



No.2

Reviewing UN peacebuilding

UN processes – A briefing for MPs

Date: Wednesday, 18 November 2020, 9–10 a.m. (New York)
Invited: Members of Parliament following international relations and security issues
Languages: English and French
Registration: <https://zoom.us/join/zoommeeting/register/tjYpceiqrT8qHtwUsALPPvM3AkEabDEWe0kN>

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations was created “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. Acknowledging that peace means more than the absence of war, in 2005 the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established to address the underlying drivers of conflict and support the conditions for lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict. The PBC embodies the notion that there can be no peace without development and no development without peace.

Bringing together all of the economic, social and political factors that may lead countries into conflict, the PBC is the linchpin of a larger United Nations architecture for peacebuilding. It is complemented by political missions and other efforts led by the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

The 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture will conclude with a General Assembly resolution in December. In the recent [UN Secretary-General report](#), he notes that peacebuilding work is bearing fruit, and key reforms recommended in a [2016 GA resolution](#) are being implemented.

United Nations peacebuilding efforts have generated the following results on the ground: increased trust in government, improved social cohesion, lower levels of violence, increased capacity to peacefully prevent and resolve conflict, inclusion of peacebuilding in public policy and durable political settlements.

– UN Secretary-General report, July 2020

Still, the [group of independent eminent persons](#) asked to contribute to this review believes important weaknesses exist, including the need to deepen national ownership of peacebuilding efforts, further integrate development and humanitarian work nationally and globally, dramatically enhance the role of women and youth, and greatly scale up resources. And the [Global Peace Index](#) suggests that “peacefulness” is deteriorating steadily. Global military spending nearing US\$1.9 trillion per year also indicates growing geopolitical tensions.

Leading questions

Is the United Nations peacebuilding architecture fit for purpose?

Will the upcoming resolution of the General Assembly lead to much-needed deeper reforms?

Featuring

Mr. **Oscar Taranco**, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office

Ambassador **Liberata Mulamula**, group of Independent Eminent Persons on peacebuilding

Ms. **Jacqueline O’Neill**, Canada’s Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

Q&A

Parliamentarians