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Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality*

Working Report Segment: 1-3
Committee: The Peacebuilding Commission
Subject: Creating Opportunities for Youth Education and Involvement in the Peacebuilding Process

The Peacebuilding Commission,

I. Introduction:

Creating Opportunities for Youth Education and Involvement in the Peacebuilding Process

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is the authoritative body on the incorporation of peacebuilding measures into current United Nations peace operations. As a consulting body for the Security Council, the PBC is charged with finding the best peacebuilding measures for each peace operation, including ways to incorporate youth into the peace process. Once a peace operation can conduct peacebuilding measures, the Member State's youth need to be involved in creating a sustainable peace, as the youth often serve as both the combatants and the victims in conflict. Youth provide the knowledge of local history and conflict context, while also having the most at stake for needing a sustainable peace. Peace operations must have the ability to incorporate the youth population into decisions within their communities and give youth the peacebuilding tools to sustain peace. Education on peacebuilding techniques and methods is imperative to sustaining peace post-conflict. PBC must remain committed to assuring that peace operations are providing the local youth population with the necessary peacebuilding education and opportunities to be involved in the peacebuilding process within their own communities.

II. Mandate:

In the resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council mandated it:

1. to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
2. to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution binding efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
3. to provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices and to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

A. Conclusions

1. By increasing the number of educational opportunities, such as schools and organizations like *Youth for Peace Africa*, the less likely youth will reestablish violence in post conflict regions. In addition to core subjects, these schools in particular would focus a great deal of attention on conflict resolution skills, education on other cultures, and peacebuilding. It is important for youth to learn about other cultures because it builds understanding and empathy towards one another during times of peace, and greatly decreases the risk for conflict in the future. This sort of education would bring previously divided communities closer, and it will provide a safe environment for children and youth to have civil discussions about conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and different cultures. In addition, not only will the building of institutions such as these help educate youth, it will make these youth more empathetic and accepting of groups they once violently fought with. The building of these institutions will also increase the demand and capacity for teaching jobs, construction jobs, and other youth-worker jobs. Once these institutions are established, these youth will gain the skills to be able to work constructively and peacefully with one another, as legitimate means of employment become readily available. As time passes, when these youth come of age and become more highly educated, this will also increase the demand and capacity for higher skilled jobs in the future as well—including doctors, politicians, lawyers, and engineers.
2. The global rise of the unemployment rate has been reported to be 188 million people worldwide as of 2020. According to the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO), 120 million people have no access to work through labour markets. Despite the financial issues youth face daily, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) envisions a world in which youth persevere and overcome these obstacles in their own peacebuilding efforts. However, as these young people move into the labor market, an insufficient amount of jobs are still available to them. A lack of opportunity in the workforce for these young people may become counterproductive to peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict zones. Young people without access to legitimate means to employment in these post-conflict areas may be inclined to join violent or extremist groups. The Soufourolaye youth camp is one of the many programs incorporated by the UN designed to help youth through the peace operation in Mali. Alongside the UNDP, UN Population Fund, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labour Office, funded by Japan, the program was able to establish temporary jobs for 3,000 young people. Programs such as these are vital to peacebuilding efforts.

B. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that funding for building schools designed to educate youth about peacebuilding, different cultures and conflict resolution is provided. Funding to institute programs and peacebuilding education organizations, such as *Youth for Peace Africa* and *The Training Program at The United Nations*, in post-conflict zones are also recommended. These programs are designed to bring previously divided and fighting communities closer together, as well as enhance conflict resolution skills, critical-thinking skills, and other professional skills to be utilized in the peacebuilding process. Funding for these institutions may be requested from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other UN organizations.
2. More economic development can be acquired through the establishment of jobs through construction, secretarial, and manufacturing companies. It can be achieved by attracting private sectors across all international basis, and inviting foreign investment within other countries, but also by funding national businesses in order to enhance them. Training programs should be produced and implemented to prepare youth for the workforce. By bringing foreign investment to post-conflict zones, policies designed to protect the rights of youth in this new workforce environment must become a priority.
3. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) recommends the expansion of the *Training Program at the United Nations*, a program launched by the World Federation of United Nations Associations in 2012. This program was established to prioritize youth engagement and leadership specifically with the UN. Expansion of this program can equip youth with the necessary professional skills to meet the needs of smaller labor markets in post-conflict areas. Educating young people on how they may be able to contribute to peacebuilding within their own community can be a valuable tool in evolving global challenges to peacebuilding efforts.