoc\\_Gtw\\_220908\\_0.pdf](https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/ProDoc_Gtw_220908_0.pdf)

UNDP, *Climate Security in the Pacific Project Brief*, 2022. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-project-brief>

UNDP, *Climate Security in the Pacific: Pilot Project Briefs in Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu*, 2022.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-pilot-project-briefs>

<sup>117</sup> UNSC, *What is the Security Council?*. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

Security Council Report, *The UNSC and Climate Change: Tracking the Agenda after the 2021 Veto*, 2022.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc\\_climatechange\\_2022.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc_climatechange_2022.pdf)

<sup>118</sup> UNSC, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/2021/990)*, 2021. <https://undocs.org/S/2021/990>

Security Council Report, *The UNSC and Climate Change: Tracking the Agenda after the 2021 Veto*, 2022.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc\\_climatechange\\_2022.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc_climatechange_2022.pdf)

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> Security Council Report, *The UNSC and Climate Change: Tracking the Agenda after the 2021 Veto*, 2022.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc\\_climatechange\\_2022.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc_climatechange_2022.pdf)

Several regional partnerships address issues related to climate and peace in the Pacific Islands, including:

- **Pacific Islands Forum:** The Pacific Islands Forum is the region’s chief policy organization.<sup>121</sup> It includes 18 members and one associate member, most of which are SIDS.<sup>122</sup> The Forum facilitates cooperation between governments and collaboration with international agencies with the goal of developing Pacific regionalism along with peace, security, social inclusion, and prosperity.<sup>123</sup>
- **Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM):** Japan hosts PIF members every three years to discuss issues of mutual concern.<sup>124</sup> At PALM in 2021, leaders agreed that climate change and disaster resilience should be a priority area for trans-Pacific cooperation and committed to strengthen their leadership in international climate efforts and collaboratively implement the FDRP.<sup>125</sup>
- **Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP):** Established in 2017, PRP is the mechanism for implementing FDRP.<sup>126</sup> PRP gathers stakeholders to provide strategic guidance on enhancing climate resilience in the Pacific.<sup>127</sup>

## Key Issues

### *Climate finance*

Climate finance is financing meant to support efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, regardless of funding source.<sup>128</sup> The World Bank calculated in 2019 that transitioning to a green economy would require \$90 trillion US in investments by 2030, which would yield economic benefits of \$4 for every dollar spent.<sup>129</sup> With greenhouse gas emissions returning to their pre-pandemic levels after a dip during the COVID-19 outbreak, investment in climate action has become even more urgent.<sup>130</sup> Given climate change’s potential to fuel conflict, the Secretary-General sees climate finance as an important component of funding for peacebuilding.<sup>131</sup> Climate finance instruments may be broadly categorized as concessional and non-concessional.<sup>132</sup> Concessional finance refers to any form of financing offered at below-market-value costs, including grants and low-interest loans.<sup>133</sup> Concessional loans may include generous terms like zero interest or extended repayment, while grants require no repayment at all.<sup>134</sup> In contrast, non-concessional loans charge at- or near-market interest rates.<sup>135</sup>

In 2010, the UNFCCC Conference of Parties agreed to “a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.”<sup>136</sup> UNFCCC’s funding mechanism operates through several operating entities, such as the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund (GCF), which also support the

Security Council Report, *Arria-formula Meeting: Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace and Security*, 2022.

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/03/aria-formula-meeting-climate-finance-for-sustaining-peace-and-security.php>

Security Council Report, *October 2022 Monthly Forecast*, 2022. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2022-10/climate-and-security-3.php>

<sup>121</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, *The Pacific Islands Forum*. <https://www.forumsec.org/who-we-arepacific-islands-forum/>

<sup>122</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, *The Pacific Islands Forum*. <https://www.forumsec.org/who-we-arepacific-islands-forum/>

UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, *List of SIDS*. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids>

<sup>123</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, *The Pacific Islands Forum*. <https://www.forumsec.org/who-we-arepacific-islands-forum/>

<sup>124</sup> Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM)*, 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/palm/index.html>

<sup>125</sup> Japan, *The Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) Leaders Declaration*, 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100207980.pdf>

<sup>126</sup> Pacific Resilience Partnership, *Welcome to PRP*, 2023. <https://www.resilientpacific.org/en>

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>128</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Introduction to Climate Finance*. <https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance>

<sup>129</sup> UN, *Financing Climate Action*. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/climate-finance>

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> UNGA & UNSC, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/668-S/2022/66)*, 2022.

<https://undocs.org/A/76/668>

<sup>132</sup> World Bank, *What You Need to Know about Concessional Finance for Climate Action*, 2021.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/16/what-you-need-to-know-about-concessional-finance-for-climate-action>

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Introduction to Climate Finance Instruments for Green Banking*, 2017.

[https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Finance\\_Colombo.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Finance_Colombo.pdf)

<sup>133</sup> World Bank, *What You Need to Know about Concessional Finance for Climate Action*, 2021.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/16/what-you-need-to-know-about-concessional-finance-for-climate-action>

<sup>134</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Introduction to Climate Finance Instruments for Green Banking*, 2017.

[https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Finance\\_Colombo.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Finance_Colombo.pdf)

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>136</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

implementation of the Paris Agreement.<sup>137</sup> Particularly, the SAMOA Pathway describes GCF as playing “a key role in channelling... financial resources to developing countries.”<sup>138</sup> GCF’s approach involves country-led implementation, a variety of financing instruments, funds split evenly between mitigation and adaptation, and accepting higher risks than other funding sources.<sup>139</sup> The Pacific Islands Forum is developing its own climate finance mechanism, as well; the Pacific Resilience Facility aims to raise \$1.5 billion US to provide full-grant financing to governments for community-level disaster risk reduction efforts.<sup>140</sup>

Global climate finance has increased in recent years but is insufficient to reach the \$100 billion annual target.<sup>141</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recorded a peak of only \$83.3 billion US in climate finance for developing countries in 2020.<sup>142</sup> Contributions are likely overreported due to inconsistent methods of determining whether finance is climate-specific, inflating annual reports up to \$4 billion US.<sup>143</sup> Furthermore, funds are not being used in the most effective ways, with most going to mitigation efforts and only 20% going into more impactful adaptation projects.<sup>144</sup> SIDS only received \$2 billion US in 2018, with only about half being grants.<sup>145</sup> Non-government organizations like Oxfam International have voiced concern that reliance on non-grant financing increases developing countries’ debt burdens.<sup>146</sup> The Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance expects contributions to SIDS to shrink and calls for the international community to treat the \$100 billion target as a minimum, including ideally tripling grants for climate action worldwide by 2025 and aligning development finance institutions’ operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement.<sup>147</sup> PBC members have highlighted obstacles to Pacific Island States’ access to climate finance, including high transaction costs, and called for simplified funding processes for vulnerable countries.<sup>148</sup> UNDP suggests that climate finance can better serve peacebuilding by accounting for the effects of conflict on climate efforts and creating “projects with dual climate and security benefits.”<sup>149</sup> In fact, separate funding streams for issues like gender and climate can prevent integrated approaches to peacebuilding.<sup>150</sup>

### *Risk and vulnerability assessments*

Tools for measuring likely climate change impacts include risk assessments, which focus on changes in climatic conditions and their direct consequences, and vulnerability assessments, which deal with the capacities and sensitivity of systems and populations.<sup>151</sup> PBF reports that “[r]isk assessments at the country and regional level are the most important tool to identify and address climate-related security issues.”<sup>152</sup> The SAMOA Pathway endorses international technical assistance and financing for disaster risk assessment, including early warning systems and observation equipment.<sup>153</sup> Meanwhile, national vulnerability assessments could provide a basis for improving SIDS’

<sup>137</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Introduction to Climate Finance*. <https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance>

<sup>138</sup> UNGA, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

<sup>139</sup> Green Climate Fund, *About GCF*. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about>

<sup>140</sup> Pacific Resilience Facility, *Prospectus*, 2021. <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PRFFinalMay2021.pdf>

<sup>141</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

<sup>142</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Aggregate Trends of Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-2020*, 2022. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/d28f963c-en.pdf>

<sup>143</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

<sup>144</sup> UN, *Financing Climate Action*. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/climate-finance>

<sup>145</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

<sup>146</sup> Oxfam International, *Climate Finance Shadow Report 2020: Assessing Progress Towards the \$100 Billion Commitment*, 2020. <https://oxfam.app.box.com/s/djxmq18v80tku8xjwrpoch7bf7prjs/file/729355846954>

<sup>147</sup> Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, *Delivering on the \$100 Billion Climate Finance Commitment and Transforming Climate Finance*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100\\_billion\\_climate\\_finance\\_report.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/12/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf)

<sup>148</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2022. [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)

<sup>149</sup> UNDP, *Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts*, 2021.

<https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and-fragile-contexts>

<sup>150</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Promoting Climate-Resilient Peacebuilding in Fragile States*, 2015.

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/promoting-climate-resilient-peacebuilding-fragile-states.pdf>

<sup>151</sup> European Climate Adaptation Platform, *Assessing climate change risks and vulnerabilities*. <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/knowledge/tools/urban-ast/step-2-4/index.html>

<sup>152</sup> UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security in the Pacific Project Brief*, 2022.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-project-brief>

<sup>153</sup> UNGA, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

access to financing for which they may not qualify based on national income, the main criterion used to allocate official development assistance (ODA).<sup>154</sup> A Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for SIDS would empirically measure the multiple variables that make SIDS vulnerable to climate change and identify gaps between funding needs and resources.<sup>155</sup>

The PBF-funded Climate Security in the Pacific project has worked to develop climate security risk assessments in Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands, as well as for the Pacific Island region.<sup>156</sup> These assessments “identify critical climate security issues as the basis for action, resource mobilization, and advocacy.”<sup>157</sup> In Kiribati and Tuvalu, the project used existing national vulnerability assessments to choose sites for agricultural pilot programs.<sup>158</sup> UNDP has identified ways that providers of climate finance have integrated climate and security risk assessments, such as accounting for the impacts of population relocation on peacebuilding, and suggests that climate and security risk assessments could be integrated to sustain peace more effectively by considering factors like an armed conflict’s impact on climate change vulnerability.<sup>159</sup> To address the need for vulnerability assessments, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) oversees efforts to develop an MVI.<sup>160</sup> In February 2022, a 12-member High-Level Panel began work to finalize an MVI that will define indicators, a precise methodology for weighting factors, and precise definitions of concepts used in the index.<sup>161</sup>

With the Climate Security in the Pacific pilot projects ending, PBF sees a need for more national risk assessments throughout the Pacific Islands to help mobilize climate security resources.<sup>162</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding has indicated continued support from the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs for developing a regional risk assessment framework.<sup>163</sup> The High-Level Panel’s target for finalizing an MVI for SIDS was December 2022, but it has not yet reported finishing its work.<sup>164</sup> Once the MVI is released, its possible uses include facilitating evidence-based resource allocation, expanding eligibility for concessional financing, monitoring vulnerability and policies addressing it, and guiding national and multilateral climate policies.<sup>165</sup>

### Gender equality

Gender inequality is one of the main social factors that cause State fragility and inhibit peacebuilding.<sup>166</sup> PBC Member States have recognized “that women are disproportionately affected by climate change,” while Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs forum has heard that domestic violence limits women’s ability to adapt to climate change.<sup>167</sup> Gender-based violence is a notable issue in Pacific Island States, which have some of the world’s

<sup>154</sup> UN DESA, *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS*. <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states/mvi>

UN High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, *Interim Report*, 2022.

[https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI\\_Interim\\_Report\\_%20Final.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI_Interim_Report_%20Final.pdf)

<sup>155</sup> Alliance of Small Island States, *The benefits of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) explained*, 2022. <https://www.aosis.org/the-benefits-of-the-multi-dimensional-vulnerability-index-mvi-explained/>

<sup>156</sup> UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security in the Pacific Project Brief*, 2022.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-project-brief>

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>158</sup> UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security in the Pacific: Pilot Project Briefs in Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu*, 2022. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-pilot-project-briefs>

<sup>159</sup> UNDP, *Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts*, 2021.

<https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and-fragile-contexts>

<sup>160</sup> UN DESA, *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS*. <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states/mvi>

<sup>161</sup> UN High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, *Interim Report*, 2022.

[https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI\\_Interim\\_Report\\_%20Final.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI_Interim_Report_%20Final.pdf)

<sup>162</sup> UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, *Climate Security in the Pacific Project Brief*, 2022.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-pacific-project-brief>

<sup>163</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> UN High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, *Interim Report*, 2022.

[https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI\\_Interim\\_Report\\_%20Final.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/MVI_Interim_Report_%20Final.pdf)

<sup>165</sup> UNGA, *Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/211)*, 2021. <https://undocs.org/A/76/211>

<sup>166</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Promoting Climate-Resilient Peacebuilding in Fragile States*, 2015.

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/promoting-climate-resilient-peacebuilding-fragile-states.pdf>

<sup>167</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_islands.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_islands.pdf)



highest domestic violence rates.<sup>168</sup> The relationship between gender, climate, and peace is compounded by the fact that climate change widens gender inequalities and causes the greatest harm to women and girls, who depend the most on access to imperiled natural resources because of their key roles in food production and acquiring household water and fuel in much of the world.<sup>169</sup> In the Pacific Islands, women are responsible for most agriculture and water collection, increasing their vulnerability to land and water shortages and salinization.<sup>170</sup> In turn, these deprivations make women and girls more vulnerable to gender-based violence, including that related to armed conflict.<sup>171</sup> Crime and gender-based violence often increase in the aftermath of Pacific cyclones, which are exacerbated by climate change.<sup>172</sup> Other barriers to gender equality in the region include reduced access to formal banking and discriminatory hiring practices, including in the energy sector.<sup>173</sup>

Every year since 2015, PBF has met its target of allocating 30% of funds to women’s empowerment and gender equality, reaching as high as 47% in 2021.<sup>174</sup> The SAMOA Pathway recognizes gender equality as having “a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development.”<sup>175</sup> The agreement calls for SIDS to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls while mainstreaming gender in sustainable development planning.<sup>176</sup> A majority of Pacific Island Member States has ratified CEDAW, excepting Palau and Tonga.<sup>177</sup> PIF issued the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration in 2012, committing to increase gender equality by increasing women’s full participation in all levels of governance, improving women’s access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, legislating against gender-based violence, and ensuring reproductive health.<sup>178</sup>

The Secretary-General reports that demand for PBF funds, including for gender equality programs, exceeds available resources.<sup>179</sup> Worldwide, funding for women’s rights organizations in conflict-affected settings has only amounted to .4% of bilateral aid.<sup>180</sup> UNDP observes that in existing climate finance programs, no fund “deliberately integrate[s] conflict or peacebuilding considerations into project gender, environmental and social safeguards,” suggesting a need for climate financiers to consider climate, gender, and peacebuilding as interconnected issues.<sup>181</sup> To address country-level gender inequality while promoting climate adaptation, UN-Women recommends promoting women’s enrollment in postsecondary science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs, ensuring women’s access to assets like loans and land, increasing the use of solar-power generators for households not on the grid, and guaranteeing women roles in decision-making around energy.<sup>182</sup> PBF’s Climate Security Project in the Pacific has modeled gender-sensitive approaches to climate adaptation that may inform other projects,

UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, *Climate Change, Conflict Prevention and Sustainable Peace: Perspectives from the Pacific*, 2019. [https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/climate\\_security\\_workshop\\_report\\_7\\_june.pdf](https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/climate_security_workshop_report_7_june.pdf)

<sup>168</sup> UN PBC, *Meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific Islands: Chair’s Summary*, 2020. [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020\\_pbc\\_meeting\\_on\\_the\\_pacific\\_-\\_chairs\\_summary\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/28072020_pbc_meeting_on_the_pacific_-_chairs_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>169</sup> UN-Women, *Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected*, 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>

<sup>170</sup> UNDP, *International Women’s Day 2021 – Women and Climate Security in the Pacific*, 8 March 2021. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/news/international-womens-day-2021-women-and-climate-security-pacific>

<sup>171</sup> UN-Women, *Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected*, 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>

<sup>172</sup> UNDP, *International Women’s Day 2021 – Women and Climate Security in the Pacific*, 2021. <https://www.undp.org/pacific/news/international-womens-day-2021-women-and-climate-security-pacific>

<sup>173</sup> UN-Women, *Gender Equality and Sustainable Energy: Lessons from Pacific Island Countries and Territories*, 2022. [https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Gender\\_Equality\\_and\\_Sustainable\\_Energy\\_Pacific.pdf](https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Gender_Equality_and_Sustainable_Energy_Pacific.pdf)

<sup>174</sup> UNGA & UNSC, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/668-S/2022/66)*, 2022. <https://undocs.org/A/76/668>

<sup>175</sup> UNGA, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/RES/69/15)*, 2014. <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/15>

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>177</sup> UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW&Lang=en)

<sup>178</sup> *Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration*, 2012. <https://www.forumsec.org/2012/08/30/plged/>

<sup>179</sup> UNGA & UNSC, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/668-S/2022/66)*, 2022. <https://undocs.org/A/76/668>

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>181</sup> UNDP, *Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts*, 2021. <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and-fragile-contexts>

<sup>182</sup> UN-Women, *Gender Equality and Sustainable Energy: Lessons from Pacific Island Countries and Territories*, 2022. [https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Gender\\_Equality\\_and\\_Sustainable\\_Energy\\_Pacific.pdf](https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Gender_Equality_and_Sustainable_Energy_Pacific.pdf)

including prioritizing the needs of women and other vulnerable groups in developing risk management strategies and seeking the unique perspectives of women and girls at all stages of project planning and implementation.<sup>183</sup>

## Conclusion

With climate change threatening the peace and security of Pacific Island countries as global climate finance falters and UN peacebuilding pilots in the region come to a close, the Peacebuilding Commission has the responsibility to coordinate all actors' efforts to promote peace in the region, especially given the Security Council's inaction on climate security.<sup>184</sup> Delegates should consider how to make climate finance more effective for peacebuilding in the Pacific, improve risk and vulnerability assessment, and promote gender equality in support of both peacebuilding and climate resiliency.

- What policies can the Peacebuilding Commission promote to address the connected issues of climate finance, climate risk and vulnerability assessments, and gender equality in the Pacific Islands?
- How can the Commission use its ability to advise both the General Assembly and Security Council to improve climate-related peacebuilding work in the Pacific Islands?
- How should Member States, the UN system, and international financial institutions ensure climate finance to Pacific Island countries that is both adequate and sensitive to peacebuilding needs?
- What support do Pacific Island States and international actors need to implement risk and vulnerability assessments necessary for climate adaptation and sustaining peace, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS?
- What opportunities exist for increasing women's participation in climate security efforts in the Pacific Islands?

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<sup>183</sup> UNDP, *International Women's Day 2021 – Women and Climate Security in the Pacific*, 8 March 2021.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/news/international-womens-day-2021-women-and-climate-security-pacific>

<sup>184</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Aggregate Trends of Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-2020*, 2022. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/d28f963c-en.pdf>

UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, *PBF Project Document: Pacific Island Countries with a focus on Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands*, 2022. [https://mpf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/ProDoc\\_Gtw\\_220908\\_0.pdf](https://mpf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/ProDoc_Gtw_220908_0.pdf)

UN PBC, *Mandate*. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>

Security Council Report, *The UNSC and Climate Change: Tracking the Agenda after the 2021 Veto*, 2022.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc\\_climatechange\\_2022.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc_climatechange_2022.pdf)

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## II. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

*“The process of disarming, demobilising and reintegrating ex-soldiers at conflict’s end is as old as war itself. The results of these efforts are far from even. Even so, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) has assumed a central place in the imagination of the peace, security and development communities. It is frequently advanced as a key pillar of multilateral and bilateral stabilization and reconstruction efforts at war’s end. Yet, the contexts in which DDR is conducted are also changing.” – Robert Muggah<sup>185</sup>*

### Introduction

Maintaining the safety of individuals while developing and sustaining peace within and between Member States is of the utmost importance.<sup>186</sup> Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) is a process that contributes to stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts while creating an environment where sustainable development, political and social reconciliation, and the development of peace can take place.<sup>187</sup> It occurs when members of armed groups and forces are supported to lay down their weapons and transition to civilian life.<sup>188</sup> The DDR process works to assist the transformation of individuals from combatants to civilians and of societies from conflict to peace.<sup>189</sup> The fragility of existing peace agreements, the designation of armed groups as terrorist organisations, and the rise of transnational armed violence and criminal networks are some of the key factors and contexts in which DDR takes place.<sup>190</sup>

The success and effectiveness of DDR is depending on many efforts including dialogue, mediation, transnational justice, security sector governance and reform, sustainable development, prevention and countering of violent extremism, tackling organised crime, and management of small arms and light weapons.<sup>191</sup> As DDR is a politically driven process, its success depends also upon the will of the parties engaged within the conflict to demilitarise following conflict.<sup>192</sup> This can usually be seen within the framework of a ceasefire agreement or comprehensive peace accord. Through the United Nations (UN) integrated disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration standards (IDDRS) which was produced by the UN Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), the UN hopes to “provide direction and guidance to those engaged in preparing, implementing, and supporting disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programmes.”<sup>193</sup> Furthermore, the DDR is often linked with the security sector reform (SSR) as they are interrelated and have become integral state building tools that help to improve the security of people.<sup>194</sup>

In 2021, the UN reported 32 armed conflicts with high-intensity armed conflict accounting for over half (53%) of all cases worldwide.<sup>195</sup> Over the last 30 years, there have been DDR programmes in more than 30 countries with some being effective and others having struggled to achieve their intended goals.<sup>196</sup> With over 24 DDR programmes since 1992, the majority of DDR programmes have taken place within Africa.<sup>197</sup> Currently, there are 12 UN-supported active DDR mission settings, with 10 of them being located in Africa.<sup>198</sup> Additionally, there are another seven UN-

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<sup>185</sup> Muggah, *Next Generation Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration*, 2015, <https://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.fs/>

<sup>186</sup> UN, *The Role of DDR in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*, 2021, [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/pb\\_review\\_thematic\\_paper\\_orolsi\\_ddrs\\_-\\_role\\_of\\_ddr\\_in\\_pb\\_and\\_sp-final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/pb_review_thematic_paper_orolsi_ddrs_-_role_of_ddr_in_pb_and_sp-final.pdf)

<sup>187</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>189</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unDDR.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>190</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *The Evolving Nature of DDR*, 2021, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr>

<sup>191</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_6922](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6922)

<sup>192</sup> European Union, *A New EU Policy to Support Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Former Combatants*, 2021, UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>194</sup> UN, *DDR and Security Sector Reform*, 2022, <https://www.unDDR.org/modules/IDDRS-6.10-DDR-and-SSR.pdf>

<sup>195</sup> Escola de Cultura de Pau, *Alert 2022*, 2022, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/report/alert-2022-report-on-conflicts-human-rights-and-peacebuilding/Alert-2022-Report-on-conflict-human-rights-and-peacebuilding.pdf>

<sup>196</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009,

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

<sup>197</sup> Hansen, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) in Africa*, 2007, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr-africa>

<sup>198</sup> UN IDDRS, *The IDDRS*, 2022, <https://www.unDDR.org/the-iddrs/>

supported active DDR non-mission settings which are all located in Africa.<sup>199</sup> Regardless, organisations operating in war zones continue to struggle to identify ways to disengage with terrorist organisations and other armed forces as there are increasingly complex legal and operational challenges for DDR programmes with regards to how, when, and with whom to engage.<sup>200</sup>

According to the IDDRS, disarmament is defined as the “collection, documentation, control, and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives, and light and heavy weapons” of combatants as well as the civilian population.<sup>201</sup> This can include the gathering of information and operational planning, collection of weapons, and stockpile management alongside weapons destruction. Demobilisation is defined as the “formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or other armed groups” and includes the process of reinsertion which is “the assistance offered to ex-combatants during demobilisation but prior to the longer-term process of reintegration” and is a form transnational assistance.<sup>202</sup> There are two types of demobilisation: static and mobile. Static demobilisation occurs when cantonment or combatants are brought to demobilisation sites while mobile demobilisation occurs when demobilisation services are brought to combatants.<sup>203</sup> Demobilisation often consists of registration and documentation, health screening, and discharge. Reintegration occurs when ex-combatants receive civilian status and acquire a sustainable employment and income.<sup>204</sup> Economic and social reintegration along with information, counselling, and referral play important roles within reintegration. Combatants includes any individual who has participated in combat or within support roles.<sup>205</sup> These individuals are often adult males, however, there are also many women and children that may be included.

DDR contributes to the peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts of the PBC by mutually enforcing relationships between prevention and sustaining peace while supporting peacebuilding in non-mission settings.<sup>206</sup> Furthermore, DDR strengthens partnerships between the UN and other peacebuilding entities through its efforts in both peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping settings.<sup>207</sup> As conflict continues to change over time with the development of weapons, movement of people, evolving governments, and more, so must the DDR process. With regards to DDR, there are several ways in which the PBC can address this topic. Promoting DDR within Member States struggling with armed conflict while assisting Member States and organisations to successfully implement DDR is of the utmost importance. The PBC can establish concrete actions to ensure that the DDR process, planning, and preparations are aligned with peacebuilding priorities.<sup>208</sup> It is important to address obstacles that hinder timing and sequencing of DDR while strengthening capacities that can promote peacebuilding results in DDR programming.<sup>209</sup> The PBC can promote the sustainability of peacebuilding results in DDR and further strengthen the mutual relationship DDR and other entities and organisations that are involved in peacebuilding.<sup>210</sup> Additionally, establishing a clear and unambiguous eligibility criteria along with a careful screening process can help determine who can participate in DDR programmes as it is important to exclude non-combatants who may be armed, though important to include women, children, and disabled individuals.<sup>211</sup>

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<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>200</sup> Muggah, *Next Generation Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration*, 2015, <https://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.fs/>

<sup>201</sup> CFNHRI, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration*, 2016, [https://cfnhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Disarmament\\_Demobilisation\\_Reintegration\\_A\\_Guide\\_for\\_National\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Institutions-I.pdf](https://cfnhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Disarmament_Demobilisation_Reintegration_A_Guide_for_National_Human_Rights_Institutions-I.pdf)

<sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>203</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

<sup>204</sup> CFNHRI, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration*, 2016, [https://cfnhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Disarmament\\_Demobilisation\\_Reintegration\\_A\\_Guide\\_for\\_National\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Institutions-I.pdf](https://cfnhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Disarmament_Demobilisation_Reintegration_A_Guide_for_National_Human_Rights_Institutions-I.pdf)

<sup>205</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

<sup>206</sup> UN, *The Role of DDR in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*, 2021, [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/pb\\_review\\_thematic\\_paper\\_orolsi\\_ddrs\\_-\\_role\\_of\\_ddr\\_in\\_pb\\_and\\_sp-final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/pb_review_thematic_paper_orolsi_ddrs_-_role_of_ddr_in_pb_and_sp-final.pdf)

<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>208</sup> UN, *DDR and Peacebuilding*, 2011, p. 12 [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/ddr\\_pbf\\_thematic\\_review.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/ddr_pbf_thematic_review.pdf)

<sup>209</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>211</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

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## International Framework

The international framework that guides this topic is comprised of various UN resolutions and conventions. DDR aims to protect individuals and their rights while promoting peacebuilding in times of conflict and works in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

The Charter of the UN establishes that the purpose of the UN is to “maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace” within Article I.<sup>212</sup> Additionally, Article III of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) ensures that all people have the right to life, liberty, and security.<sup>213</sup>

The *Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Their Additional Protocols of 1977* protect civilians, victims of war, along with wounded and ill soldiers during wartime.<sup>214</sup> Articles 13 and 32 state that civilians must be protected from murder, torture, or brutality, and from discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, religion, or political opinion.<sup>215</sup> Articles 79 to 135 illustrate that if security permits, civilians must be permitted to lead normal lives and are not to be deported or interned unless for imperative security reasons.<sup>216</sup> Common Article III extends the general coverage of all four Geneva Conventions to “conflicts not of an international character,” ensuring that individuals of the armed forces who have laid out their arms are treated humanely without discrimination and regardless of the circumstances.<sup>217</sup> While Protocol I addresses the conduct by combatants of hostilities as well as the protection of civilian populations against the negative effects of hostilities, Protocol II is devoted to the regulation of non-international armed conflicts and is the first legal instrument to do so.<sup>218</sup>

The *Report on the Panel on UN Peace Operations* also known as the Brahimi Report which was published on August 2000 outlines the need to strengthen UN peacekeeping missions and make them more effective. The report addresses aspects related to DDR in terms of funding, supporting and strengthening DDR to assist in peacekeeping operations, and highlights the essential need for DDR in terms of post-conflict stability.<sup>219</sup>

Within the UN system, DDR is guided by the Integrated Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) which provides direction and guidance for those engaged in preparing, implementing, and supporting DDR programmes in both peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping programmes.<sup>220</sup> Although published by members of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR in 2006, and were based on lessons learned from DDR programmes implemented throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the IDDRS was revised in November 2019 and embraced the Secretary-General’s recommendations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (as noted within A/72/207-S/2018/43) to strengthen operational and policy coherence.<sup>221</sup>

The WAM-DDR eBook published in 2019 by the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), UN ODA, and UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provides key information into the UN’s most recent approach to DDR including information regarding UN DDR principles, the DDR UN mandate, and UN DDR support in non-mission settings.<sup>222</sup> Additionally, S/2000/101 by the Secretary-General discusses in great detail the role that UN Peacekeeping has in DDR.<sup>223</sup> This report includes information on the role of UN Peacekeeping in disarmament, the

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<sup>212</sup> UN, *UN Charter*, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-1>

<sup>213</sup> UN, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>214</sup> ICRC, *The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949*, 2022, <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-0173.pdf>

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>217</sup> American Red Cross, *Summary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Their Additional Protocols*, 2011

[https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF\\_s/International\\_Services/International\\_Humanitarian\\_Law/IHL\\_SummaryGeneva\\_Conv.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/International_Services/International_Humanitarian_Law/IHL_SummaryGeneva_Conv.pdf)

<sup>218</sup> Gardam, *Audiovisual Library of International Law*, 2022, <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/pagc/pagc.html>

<sup>219</sup> Durch, *The Brahimi Report and the Future of UN Operations*, 2000, [https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/files/file-attachments/BR-CompleteVersion-Dec03\\_1.pdf](https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/files/file-attachments/BR-CompleteVersion-Dec03_1.pdf)

<sup>220</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010,

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>221</sup> UN, *The Role of DDR in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*, 2021,

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/pb\\_review\\_thematic\\_paper\\_oroisi\\_ddrs\\_-\\_role\\_of\\_ddr\\_in\\_pb\\_and\\_sp-final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/pb_review_thematic_paper_oroisi_ddrs_-_role_of_ddr_in_pb_and_sp-final.pdf)

<sup>222</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *WAM-DDR eBook*, 2019, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr\\_wam\\_e\\_book.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr_wam_e_book.pdf)

<sup>223</sup> UN Secretary General, *The role of UN peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration: report of the Secretary-General*, 2000, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/407791?ln=en>

disposal of arms and ammunition, demobilising women and child soldiers, and creating a favourable environment for individuals to return to.<sup>224</sup>

From the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, there are several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that can be applied to DDR and its efforts. SDG 16 which promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions along with SDG 5 which addresses gender equality are relevant to DDR and its work.<sup>225</sup> Additionally, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, and SDG 11 on developing sustainable cities and communities can be applied to this topic.<sup>226</sup>

Title	Author	Year
IDDRS	UN-IAWG on DDR	2006
Item 87 of the Provisional Agenda: A/55/305 – S/2000/809	Panel on UN Peace Operations	2000
The Geneva Conventions of 1949	The Red Cross	1949
Item S/55 [18] Peacekeeping Operations Agenda: S/2000/101	UN Secretary-General	2000
WAM-DDR eBook	UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), UN ODA, and UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	2019

### Role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the International System

Since its founding in 2005, the PBC has continued to address and develop the DDR. However, there are many challenges for the PBC and its approach to DDR, as many Member States and institutions may choose to view DDR through a primarily military and security lens instead of a peacebuilding one.<sup>227</sup> Although challenging, the PBC continues to work on coordinating DDR programmes with transnational justice mechanisms while assisting in carrying out DDR efforts (especially within Africa).<sup>228</sup> Despite the fact that there are many more ways for the PBC to get involved within DDR, throughout the past couple of years, the PBC has held many meetings to discuss the work of DDR and its effectiveness within Member States, specifically, within African Member States.

On December 7, 2021, the Chair of the PBC summoned a meeting with many senior UN representatives and government authorities to discuss the contributions of DDR and SSR to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.<sup>229</sup> The UN Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Alexandre Zouev, emphasised the “increasingly complex nature of the contexts where DDR and SSR are employed, requiring greater coordination, integration, and more effective strategic partnerships.”<sup>230</sup> Several Member States from Africa such as Minister Sarassoro of Cote d’Ivoire illustrated the experience of DDR and SSR within Cote d’Ivoire while emphasising that DDR is a highly political process which works to re-establish confidence.<sup>231</sup> The DDR coordinator of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Tommy Tambwe Ushindi, noted the important role that the community plays within DDR and stated how effective DDR programmes can contribute to post-conflict stabilisation, regional cooperation, community resilience, and the re-establishment of government authority.<sup>232</sup> Other Member States recognised the complementary ways in which the SSR and DDR work together while further noting the importance of national ownership of SSR and DDR

<sup>224</sup> UN Secretary General, *The role of UN peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration: report of the Secretary-General*, 2000, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/407791?ln=en>

<sup>225</sup> UN DESA, *The 17 Goals: Sustainable Development*, 2022, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>226</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Community Violence Reduction: Creating Space for Peace*, 2021, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr-and-cvr-creating-space-for-peace.pdf>

<sup>227</sup> Siriam, *Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding on the Ground: Victims and Ex-combatants*, 2012, p. 32

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>229</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>230</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>231</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>232</sup> *Ibid.*

programmes.<sup>233</sup> Additionally, several Member States welcomed the revision of the IDDRS and acknowledged the need to involve women within DDR and SSR.<sup>234</sup>

The IDDRS along with the *Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Context* of 2021 and the *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) and Transition Planning Processes* of 2021 serve as well-written handbooks and guides that provide a plethora of information on how to implement DDR as well as how DDR is supposed to function across the globe.<sup>235,236</sup> Important notes by the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly and Security Council as seen within A/C.5/59/31 on the “Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the UN Peacekeeping Operations” help to define disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration as well as its various aspects.<sup>237</sup> Reports such as S/2000/101 by the Secretary-General on “the Role of the United Nations Peacekeeping in Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration” are necessary in understanding the purpose and function of DDR within the context of the UN.<sup>238</sup>

DDR is a part of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) within the Department of Peace Operations (DPO).<sup>239</sup> Each year, there is a meeting of senior DDR officers and partners at the DDR Chief’s Symposium which focuses upon discussing DDR practitioners and their partners on the latest developments and innovations in DDR.<sup>240</sup> The symposium is also an opportunity for individuals to provide strategic recommendations on issues that directly and indirectly impact the work of DDR practitioners, serving as a platform for experience-sharing and thus contributes to the building blocks for a global community of DDR practices.<sup>241</sup>

Along with the UN, many non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), and various aid groups are usually involved in administering DDR programmes.<sup>242</sup> From Yemen to Haiti, DDR programmes have been implemented within the post-conflict reconstruction of many Member States.<sup>243</sup> While early DDR programmes in Liberia and Somalia failed in part due to vague mandates, newer DDR programmes in Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have disarmed thousands of combatants—saving the lives of many while preventing conflict.<sup>244</sup> However, these programmes continue to struggle with a lack of sufficient funding as well as a lack of research. This has halted the process of developing better and more effective reintegration programmes.

The IDDRS was formulated through the joint efforts of 25 UN entities which work together to form the IAWG on DDR in 2005.<sup>245</sup> The UN Country Team (UNCT), World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB), Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UN African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC), UN Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organisation (WHO), UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), African Union, and European Union (EU) all work to improve, implement, and fund DDR in many

<sup>233</sup> UN, *PBC Ambassadorial-Level Meeting*, 2021,

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs\\_summary\\_of\\_ddr.ssr\\_mtg.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_of_ddr.ssr_mtg.pdf)

<sup>234</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>235</sup> Department of Peace Operations, *Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr-handbook-2ed-3\\_2021.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr-handbook-2ed-3_2021.pdf)

<sup>236</sup> UN DDR, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) and Transition Planning Processes*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper\\_on\\_ddr\\_and\\_transition\\_planning\\_processes\\_may2021.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper_on_ddr_and_transition_planning_processes_may2021.pdf)

<sup>237</sup> UN, *Official Document System of the UN*, 2022, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/357/15/PDF/N0535715.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>238</sup> UN, *The Role of UN Peacekeeping in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2000, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/407791?ln=en>

<sup>239</sup> OROLSI, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr\\_section\\_2021\\_vision\\_document\\_en.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr_section_2021_vision_document_en.pdf)

<sup>240</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin - Issue Number 2 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-q2-2021/>

<sup>241</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>242</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Peacekeeping*, 2022, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration>

<sup>243</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>244</sup> Hansen, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) in Africa*, 2007, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr-africa>

<sup>245</sup> UN IDDRS, *The IDDRS*, 2022, <https://www.unddr.org/the-iddrs/>

of its aspects.<sup>246</sup> However, the multitude of agencies involved in DDR can often create confusion and management conflicts due to conflicting ideas, rules, and policies.

While the PBF continues to fund many of the DDR projects, since 1992, the World Bank has been involved in DDR programmes and has supported over 21 demobilisation and reintegration projects in more than 15 different countries.<sup>247</sup> Within Africa, many of the various UN committees listed above along with different NGOs and aid groups are usually involved in DDR projects. For example, UNICEF leads child DDR in Liberia while the World Food Program, WHO, ActionAid, and the UNDP administer adult DDR.<sup>248</sup> The largest DDR programme in the world was run by the World Bank in conjunction with 40 other Western and African governments, NGOs, and other regional organisations, being a multi-country initiative in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa known as the Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Program (MDRP) and closed in June 2009 following seven years of operation.<sup>249</sup> The programme demobilised approximately 300,000 combatants and supported the reintegration of 232,000 ex-combatants.<sup>250</sup>

International actors are often called upon to provide strategic, technical, operational, and financial support to DDR. These include regional actors/organisations, UN Member States and bilateral partners, international NGOs such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), international corporations, and research and policy centres.<sup>251</sup> Projects such as the “Effective Weapons and Ammunition in a Changing DDR Context” support the implementation of DDR over time along with UN peace operations.

The team of OROLSI’s DDR Section has been assisting DDR processes in UN Peacekeeping Operations in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Mali (MINUSMA), and South Sudan (UNMISS).<sup>252</sup> Additionally, the DDR Section supports Special Political Missions in Burundi (OSASG-B), Colombia, Ethiopia (UNOAU), the Great Lakes (OESG-GL), Haiti (BINUH), Iraq (UNAMI), Libya (UNSMIL), Somalia and Yemen, as well as non-mission settings such as Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone.<sup>253</sup>

Involving various national and international actors, DDR is situated within multiple and overlapping frameworks for peacebuilding, recovery, and development such as Post-Conflict Needs Assessments (PCNAs), Transitional Results Matrices (TRMs), national recovery strategies, Common Country Assessments (CCAs), UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).<sup>254</sup> Think tanks and academia such as the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) has also worked on DDR to “organise a series of workshops aimed at fostering a strong partnership between DDR and key national and international stakeholders.”<sup>255</sup>

Local advisers such as NGOs, CSOs, religious organisations, and military observers from the UN military personnel often assist in the DDR process within specific countries, specifically throughout screening processes and on-the-ground work.<sup>256</sup> Additionally, the responsibility for the DDR process “rests with national actors and stakeholders” to ensure that the genuine, broad, and effective ownership of DDR is vital for the sustainability of the process.<sup>257</sup> These

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<sup>246</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>247</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

<sup>248</sup> Hansen, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) in Africa*, 2007, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr-africa>

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>250</sup> World Bank, *End of Programme Evaluations*, 2008, <https://www.mdrp.org/index.htm.html>

<sup>251</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>252</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Peacekeeping*, 2022, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration>

<sup>253</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>254</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>255</sup> UN DDR, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) and Transition Planning Processes*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper\\_on\\_ddr\\_and\\_transition\\_planning\\_processes\\_may2021.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper_on_ddr_and_transition_planning_processes_may2021.pdf)

<sup>256</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid.*



national actors include political parties, governments, the military, CSOs including women's organisations, non-signatory armed groups, signatory armed groups, and the media.<sup>258</sup>

There are various agencies, initiatives, and frameworks with which DDR aligns with and is implemented within. These include the UN Global Counterterrorism Framework; the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda; the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda; Agenda for Disarmament; Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus; Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative; the SDGs; and the World Bank's Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Strategy.<sup>259</sup> Some of these agencies, initiatives, and frameworks help to fund DDR and its programmes. As DDR is often implemented within African Member States, most of the agencies, programmes, and UN committees are located within Africa as well.

Some important resolutions that have been passed such as S/RES/1325 on "Women, Peace, and Security," S/RES/2122 on strengthening women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, along with S/RES/2282 and A/RES/70/262 on "Post-conflict Peacebuilding" stress the importance of the PBC to promote peacebuilding and bring sustained peace for all individuals through programmes and processes such as DDR. Resolutions such as A/RES/75/291 on the seventh review of the "UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" as well as S/RES/2250 on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security" work in collaboration with DDR efforts.

## Key Issues

### *Women in the Context of DDR*

Within the PBC meeting on December 7, 2021, discussing the contributions of DDR and SSR to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, many Member States recognised that "it is essential to involve women in DDR and SSR, using a gender-sensitive approach."<sup>260</sup> Noting that women are often left vulnerable and are most at risk to the harms of armed conflict, it is important to provide them with special emphasis. It is important to include female members of armed forces and groups who participated in armed conflict. In the past, women were often forced to "self-demobilise," experiencing difficulties and stigma while reintegrating into civilian life.<sup>261</sup> When included in DDR processes, the special needs of women (such as reproductive healthcare services, separate shelter and sanitation facilities, childcare, treatment for gender and sexual based violence, and other gender specific services) were often ignored.<sup>262</sup> Additionally, women were far too often excluded from peace talks and failed to be represented in stages of DDR and on decision-making bodies.

From programme development, to monitoring and evaluation, to implementation, it is vital that women participate in all stages of DDR to ensure that their special needs are met throughout the DDR process.<sup>263</sup> Highlighting S/RES/1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace, and Security" along with the 2018 Gender Responsive UN Peacekeeping Operations Policy, it is of the utmost importance to involve and include women as well as children in DDR.<sup>264</sup> Connecting peacekeeping and DDR to SDG five of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the most recent and revised IDDRS provides Member States with key information that highlights the important role that women play within peacekeeping and DDR, while noting the different and specific needs that women have which must not be ignored.<sup>265</sup>

Failure to reintegrate women securely undermines "overall security in communities and can destabilise the overall DDR programme."<sup>266</sup> Several Member States have welcomed the most recent revised version of the IDDRS which

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<sup>258</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>259</sup> OROLSI, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr\\_section\\_2021\\_vision\\_document\\_en.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr_section_2021_vision_document_en.pdf)

<sup>260</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>261</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>262</sup> World Bank, *Social Development Department: Conflict, Crime, and Violence*, 2009, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/776831468324547527/pdf/514150NWP0DDR0no01190Box342027B01PUBLIC1.pdf>

<sup>263</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>264</sup> UN, *Gender-Responsive DDR: Promoting Women, Peace and Security Peacekeeping*, 2020, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr\\_wps-promoting-the-wps-agenda.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr_wps-promoting-the-wps-agenda.pdf)

<sup>265</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>266</sup> UN Peacekeeping Operations, *Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards*, 2010,

highlights the importance of including women with DDR and peacebuilding.<sup>267</sup> However, many Member States have yet to welcome the revised IDDRS and continue to struggle to include women and recognise their needs within the DDR process.<sup>268</sup> The PBC, Council on Foreign Relations, and UN Peacekeeping continues to encourage Member States, specifically those within Africa, to continue including women within the DDR process while acknowledging their needs.<sup>269</sup> It is of the utmost importance to recognise and understand their unique needs and circumstances when it comes to the DDR process while remaining inclusive and involving them.

#### *DDR and Climate Security, Climate Change, and the Climate Crisis*

The connection between climate and environmental changes and security is a global phenomenon that continues to gain attention.<sup>270</sup> The correlation between climate and insecurity is not entirely clear as it is a newly recognised and evolving issue; however, there is a growing consensus that climate change is a risk multiplier that aggravates drivers of tension and conflict such as economic strains.<sup>271</sup> The IDDRS has identified climate change and its variations as one of the primary issues that are likely to “either accelerate the need for DDR support or demand a change in the way that DDR is approached in existing and future operations.”<sup>272</sup> Although there is no direct correlation between climate change and conflict at the moment, there is evidence that suggests that countries who struggle with conflict are less capable of adapting with climate changes and thus leaves the populations living in those areas more vulnerable to the climate crisis.<sup>273</sup> This can lead to issues such as food and economic insecurity while limiting access to essential services and resources.<sup>274</sup>

Because of this, the IDDRS has been engaged with various partners such as Member States and think tanks to draw attention to “the climate change-security nexus, and to promote a better understanding of how climate considerations can be included throughout DDR processes in both conflict and post-conflict settings.”<sup>275</sup> According to UN Peacekeeping, it is critical that DDR programmes take these connections into account to avoid worsening potential conflicts while minimising negative environmental impacts that can undermine the success of DDR and peacebuilding efforts.<sup>276</sup> Throughout recent years, this subject has been discussed by the Security Council with a plethora of council members including Niger in September 2020, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2020, and the United Kingdom in February 2021, having convened signature events to discuss and highlight the growing issue of climate and security.<sup>277</sup> Within Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ recent report titled “Our Common Agenda,” Guterres emphasised the idea that “climate change is contributing to instability,” highlighting the security concerns and risks that climate change can exacerbate.<sup>278</sup>

It is important to consider climate change and security throughout the peacebuilding process by recognising the ways in which the climate can impact sustainable peace and peacebuilding efforts, such as through the DDR process. The IDDRS is hoping to bring more attention to this issue to more Member States and NGOs through further discussions and recognises the need to work with other UN bodies such as the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>279</sup> Additionally, the IDDRS emphasised that more research is needed to provide a better and more accurate connection between the affects that climate change and security have upon one another.<sup>280</sup>

#### *Sustaining Peace Through DDR within African Member States*

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<https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/operational-guide-rev-2010-web.pdf>

<sup>267</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>268</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>270</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>271</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>272</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>273</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>274</sup> Security Council Report, *Climate and Security: High Level Open Debate*, 2021,

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2021/09/climate-and-security-high-level-open-debate.php>

<sup>275</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>276</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>277</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>278</sup> Security Council Report, *Climate and Security: High Level Open Debate*, 2021,

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2021/09/climate-and-security-high-level-open-debate.php>

<sup>279</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>280</sup> *Ibid.*

As previously noted, the majority of DDR interventions have occurred within Africa. Poor funding and a lack of proper research and resources have prevented DDR practitioners from developing better reintegration programmes despite the improvement of DDR programmes within the region over the years.<sup>281</sup> Within Africa, the continued provision of DDR expertise is of the utmost importance, particularly “within contexts UN transitions take place alongside significant political developments, notably the signing of peace agreements with armed groups.”<sup>282</sup> Differences in conflict, combat, use of weapons, population sizes, climate, and politics create difficulties in utilising a standard, consistent DDR process throughout the globe.<sup>283</sup>

Some African Member States are doing better than others when it comes to involving and implementing DDR processes. Sierra Leone, for example, had over 75 percent of ex-combatants note in a survey that “the training component of DDR had prepared them well for employment” while wishing that the programme lasted longer.<sup>284</sup> However, the reintegration process within the Democratic Republic of the Congo was described as “chaotic and problematic” as many individuals continued to struggle to pay rent and feed their families, requesting and believing that their weapons needed to be returned.<sup>285</sup> Many UN missions such as MINUSMA in Mali partners with various local CSOs such as Conseil National de la Jeunesse (CNJ), Association Ensemble des Jeunes Mali, Jeunes Chambre International (JCI), and Maliden to implement DDR projects in northern and central Mali.<sup>286</sup> Additionally, UN missions like MINUSMA have partnered with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Cult (MARC), the Countering-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the National Directorate for Borders Management, and Permanent Secretariat for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) counterproliferation to implement DDR.<sup>287</sup> Within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO has developed partnerships with local NGOs including Don Bosco Ngangi, Groupe Culturel, and COMOIA which support the implementation of various DDR and community violence reduction (CVR) projects.<sup>288</sup> Following the closure of peacekeeping operations, DDR expertise remains relevant as illustrated through recent transition processes within Member States in Africa such as Sudan.<sup>289</sup> MINUSMA and MONUSCO as well as other UN missions in African countries have continued to provide the governments of the Member States that they are located within technical, financial, and logistical support to ensure that DDR is fully integrated.<sup>290</sup>

Acknowledging that the DDR process is different for various countries is important when implementing and improving DDR.<sup>291</sup> Many African Member States and their UN missions are already working with the EU in integrating and implementing DDR.<sup>292</sup> Additionally, many local NGOs within various African Member States continue to partner with these UN missions to provide peace, security, and stability within the respective countries that they are located within.<sup>293</sup> The IDDRS as well as the Council on Foreign Relations hope to continue seeing the inclusion of women and children within future DDR programmes in Africa while working towards According to UN Peacekeeping, within Africa, it is vital to DDR that the PBC works closely and coordinate efforts with each Member State to ensure that DDR is effectively and efficiently implemented—especially for women and youth who are often overlooked.<sup>294</sup>

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<sup>281</sup> Hansen, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) in Africa*, 2007, <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr-africa>

<sup>282</sup> UN DDR, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) and Transition Planning Processes*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper\\_on\\_ddr\\_and\\_transition\\_planning\\_processes\\_may2021.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper_on_ddr_and_transition_planning_processes_may2021.pdf)

<sup>283</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>284</sup> Hansen, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) in Africa*, 2007, <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration-ddr-africa>

<sup>285</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>286</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

<sup>287</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>288</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>289</sup> UN DDR, *Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) and Transition Planning Processes*, 2021, [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper\\_on\\_ddr\\_and\\_transition\\_planning\\_processes\\_may2021.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/paper_on_ddr_and_transition_planning_processes_may2021.pdf)

<sup>290</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>291</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>292</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>293</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>294</sup> UN, *The DDR Bulletin Issue 3 2021*, 2021, <https://www.unddr.org/the-ddr-bulletin-issue-number-3-2021-2/>

## Conclusion

DDR remains a vital aspect of peacebuilding and to sustain peace in area suffering from conflict as well as post-conflict. Within the PBC, it is important to promote and implement DDR to ensure that the process and its programmes are effective and efficient.<sup>295</sup> Recognising the specific needs of women within DDR while understanding that women play a vital role within peacekeeping and peacebuilding is important to implementing and improving DDR projects. It is critical to gain a better understanding of the relationship between the climate crisis and security in the context of DDR to ensure that the climate crisis does not exacerbate peacekeeping or peacebuilding issues and vice versa. Noting that the majority of DDR interventions have occurred within Africa where many Member States continue to struggle with maintaining political, economic, and social security alongside peacekeeping and peacebuilding is critical to improving the implementation and use of DDR. Understanding how the DDR coordinates with various groups including other UN committees, NGOs, CSOs, as well as the local communities and governments of Member States is beneficial in improving DDR guidelines and practices.

When it comes to the DDR in the context of the PBC, it is important to consider multiple things:

- Does the IDDRS or DDR programmes such as the CVR need to be updated? If so, how can that be done through the PBC and its framework?
- What can the PBC do to improve the implementation as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of DDR programmes within Member States?
- What can the PBC do to assist women and children in the context of DDR within Member States?
- Aside from discussions, what action can the PBC take to better connect and address the climate change-security nexus in the context of DDR?
- How can the PBC help to address funding issues with DDR in specific Member States?

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<sup>295</sup> UN, *DDR and Peacebuilding*, 2011, p. 10

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/ddr\\_pbf\\_thematic\\_review.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/ddr_pbf_thematic_review.pdf)

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