"Fit for Purpose": Building an ImPACT Coalition on Connecting the Pact for the Future to the 2025 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

ImPACT Coalition Workshop at the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference Friday, 10 May 2024, 12:30-14:00, room 2-3-4

Background and Approach:

The expectation of the Pact for the Future is to offer a picture of future scenarios and a world that will be different for future generations. However, it is important that this vision is not disconnected from the realities of the present. Operationalising the Pact demands a focus on action and practical solutions. This applies to all five chapters of the Pact for the Future, but it is especially important for Chapter 2 on International Peace and Security and Chapter 5 on Transforming Global Governance, which are closely linked to all other aspects of the Pact. We must seek to ensure that our aspirations for peace are grounded in a peacebuilding architecture that is effective and adaptable to changing circumstances. This requires a practical and action-oriented approach that ensures that the goals for peace and conflict prevention outlined in the Pact are followed up with concrete action through a thorough and dynamic review of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture.

The 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) is an upcoming comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. This review is part of a series of reviews that the UN has been undertaking every five years to assess and improve its peacebuilding efforts, since Resolution S/RES/1645 established the Peacebuilding Commission. Previous reviews were conducted in 2020, 2015 and 2010. The 2015 review gave rise to the 2016 twin resolutions (A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645) that coined the term 'sustaining peace,' and expanded peacebuilding action across all phases of the peace and conflict cycle.

The 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review presents an important opportunity to take stock of progress and further improve UN peacebuilding efforts, and therefore to entrench the practical connections between the Pact for the Future and the PBAR. The practical implications of the Pact and the Review at local and country levels are important and the policy changes that result from the 2025 PBAR could impact the way peacebuilding is done at these levels. The Pact will set forth new aspirations by the international community, and the 2025 PBAR offers an opportunity to translate these into elaborated, practical actions.

It is therefore particularly important that civil society organises globally to shape and promote these policy changes, and to ensure that there are systems of accountability to follow-up on practical actions and implementation coming out of the PBAR. Furthermore, CSO engagement in both the Summit of the Future and the 2025 PBAR, must utilise these important platforms to institutionalise civil society engagement with the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. To promote these changes, peacebuilding CSOs have to come together to collectively leverage this process, as well as to engage both the UN and Member States. Therefore this ImPACT Coalition is an invitation to the wider peacebuilding community - in all its diversity - to contribute to a discussion and a strategy to operationalise the aspirations of the Pact for the Future through the PBAR, and to ensure that the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture is "fit for purpose".

This ImPACT Coalition will adopt an inclusive, "big tent" approach, that welcomes diverse people, organisations, and networks interested in the Summit, the Pact, and their connections to the PBAR process. The aim of this session is to explore the ways in which an ImPACT Coalition might serve these objectives, and to inform our collective approach moving forward. Our preference is not to preemptively define the principles or practices of such an ImPACT Coalition, but rather to facilitate an inclusive dialogue during and beyond the Nairobi Conference, to determine the potential focus areas and activities of this ImPACT Coalition.

Session Moderators:

This session will be co-moderated by representatives of the two co-chairs of the CSO-UN Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding¹.

- <u>Roselyn Akombe</u>, Chief of the Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch from the UN
 Department of Political And Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Peacebuilding Support Office
 (PBSO).
- <u>Graeme Simpson</u>, Principle Representative in New York and Senior Peacebuilding Advisor, Interpeace.

Session Format:

- Introduction:
 - Introducing the Impact Coalition: Brief remarks by the two co-moderators, Graeme
 Simpson (Interpeace) & Roselyn Akombe (UN PBSO)
- **Brief Presentations:** Operationalising the PACT for the Future through the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) process and strengthening the role of civil society.
 - <u>Civil society participant</u> (member of the CSO-UN Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding) - Strengthening and Institutionalizing CSO participation through the PACT for the Future and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR). [3-5 minutes]
 - Member State Participant(s): Thoughts on ways to innovate and strengthen the PBAR to help concretise and operationalise Chapters Two and Five of the PACT. [3-5 minutes]
 - <u>UN Participant(s)</u> Ensuring a PBAR process and outcome that supports the
 aspirations of Our Common Agenda, the New Agenda for Peace, and the Pact for the
 Future. [3-5 minutes]
 - <u>Civil Society participant</u> The PACT and the PBAR, some reflections from a regional perspective. [3-5 minutes]
- Word Cloud (Mentimeter): Participatory process to generate some key themes and issues for break-out group discussions.

The Civil Society Organisation (CSO) - United Nations (UN) Dialogue on Peacebuilding is an Initiative co-chaired by Interpeace and the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), with close collaboration with a Core Group of nine leading civil society organisations and networks representing all five General Assembly regions and the global peacebuilding community. The Core Group members are: European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Grupo Internacional de Paz (GIP), Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (CMI), Pacific Women Mediators Network, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), and The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution (ACCORD).

- Break-out group discussions: Open exchange on selected issues and themes: practical recommendations for how the PBAR can concretise the PACT; brainstorm on the role of the Impact Coalition in taking this forward, including institutionalising the role of civil society.
- Concluding remarks

Guiding Questions:

The focus will be placed on the potential for building an ImPACT Coalition to innovate, and to enhance the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), to foster meaningful CSO participation and input, in order to best operationalise the aspirations of the Pact and Summit for the Future. This will be undertaken through considering the following guiding questions, which are not intended to be prescriptive:

- What are the emerging themes and issues embedded in the Pact for the Future that the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) must address, and what can the PBAR do to support more impactful action on these issues?
- How can we build on existing knowledge to address gaps and opportunities in UN peacebuilding efforts, particularly by reference to the upcoming Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR)? What positive changes have there been and where is action still needed?
- How can the PBAR best contribute to the prioritisation of effective prevention of violent conflict envisaged in the New Agenda for Peace?
- How can civil society organisations utilise an ImPACT Coalition to promote their priorities through the Summit and in the PBAR? What steps can be taken to fortify systematic and institutionalised partnerships for peacebuilding between the UN, civil society, and member states, including formalising processes for more consistent, regular, and reciprocal collaboration between UN entities and civil society? How do we foster greater parity between UN entities and CSOs as equal partners in dialogues as well as in practice?