



SRMUN Charlotte 2024
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Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2024 and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). My name is Jacob Holt, and I am extremely grateful to be serving as Director for SRMUN Charlotte 2024. I have been an Assistant Director for SRMUN Virtual in 2022 as well as been a Director and Assistant Director for high school level conferences. My MUN experience began in 2021 when I attended SRMUN Atlanta for the first time, and I have been a SRMUN delegate three times since. I am a rising junior pursuing a bachelor's in accounting and am eager to start my professional career. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Lily Slipher This will be Lily's second time as a staff member, previously serving as Assistant Director for the General Assembly Plenary at SRMUN Atlanta 2023. Lily is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Studies with a double minor in Japanese and Women and Gender Studies

The Peacebuilding Commission, also recognized as the "Commission," was established in December 2005 according to UN General Assembly Resolution 60/180 and the Security Council Resolution 1645. Acting as the medium for which the international community seeks advice regarding peacebuilding initiatives, the PBC plays a unique role within the United Nations as it serves as an advisory body for both the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is mandated to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.

Focusing on the mission of the PBC, we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

- I. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Peacebuilding Engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa
- II. Addressing Conflict Through Climate-Security and Environmental Peacebuilding Efforts

This background guide will serve as the foundation for your research, yet it should not be the extent of the research. Preparation is given to each topic to help guide delegates in their initial research, and to serve as a starting place for more in-depth studies. It is expected that delegates go beyond this background guide in preparation for their position paper and to better prepare themselves for contribution within the committee in November. Further, each delegation is required to submit a position paper for consideration. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 1st, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Both Lily and I are excited for the opportunity to serve as your dais for the PBC. I wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Should questions arise as you begin to prepare for this conference, contacting those on your dais is always encouraged. We look forward to seeing what creative solutions delegates bring to this committee.

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History of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

Formed on December 20, 2005, as a joint effort between the General Assembly and the Security Council, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body mandated by resolutions A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645 (2005) to bring together Member States, organizations, and resources “to advise [the Security Council and General Assembly] on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.”¹ Moreover, A/RES/60/180 and A/RES/61/16 stress the need for a close relationship between the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and PBC to centralize peacebuilding, as the ECOSOC can take action on the recommendations made by the PBC.²

Resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) further mandated the PBC to “advise the General Assembly and the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace; to promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding; to act as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant United Nations (UN) entities by sharing advice on the peacebuilding needs and priorities; and to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations.”³ These resolutions provide the advisory nature of the body, mandating the PBC “to provide political accompaniment and advocacy to conflict-affected [Member States], with their consent.”⁴ More recently, resolutions A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 (2020) called upon the PBC to further strengthen its advisory by bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts in Member States and regions under its aid.⁵

The PBC is composed of 31 Member States which make up its central “Organizational Committee,” with seven Member States elected from each of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.⁶ Member States are selected based on regional groups and due consideration is given to Member States that have experienced post-conflict recovery.⁷ Additionally, the top five troop and top five financial contributing Member States to the UN are members of the PBC.⁸ Furthermore, international entities, including the European Union, International Monetary Fund, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and World Bank are able to participate in meetings of the PBC.⁹ The PBC may also invite Member States who are not elected members, relevant UN bodies, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, youth and women organizations, and regional and subregional organizations to participate in its meetings.¹⁰ The PBC hosts various annual meetings, such as its meeting on women, peace, and security, but most of the body’s meetings are called as needed by the General Assembly and Security Council.¹¹

Every year, the Organizational Committee of the PBC elects one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its members.¹² The Chair is elected based on a different regional group each year, and the two Vice Chairs are selected

¹ “Peacebuilding Commission Mandate,” *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 25, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>.

² “ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission,” *United Nations Economic and Social Council*, accessed June 25, 2023, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/ECOSOC-and-the-Peacebuilding-Commission>.

³ United Nations Peacebuilding, *United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, June 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbc_brochure_eng_2023.pdf.

⁴ United Nations Peacebuilding, *United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*.

⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding, *United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*.

⁶ Amy Scott, “The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: An Early Assessment,” *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* 4, no. 2 (2008). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48602998>.

⁷ United Nations General Assembly resolution 180, *The Peacebuilding Commission*, A/RES/60/180, (December 20, 2005), <https://undocs.org/A/RES/60/180>.

⁸ Amy Scott, “The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: An Early Assessment.” *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* 4.

⁹ “PBC Members for 2023,” *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 24, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/membership>.

¹⁰ “PBC Members for 2023,” *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

¹¹ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission,” *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed July 21, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission>.

¹² United Nations Peacebuilding Commission Revision 1, *Provisional rules of procedure of the Peacebuilding Commission*, PBC/1/OC/3/Rev.1, (December 5, 2012),

from two regional groups that differ from that of the Chair.¹³ The Chair and Vice-Chairs preside over the Organizational Committee meetings and meetings specific to a Member State unless decided otherwise by the Organizational Committee.¹⁴ In addition to meetings, the PBC is responsible for submitting an annual report to the General Assembly.¹⁵

Per the request in A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645 (2005), the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) was created as the PBC's financial instrument to sustain peace in regions which Member States are at risk or affected by conflict.¹⁶ Since its establishment in 2006, 64 Member States have contributed to the fund, allowing the PBF to allocate nearly USD 1.67 billion to 65 recipient Member States.¹⁷ A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645(2005) also established the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) to assist and support the PBC to administer the Peacebuilding Fund.¹⁸ The PBSO is comprised of the Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch, the Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch, and the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch.¹⁹

The United Nations Secretary-General appoints members to the PBF Advisory Group which provides advice and oversight on the appropriateness and speed of allocations, programming, and policies of the PBF.²⁰ Membership of the Advisory Group is gender-balanced and geographically diverse to ensure effective peacebuilding efforts.²¹ Currently, 46 Member States have made contribution commitments and pledges for the 2020-2024 PBF Investment Plan.²² As part of the PBF, the PBC funds Gender and Youth Promotion initiatives to promote inclusive peacebuilding by recognizing the important role women and youth play in ensuring sustainable peace.²³ In 2022, the PBF invested USD 46.7 million in gender and youth promotion initiatives across the globe.²⁴ Civil society organizations, UN agencies, funds, and programs in PBF eligible Member States are able to apply for money from the PBC gender and youth promotion initiatives or PBF via an online application.²⁵ Despite the PBC's recent investments and successes, the Security Council has called for an increase in financing for conflict prevention and peacebuilding as the current costs of responding to crises have been unsustainable.²⁶

<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=PBC%2F1%2FOC%2F3%2FRev.1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>.

¹³ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission Revision 1, *Provisional rules of procedure of the Peacebuilding Commission*.

¹⁴ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission Revision 1, *Provisional rules of procedure of the Peacebuilding Commission*.

¹⁵ United Nations General Assembly resolution 180, *The Peacebuilding Commission*, A/RES/60/180.

¹⁶ "The Fund," *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 25, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/fund>.

¹⁷ "The Fund," *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

¹⁸ "About the Peacebuilding Support Office," *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 25, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/supportoffice/about>.

¹⁹ "About the Peacebuilding Support Office," *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

²⁰ "Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund," *Peacebuilding Fund: MPTF Office*, accessed June 25, 2023, <http://mptf.undp.org/fund/pb000>.

²¹ "Seventh Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund," *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 24, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/seventh-ag>.

²² "Seventh Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund," *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

²³ "Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives," *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed June 25, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en>.

²⁴ "Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives," *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

²⁵ "Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives," *United Nations Peacebuilding*.

²⁶ United Nations, General Assembly and Security Council. *Peacebuilding and maintaining peace, Report of the Secretary-General*, (January 28, 2022). https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/sg_report.peacebuilding_and_sustaining_peace.a.76.668-s.2022.66.corrected.e.pdf.

I. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Peacebuilding Engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa

Introduction

The Sub-Saharan or Sahel region has been plagued by destabilizing factors, such as illegitimate leadership, economic hardship, and the intensifying effects of climate change since the region gained independence in the 1960s.²⁷ Of the three destabilizing factors mentioned, it is worth noting that there are both internal and external forces that affect each factor. Global warming is one existential force that threatens to displace an estimated 1.3 billion of Africa's vulnerable populations.²⁸ Civilian unrest and the resulting upheaval, which can take the form of coups or violent extremism, represent one of sub-Saharan Africa's troubling internal threats. These factors have driven the international community to invest in the stabilization of sub-Saharan Africa to alleviate the pressure threatening to erode the peace and welfare of the area. The PBC has a high level of focus on sub-Saharan Africa due to its "demand-driven approach" to mitigating and preventing conflict.²⁹ Reflecting its focus on demand, the PBC held meetings in 2023 that resulted in the PBC making recommendations on five different peacebuilding concerns including West Africa and the Sahel, the G5 Sahel, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and Guinea-Bissau.³⁰ Additionally, the sub-Saharan region is currently the site for five of the UN's 12 ongoing Peacekeeping operations.³¹

History

The pervasive lack of stability within Sub-Saharan Africa has created a fertile environment for revolutionaries, separatists, fundamentalists, and various other violent extremist groups to gain power.³² One of the earliest and most persistent examples is Mali's Tuareg rebellion, which has occurred four times from 1960 to the present day.³³ The most recent reignition of this conflict was bolstered by the proliferation of arms and combatants associated with the collapse of the Libyan State in 2011.³⁴ The resulting conflict largely ended in 2015 when the Algiers Peace and Reconciliation agreement was negotiated between Mali and some of the allied rebel groups.³⁵ In retrospect, the peace deal neglected to include many Islamic extremist groups who continued to expand their influence.³⁶ The resulting instability empowered longstanding fundamentalist groups such as Boko Haram, which was founded in 2002.³⁷ Boko Haram became internationally known for kidnapping over 300 young girls in 2014, as well as their 2015 full-scale assault on two villages that resulted in an estimated 2,000 civilian deaths.³⁸ According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Boko Haram has been tied to approximately 11,000 killings as of December 2015.³⁹ According to UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffery Feltman, the crisis resulting from Boko

²⁷ "Violent Extremism in the Sahel," *Center for Preventive Action*, August 10, 2023, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violent-extremism-sahel>.

²⁸ "Over 100 million people in Africa threatened by climate change," *Al Jazeera*, October 19, 2021, accessed August 29, 2023. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/19/climate-change-threatens-more-than-100-million-in-africa-un>.

²⁹ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. *Programme of Work*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/programme-of-work>.

³⁰ "Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission," *United Nations*, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission-0>.

³¹ "What Peacekeeping Does," *United Nations Peacekeeping*, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/node>.

³² "Violent Extremism in the Sahel," *Center for Preventive Action*.

³³ Stephanie Pezard and Michael Shurkin. *Achieving Peace in Northern Mali: Past Agreements, Local Conflicts, and the Prospects for a Durable Settlement*. (RAND Corporation, 2015). <https://doi.org/10.7249/RR892>.

³⁴ Mark Wentling, "Slaughter South of the Sahara: No Scope for 'Business as Usual.'" *The Foreign Service Journal* (November 2020). <https://afsa.org/slaughter-south-sahara-no-scope-business-usual>.

³⁵ African Union. *Coups d'etat and Political Instability in the Western Sahel: Implications for the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism*." El-Mohammadia, Algiers, Algeria, April 2022. <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/final-policy-paper-coups200522.pdf>

³⁶ African Union. *Coups d'etat and Political Instability in the Western Sahel...* "

³⁷ "Boko Haram," *Stanford University*, March 2018, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/mappingmilitants/profiles/boko-haram>.

³⁸ "Boko Haram," *Stanford University*.

³⁹ Alexander Smith, "ISIS Owns Headlines, but Nigeria's Boko Haram Kills More Than Ever." *NBC News Digital*, January 1, 2016, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/2015-year-in-review/isis-owns-headlines-nigeria-s-boko-haram-kills-more-ever-n480986>.

Haram's activities has "wreaked havoc" on basic infrastructure and strained government resources.⁴⁰ The crisis has also driven up unemployment on a large scale, deprived nearly one million children of education, and had an approximately USD 9 billion economic impact in just north-east Nigeria.⁴¹

To combat this growing threat the African Union (AU) both modified the mandate of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to include combatting terrorism and increased its funding.⁴² The MNJTF was activated in 2014 and is comprised of Member States surround the Lake Chad: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria as well as Benin. The MNJTF struggled against Boko Haram and its offshoots due to financial and tactical constraints.⁴³ Lacking reliable funding from international organizations, the financial burden of maintaining the MNJTF fell on its members and the generosity of individual donors.⁴⁴ In February of 2017 the G5 Sahel Member States of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, and Niger, along with French President Emmanuel Macron announced the formation of the G5 Sahel Force.⁴⁵ The force was launched with significant financial backing including USD 9 million from France and USD 57 million from the European Union (EU) as well as tactical support from French and United Nations peacekeeping forces.⁴⁶ However, even with an additional USD 60 million from the United States and USD 57 million from the group itself, the G5 Force's expected annual estimated maintenance costs total USD 500 million.⁴⁷ The PBC initiated an informal interactive dialogue on June 19 2017 amongst the stakeholders in the Lake Chad Basin area which included: Members of the UN Security Council, PBC chairs, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria.⁴⁸ The informal interactive dialogue was focused on the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and its effectiveness. The UNISS was ratified by the UN Security Council in June of 2013 as a framework for conflict mitigation and prevention in the sub-Saharan region.⁴⁹ In the informal dialogue the PBC was tasked with evaluating and reporting the weaknesses of the UNISS, specifically as it relates to under-addressed cross-border threats.⁵⁰ On July 4th, 2019 the PBC convened its ambassadorial-level annual session on, "Regional approaches to peacebuilding: The Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the Mano River Union" which focused on approaches to regional challenges which included cross-border threats such as Boko Haram.⁵¹

Current Situation

As of 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has engaged in consultations on the continuation of engagements in at least 14 Member States, a majority of which are a part of the sub-Saharan region.⁵² When consulting with the Member States mentioned, the PBC plans to seek meaningful regional partnerships with both non-governmental and

⁴⁰ United Nations, "Peacebuilding Efforts Needed to Tackle Boko Haram, End Lake Chad Basin Crisis, Security Council Told | UN News." *United Nations*, September 13, 2017, accessed December 17, 2023.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/09/564862>.

⁴¹ United Nations, "Peacebuilding Efforts Needed to Tackle Boko Haram, End Lake Chad Basin Crisis, Security Council Told | UN News." *United Nations*.

⁴² "Boko Haram," *Stanford University*.

⁴³ International Crisis Group. *What Role for the Multinational Joint Task Force in Fighting Boko Haram?*

⁴⁴ International Crisis Group. *What Role for the Multinational Joint Task Force in Fighting Boko Haram?*

⁴⁵ Azad Essa, "Five-Nation Sahel Force 'an Ill-Conceived Escalation,'" *Aljazeera*, November 3, 2017, accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/3/g5-sahel-counterterrorism-force-explained>.

⁴⁶ "West African and French Leaders launch Sahel Force," *Aljazeera*. July 3, 2017, accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/7/3/west-african-and-french-leaders-launch-sahel-force>.

⁴⁷ Azad Essa, "Five-Nation Sahel Force 'an Ill-Conceived Escalation.'"

⁴⁸ "Joint Summary of Key Outcomes by the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission." *United Nations*, June 29, 2017, accessed December 17, 2023.

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance-on-sustaining-peace.170117.final_.pdf.

⁴⁹ "The Sahel | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs," *United Nations*, accessed December 16, 2023.

<https://dppa.un.org/en/sahel>.

⁵⁰ "Joint Summary of Key Outcomes by the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission." *United Nations*, accessed December 17, 2023.

⁵¹ "The Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session 'Regional Approaches to Peacebuilding: The Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the Mano River Union.'" *United Nations*, December 4, 2019, accessed December 17, 2023.

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/chairs_summary_-_annual_session_4_december.pdf.

⁵² United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, *Programme of Work*.

governmental organizations to aid these conflict-affected Member States.⁵³ Additionally, the Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) 2020-2024 strategy plans for the investment of USD 1.5 billion, over the outlined five-year period, into global peacebuilding efforts.⁵⁴ The PBF plans to utilize its new budget to invest in approximately 40 Member States simultaneously and predicts that half of the budget will be allotted to post-conflict Member States, 10 percent for Member States in conflict, and 40 percent allotted for conflict prevention.⁵⁵ This represents a nearly 70 percent increase in the PBF's budget which is desperately needed to subsidize vital programs and groups in the sub-Saharan region such as the MNJTF.⁵⁶ The PBC outlined steps that should be taken by the Security Council to ensure effective peacebuilding in its July 25th, 2023 briefing titled "Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on West Africa and the Sahel."⁵⁷ The advisory notes that the UN must move to secure both political and financial support for regional organizations such as the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the AU, and the G5 Sahel Joint Force.⁵⁸ One of the most prominent of the aforementioned groups is the G5 Sahel Joint Force, which is suffering greatly from a lack of financial resources.⁵⁹ The group's five participating Member States lack the necessary capital to effectively fund the force and they have not yet acquired stable funding from the UN.⁶⁰ The Sahel Joint force is also constrained by the immense size of their region as well as dwindling support from the international community in the face of compounding instability.⁶¹

Task force Takuba was a French-led task force composed of soldiers from many EU Member States such as Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden.⁶² The joint task force was launched in 2020 and was reported to be composed of close to 900 soldiers between France and its nine allies.⁶³ The task force was established with the goal of curbing jihadist efforts in sub-Saharan Africa and the force saw success through their elimination of high ranking jihadist leaders.⁶⁴ Additionally, the task force Takuba bolstered the longstanding French Operation Barkhane which also sought to stabilize the region.⁶⁵ However, even with the help of the French Military, the G5 joint task force continued to struggle against the jihadist forces within their Member States.⁶⁶ Task force Takuba was also subject to mounting political pressure from two sequential Malian military coups which successfully overthrew the more cooperative civilian government of Mali.⁶⁷ Three other factors which inhibited the success of both Barkhane and Takuba were the financial pressure of maintaining these operations, the continued growth of violence in the region, and widespread civilian disapproval of these anti-jihadist interventions.⁶⁸

⁵³ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, *Programme of Work*.

⁵⁴ United Nations Peacebuilding, *Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: 2020-2024 Strategy*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2020.

https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_strategy_2020-2024_final.pdf.

⁵⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding, *Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: 2020-2024 Strategy*.

⁵⁶ United Nations Peacebuilding, *Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: 2020-2024 Strategy*.

⁵⁷ "Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission," *United Nations*, accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission-0>

⁵⁸ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, *Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on West Africa and the Sahel*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, July 25, 2023. [pbc advice on unowas july 2023 - approved.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/peacebuilding-commission-advice-to-the-security-council-on-west-africa-and-the-sahel)

⁵⁹ Moda Dieng, "The G5 Joint Force for the Sahel Was Set up Four Years Ago: Why Progress Is Slow," *The Conversation*, September 14, 2021, accessed October 3, 2023. <http://theconversation.com/the-g5-joint-force-for-the-sahel-was-set-up-four-years-ago-why-progress-is-slow-167812>.

⁶⁰ Moda Dieng, "The G5 Joint Force for the Sahel Was Set up Four Years Ago: Why Progress Is Slow."

⁶¹ Moda Dieng, "The G5 Joint Force for the Sahel Was Set up Four Years Ago: Why Progress Is Slow."

⁶² "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*, July 1, 2022, accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220701-eu-s-takuba-force-quits-junta-controlled-mali>.

⁶³ "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*.

⁶⁴ "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*.

⁶⁵ "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*.

⁶⁶ "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*.

⁶⁷ "EU's Takuba Force Quits Junta-Controlled Mali," *France 24*.

⁶⁸ Isabelle King, "How France Failed Mali: The End of Operation Barkhane," *Harvard International Review*, January 30, 2023, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://hir.harvard.edu/how-france-failed-mali-the-end-of-operation-barkhane/>.

Then in 2021, the French government announced, at the close of G5 Sahel Summit in Paris, that they will begin a military drawdown of their troops in the African region.⁶⁹ This drawdown follows the official end of France's Operation Barkhane which has functioned as a major form of military support for the Sahel, and especially the G5.⁷⁰ The more recently established EU task force Takuba, which bolstered the efforts of not only Barkhane but other regional military groups, has ceased their operations. After the announcement of European withdrawal in February 2022 the now largely unchecked extremist groups within the sub-Saharan region engaged in far more conflict and violent attacks.⁷¹ Civilian deaths as a result of these conflicts have reached over 2,000, more than doubling the previously recorded amount in 2021.⁷² The ongoing conflicts and food crisis in the region has grown leaving 9.7 million people suffering from food insecurity and humanitarian organizations lacking the funding to effectively respond.⁷³

Additionally, climate concerns have been and will continue to be a top concern for sub-Saharan Africa. According to the African Union's commissioner for rural economy and agriculture Josefa Sacko, sub-Saharan Africa could lose up to three percent of its gross domestic product from the progression of climate change.⁷⁴ This is further reinforced by the African Union's (AU) "Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)," which outlines the adverse effects of continued global warming on Africa.⁷⁵ The report predicts that by the midpoint of the 21st century that the African region will likely see a temperature increase of between half a degree Celsius and two and a half degrees Celsius and three degrees Celsius in more extreme cases.⁷⁶ If the two degree increase is to be realized then the African region will experience numerous negative consequences including: increased heat waves, more frequent mortality related heat stress, increased drought, and shifting precipitation patterns.⁷⁷ It is also projected that the outlined consequences such as heat stress, drought, and food insecurity will have increased intensity in equatorial regions such as sub-Saharan Africa.⁷⁸ Additionally, Professor Pavel Kabat, Chief Scientist of the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO) advised the United Nations Security Council that climate change is capable of, "rolling back the gains in nutrition and access to food; heightening the risk of wildfires and exacerbating air quality challenges; increasing the potential for water conflict; leading to more internal displacement and migration," only further worsening instability and security threats in the region.⁷⁹ The African continent, and more specifically sub-Saharan Africa, continue to suffer from climate change despite the continent as a whole contributing less than four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.⁸⁰

Actions Taken by the UN

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by Security Council resolution 2100 on the 25th of April 2013.⁸¹ MINUSMA was intended to provide much needed stabilization by reinforcing Mali's political processes as well as filling many security related roles.⁸² The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in The Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) was created to

⁶⁹ Shweta Desai, "France to Close Military Bases in Sahel by 2022," *Anadolu Ajansi*, October 7, 2012, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-to-close-military-bases-in-sahel-by-2022/2299995>.

⁷⁰ Shweta Desai, "France to Close Military Bases in Sahel by 2022."

⁷¹ Susanna Deetlefs, Ariane Dinalli Francisco, and Ladd Serwat, "Regional Overview: Africa 21-27 May 2022," *The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*, June 1, 2022, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://acleddata.com/2022/06/01/regional-overview-africa-21-27-may-2022/>.

⁷² European Commission, *Published Echo Daily Flash of 04 July 2022*. Brussels, Belgium: 2022. <https://erccportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ECHO-Products/Echo-Flash#/daily-flash-archive/4531>.

⁷³ European Commission, *Published Echo Daily Flash of 04 July 2022*.

⁷⁴ "Over 100 million people in Africa threatened by climate change," *Al Jazeera*.

⁷⁵ African Union. *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2023*. African Union Headquarters. 2022. https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41959-doc-CC_Strategy_and_Action_Plan_2022-2032_08_02_23_Single_Print_Ready.pdf.

⁷⁶ African Union. *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2023*.

⁷⁷ African Union. *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2023*.

⁷⁸ African Union. *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2023*.

⁷⁹ "Climate Change Recognized as 'Threat Multiplier', UN Security Council Debates Its Impact on Peace | Peacebuilding," *United Nations*, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/climate-change-recognized-%E2%80%98threat-multiplier%E2%80%99-un-security-council-debates-its-impact-peace>.

⁸⁰ "Over 100 million people in Africa threatened by climate change," *Al Jazeera*.

⁸¹ "MINUSMA," *United Nations Peacekeeping*, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>.

⁸² "MINUSMA," *United Nations Peacekeeping*.

succeed the United Nations Organization mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a prior peacekeeping operation, on the 1st of July 2010.⁸³ MONUSCO was mandated to protect non-combatants from violence and aid in stabilizing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) government by any available means.⁸⁴ The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) was formed on the 10th of April 2014 to address concerns for civilian welfare resulting from the political crisis in the Central African Republic.⁸⁵ The PBC affirmed MINUSCA's mandate renewal in its 2020 advice to the SC by noting that the mission's support was integral to the Central African Republic's National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPA).⁸⁶ Both the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) both share the joint goal of ensuring that the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is upheld.⁸⁷ The PBC notes in their letter to the SC on UNMISS in 2023 that the UNMISS must continue to fulfill its mandate by enforcing the CPA through collaboration with financial and other stakeholders.⁸⁸ The letter also highlights that UNMISS's continued assistance with the new South Sudanese government's logistical processes.⁸⁹

The PBC advises the SC on the renewal of UN peacekeeping missions as well as developing exit plans for withdrawal of forces from missions that are not renewed.⁹⁰ The PBC assisted in the drawdowns of both the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), with a specific focus on long-term peace and security.⁹¹ The PBC's recommendations for UNAMSIL's 2014 drawdown were shared with the SC after the then chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the PBC returned from his visit to Sierra Leone.⁹² The PBC's 2017 report PBC/11/LBR/2 details the results of UNMIL's mission as well as phased exit plan for the mission.⁹³ The PBC's involvement with these missions is crucial to achieve long-term peace in Member States such as Sierra Leone who has hosted ongoing peacebuilding operations for over 15 years.⁹⁴ In Sierra Leone's case the PBC was able to transition into a lighter role as an advocate for the Member State and its needs.⁹⁵ This support has allowed Sierra Leone to become one of the few Member States who has hosted peacekeeping operations and now contributes its own peacekeepers, 67 in total to nine different UN peacekeeping operations.⁹⁶

⁸³ "MONUSCO," *United Nations Peacekeeping*, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/monusco>.

⁸⁴ "MONUSCO," *United Nations Peacekeeping*.

⁸⁵ "MINUSCA," *United Nations Peacekeeping*, accessed September 1, 2023. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca>.

⁸⁶ United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on the renewal of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) mandate*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2020. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/car_mandate_renewal_advice_oct_2020.pdf.

⁸⁷ "What Peacekeeping Does," *United Nations Peacekeeping*.

⁸⁸ United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Secretary General's report on the situation on South Sudan*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2023_03_01_pbc_written_advice_on_unmiss_mandate_renewal_-_approved.pdf.

⁸⁹ United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission, *Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Secretary General's report on the situation on South Sudan*.

⁹⁰ "Security Council Presidential Statement Encourages Peacebuilding Commission to Present Recommendations on Sustaining Peace Ahead of Mandate Reviews," *United Nations*, 2018, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/security-council-presidential-statement-encourages-peacebuilding-commission-present>.

⁹¹ "Security Council Presidential Statement Encourages Peacebuilding Commission to Present Recommendations on Sustaining Peace Ahead of Mandate Reviews," *United Nations*.

⁹² United Nations Security Council letter 211, *Letter dated 24 March 2014 from the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council*, S/2014/211 (March 24, 2014). <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/767397?ln=en>.

⁹³ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission review LBR/2, *Review of progress in the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia*, PBC/11/LBR/2 (May 1, 2017). <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/796621?ln=en>.

⁹⁴ "Sierra Leone Is a Success Story Built on Steady Progress," Security Council Told | UN News." *United Nations*, March 26, 2014. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2014/03/464752>.

⁹⁵ "Sierra Leone Is a Success Story Built on Steady Progress," Security Council Told | UN News." *United Nations*.

⁹⁶ "United Nations Thanks Sierra Leone for Its Contribution to UN Peacekeeping," *United Nations*, October 19, 2023. https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/sierra_leone_service_and_sacrifice.pdf.

Case Study: The Drought in Somalia

Somalia rests on the Horn of Africa, with most of its coastline being along the Indian ocean, with the northern part touching the Gulf of Aden. Somalia shares a border with 3 other Member States, being Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, of note however is that the border between Ethiopia and Somalia isn't well defined and there are several areas that both Member States lay claim to. In 2023 however the Horn of Africa faces the worst drought it has had in over 40 years, with six consecutive failed rainy seasons leading to massive shortages of water and food.⁹⁷ This combined with the continued conflict with the al-Shabaab terror group in 2023 has led to increased instability for citizens in the region along with an increase of refugees either leaving to neighboring Member States or gathering where there is food and water in Somalia stretching the few resources there thin.⁹⁸ 3.3 million people have been displaced since the start of the drought in 2015 with numbers increasing, as of February 28th of 2023 in the first two months of the year more than 287,000 people were displaced within Somalia, nearly 1/10th of the 8 years' worth of displaced peoples within the first two months of 2023.⁹⁹

These problems have all been exacerbated as well by conflicts over and against water. al-Shabaab has taken to a form of "water terrorism" where they cut off access to water supplies from people in areas controlled by the government.¹⁰⁰ This has led to cases like Halima's, one of many mothers in Ethiopia who has lost family after sending them to retrieve water. She sent her oldest son to fetch water from a well under control of al-Shabaab, but he didn't return and instead ended up being drafted by al-Shabaab.¹⁰¹ These problems aren't just limited to terror organizations however, with local communities and clans over water sources as well, with over 91 conflicts over water being fought in just two regions of Somalia in 2021.¹⁰² This conflict between clans leads to further distrust and tensions between these communities as more and more conflicts arise, further fueled by al-Shabaab denying access to water in certain regions.¹⁰³

While outside organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross have been able to provide life-saving assistance these are only temporary solutions to an ongoing problem that has happened before within the region.¹⁰⁴ A study led by Abdihamid Warsame, a researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, used data from droughts in Somalia from 2014-2018 and came to certain conclusions about death tolls due to droughts and when to give aid. The study showed that the best time to provide aid during drought was very early on, possibly before it even became of concern to best prevent deaths as it prevents crisis later in droughts.¹⁰⁵ The study also concluded that these environmental disasters need not even be severe, as "even at moderate levels of population stress, excess mortality accrues" leading to similar levels of death.¹⁰⁶ Warsame's analysis didn't make

⁹⁷ United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *As the Horn of Africa Drought Enters a Sixth Failed Rainy Season, UNHCR Calls for Urgent Assistance*. Geneva, Switzerland, February 28, 2023.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/horn-africa-drought-enters-sixth-failed-rainy-season-unhcr-calls-urgent-assistance>.

⁹⁸ "Amid Devastating Drought, Ongoing Rights Violations, Somalia Pushes Forward in Fight against Al-Shabaab Terror Group, Security Council Hears," *United Nations*, February 22, 2023, accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15208.doc.htm>.

⁹⁹ United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *As the Horn of Africa Drought Enters a Sixth Failed Rainy Season, UNHCR Calls for Urgent Assistance*.

¹⁰⁰ "Al-Shabaab's 'water Terrorism' Is Yielding Results and Tragedy in Somalia's Civil War," *The World from PRX*, August 12, 2014, accessed September 29, 2023. <https://theworld.org/stories/2014-08-08/how-al-shabaab-using-water-tool-terrorism>.

¹⁰¹ "Al-Shabaab's 'water Terrorism' Is Yielding Results and Tragedy in Somalia's Civil War," *The World from PRX*.

¹⁰² "From Machetes to Dialogue: Somali Communities Optimistic about a Future Free of Water Conflicts," *Water Journalists Africa*, May 17, 2022, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://waterjournalistsafrica.com/2022/05/from-machetes-to-dialogue-somalia-communities-optimistic-about-a-future-free-of-water-based-conflicts/#:~:text=More%20than%2091%20water%2Drelated,more%20than%2070%20people%20dead>.

¹⁰³ "From Machetes to Dialogue: Somali Communities Optimistic about a Future Free of Water Conflicts," *Water Journalists Africa*.

¹⁰⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross. *Somalia Food Crisis – Drought, Conflict and the Fight for Survival*. United Kingdom, 2022. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/somalia-food-crisis-drought-conflict-and-fight-survival>.

¹⁰⁵ Francesco Checchi, Séverine Frison, and Abdihamid Warsame, "Drought, Armed Conflict and Population Mortality in Somalia, 2014–2018: A Statistical Analysis." *PLOS Global Public Health* 3, no. 4 (April 12, 2023). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0001136>.

¹⁰⁶ Francesco Checchi, et al, "Drought, Armed Conflict and Population Mortality in Somalia, 2014–2018: A Statistical Analysis." *PLOS Global Public Health* 3.

any conclusions about where mortality risk is localized, they did speculate that the high levels of mortality seen during some of these events may be contained to certain communities or households.¹⁰⁷

Conclusion

The PBC advocated for international action in the Sahel to promote sustainable development at its fifth annual session of 2018.¹⁰⁸ Then Deputy Secretary-General of UN Sustainable Development Group Amina Mohammed referred to the Sahel as a litmus test for global progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implored that “if we fail the most vulnerable, we fail a generation of young people and the future of peace in the subregion”.¹⁰⁹ The PBC also noted peacebuilding successes in the sub-Saharan region such as Burundi’s economic development and the successful withdrawal of peacekeeping forces in Liberia.¹¹⁰ However, even with past successes the PBC continues to spend considerable time and resources on sub-Saharan Africa. In 2023 the PBC held six meetings related to peacebuilding efforts in sub-Saharan Africa including the June 23rd meeting on the Sahel where they discussed the causes of regional instability such as transnational organized crime, conflict, and violent extremism.¹¹¹

Committee Directive

When tackling the issue of peacebuilding in sub-Saharan Africa, delegates must keep in mind the numerous complexities of regional instability, both external and internal. Delegates should research and consider the short- and long-term impact of current international intervention. Clear advice for ongoing engagements should add new insight and value to the international discourse as well as outline the Commission’s recommendations for future actions. Delegates must be aware that this paper is not an exhaustive list of the problems and root causes of sub-Saharan instability. Taking this into consideration, delegates must find and bridge the gaps between the needs of the region and current international efforts to address those needs.

¹⁰⁷ Francesco Checchi, et al, “Drought, Armed Conflict and Population Mortality in Somalia, 2014–2018: A Statistical Analysis.” *PLOS Global Public Health* 3.

¹⁰⁸ “Peacebuilding Commission Urges Member States to Keep Sahel High on Agenda,” *United Nations*, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/annual%20session%202018>.

¹⁰⁹ “Peacebuilding Commission Urges Member States to Keep Sahel High on Agenda,” *United Nations*.

¹¹⁰ “Africa’s Sahel Must Be a Top Priority for UN Peacebuilding Efforts, Says Commission,” *United Nations*, July 29, 2018, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/africa%E2%80%99s-sahel-must-be-top-priority-un-peacebuilding-efforts-says-commission>.

¹¹¹ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission,” *United Nations*, accessed October 3, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission-0>

II. Addressing Conflict Through Climate-Security and Environmental Peacebuilding Efforts

Introduction

As found in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and recognized by the Secretary-General, climate change poses unprecedented risks to the world, reaching “beyond the environmental sphere and into the social and political realm.”¹¹² Although climate change is rarely a primary catalyst for conflict, it exacerbates underlying vulnerabilities, acting as a risk multiplier in conflict-affected regions.¹¹³ In the last ten years, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has increasingly acknowledged the impact of climate change on peace, security, and development, noting the importance of implementing “climate-sensitive” peacebuilding efforts.¹¹⁴ In other words, peacebuilding initiatives must consider the risks and impacts of climate change in the particular Member State’s context and be designed to mitigate these negative effects.¹¹⁵ In 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission Support Office (PBSO), along with the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, Climate Security Mechanism, and the United Kingdom, commissioned the 2023 Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding.¹¹⁶ This review highlighted trends and lessons from climate security and environmental peacebuilding programming supported by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and offered guidance for future climate-security efforts and investments in conflict-affected regions.¹¹⁷ While there is a growing consensus amongst Member States that climate change exacerbates existing risks of conflict and violence, there is a lack of agreement on which bodies of the UN are most appropriate to respond to climate-related security risks.¹¹⁸ The PBC has emerged as a valuable forum for such discussions as it offers the ability to bring together the Security Council, General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council, and relevant stakeholders within and outside of the UN.¹¹⁹ For Member States emerging from conflict or at-risk of conflict, climate-sensitive peacebuilding programs supported by a wide variety of UN organs are necessary to promote sustainable peace.¹²⁰

History

From April 25 to June 26, 1945, a conference was held in San Francisco, California to begin drafting the UN’s charter.¹²¹ Established shortly after the end of World War II, the UN was created to promote international peace and prevent another world war from occurring.¹²² As such, its founders did not envision the international body tackling environmental issues, such as climate change.¹²³ In fact, limited environmental work – outside of ensuring adequate availability of natural resources in developing Member States – was completed for the first twenty-three years of the

¹¹² Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, “Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security.” *United Nations*, Accessed August 13, 2023, <https://dppa.un.org/en/addressing-impact-of-climate-change-peace-and-security>.

¹¹³ Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, “Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security.” *United Nations*.

¹¹⁴ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission,” *United Nations*, accessed August 17, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission>.

¹¹⁵ Adriana E. Abdenur and Siddharth Tripathi. “Local Approaches to Climate-Sensitive Peacebuilding: Lessons from Afghanistan.” *Global Social Challenges Journal*, 1(1), (June 2022), 40-58, <https://doi.org/10.1332/UOQE8930>.

¹¹⁶ “Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023.” *United Nations*, accessed August 18, 2023, <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/thematic-review-climate-security-and-peacebuilding-2023>.

¹¹⁷ “Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023.” *United Nations*.

¹¹⁸ Jake Sherman and Florian Krampe, “The Peacebuilding Commission and Climate-Related Security Risks.” *IPI Global Observatory*, November 12, 2020. <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2020/11/peacebuilding-commission-climate-related-security-risks/>.

¹¹⁹ Jake Sherman and Florian Krampe, “The Peacebuilding Commission and Climate-Related Security Risks.” *IPI Global Observatory*.

¹²⁰ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission,” *United Nations*.

¹²¹ United Nations, “History of the United Nations.” *United Nations*. Accessed November 21, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un>.

¹²² “History of the United Nations,” *United Nations*.

¹²³ “History of the United Nations,” *United Nations*.

United Nations' operation.¹²⁴ It was not until 1968 that environmental issues received serious attention from a UN body when the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) included environmental issues on its agenda.¹²⁵ From June 5-16, 1972, ECOSOC held the first ever United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the First Earth Summit, in Stockholm, Sweden.¹²⁶ At the conference, the UN adopted a declaration which set out a plan of action for international environmental efforts and described principles preserving and enhancing the environment.¹²⁷ However, climate change did not take center stage, as the conference focused on water resources, desertification, renewable energy sources, protecting marine mammals and forests, and assessing development and the environment.¹²⁸ Over the next 20 years, the UN worked diligently to implement its 1972 decisions and concern for the atmosphere and global climate began to receive international attention and action.¹²⁹ As debates rose over global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer, 1989 saw the first significant global efforts taken to address climate change as the General Assembly identified climate change as a "specific and urgent issue" in A/RES/44/207.¹³⁰

Up until 2015, the most influential climate change action taken was the adoption of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which came into effect in February 2005 and aimed to reduce industrialized Member States' carbon dioxide emissions.¹³¹ In 2015, at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris, the Paris Agreement was drafted.¹³² This landmark climate change agreement has now been ratified by 194 Member States and aims to tackle rising temperatures and support developing Member States in their efforts to combat climate change.¹³³ Building on its rapidly growing attention to environmental work, the UN has increasingly recognized climate change as a "threat multiplier."¹³⁴ As noted by a 2009 report from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the growing population coupled with a rise in demand for natural resources creates the potential for conflict over resources to intensify.¹³⁵ Potential consequences of climate change on coastal boundaries, the availability of food and water, and population distribution generate new conflicts by aggravating existing tensions.¹³⁶ The same UNEP report notes that at least 40 percent of intrastate conflicts from 1949-2009 had a link to natural resources.¹³⁷ In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) pointed out that climate change makes the "most vulnerable even more vulnerable" and it can make "an already fraught situation untenable."¹³⁸

Created in 2005 in response to the high number of post-conflict Member States returning to violent conflict within five years of a peace accord, the PBC exists as an advisory board to the Security Council and General Assembly.¹³⁹ As such, it is limited to its convening ability and advisory role.¹⁴⁰ Thus, the PBC primarily convenes meetings between Member States and UN organs, connects Member States with partners that can meet their needs, advocates

¹²⁴ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*, 2007.

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/stockholm-kyoto-brief-history-climate-change>.

¹²⁵ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹²⁶ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹²⁷ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹²⁸ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹²⁹ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹³⁰ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹³¹ Peter Jackson, "From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹³² "Climate Change," *United Nations*, accessed November 21, 2023. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/climate-change#:~:text=In%201992%2C%20its%20%20Earth%20Summit,are%20Parties%20to%20the%20Convention>.

¹³³ United Nations, "Climate Change," *United Nations*.

¹³⁴ "Climate Change Recognized as 'Threat Multiplier', UN Security Council Debates Its Impact on Peace," *United Nations*, January 25, 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031322>.

¹³⁵ Silja Halle, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, 2009. https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/conflict_peacebuilding.pdf.

¹³⁶ Silja Halle, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*.

¹³⁷ Silja Halle, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*.

¹³⁸ "Conflict and Climate," *United Nations: Climate Change*, July 12, 2022, accessed November 21, 2023.

<https://unfccc.int/blog/conflict-and-climate#:~:text=How%20does%20climate%20change%20create,most%20vulnerable%20even%20more%20vulnerable>

¹³⁹ "The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: Vision and Challenges." *Wilson Center*, June 11, 2007, accessed November 21, 2023. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-united-nations-peacebuilding-commission-vision-and-challenges>.

¹⁴⁰ "The Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council: From Cynicism to Synergy?" *Security Council Report*, November 22, 2017, accessed November 21, 2023. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/research-reports/the-peacebuilding-commission-and-the-security-council-from-cynicism-to-synergy.php>.

for vulnerable Member States – formally or informally – and sends PBC representatives to observe and report on conflict situations in Member States.¹⁴¹ Despite its constrained consultative role, the PBC is supported in its efforts by the UN Secretary General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and Peacebuilding Commission Support Office (PBSO).¹⁴² The PBSO manages the PBF and works to fund peacebuilding initiatives in accordance with the PBC’s recommendations to the Security Council and General Assembly and per Member States’ requests.¹⁴³

In the early stages of its formulation, the PBC was deemed inefficient by many members of the Security Council as its purpose and need remained questionable.¹⁴⁴ Although the intersectional relationship between climate and security became a serious topic of interest for the UN in the early 2000s, the PBC only recently began discussing climate change, peace, and security with frequency and consistency at its annual meetings.¹⁴⁵ In 2022 and 2023, the PBC hosted various forums and facilitated numerous conversations around climate change and peacebuilding.¹⁴⁶ For instance, in 2022, climate change was a topic of extensive discussion at the PBC’s 5th annual consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council, as well as the PBC’s meetings on Central Asia, South Sudan, and Youth, Peace and Security.¹⁴⁷ In 2022, the PBC also hosted a meeting on the impacts of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands.¹⁴⁸ These conversations have transformed into initiatives and projects orchestrated by the PBF and PBSO in Member States such as Colombia – where the PBF partnered with the private sector to provide microcredits and income guarantees to smallholder farmers allowing them to adapt to climate change and improve overall production – and Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso – where the PBF worked to establish cross-border, government-to-government relationships to provide small grants to regional organizations working to combat climate change and financially empower women to participate in local decision-making processes with a focus on managing land and natural resources.¹⁴⁹

Current Situation

Since 2018, the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) – a joint initiative between the Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs (DPPA), the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the UNEP, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) – strives to integrate climate considerations into peacebuilding by helping Member States, regional organizations, and UN entities better understand the connections between climate, peace, and security.¹⁵⁰ As part of its monitoring and learning duties, the PBSO, which falls under the DPPA, commissions annual thematic reviews to examine the PBC’s past practices and promising innovations in specific areas of peacebuilding over a variety of topics.¹⁵¹ Beginning in 2010, the thematic reviews produced by the PBSO and UN Secretary General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) have honed in on specific topics affecting peace – such as

¹⁴¹ UN Security Council, “The Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council: From Cynicism to Synergy?” *Security Council Report*.

¹⁴² “Peacebuilding Support Office.” *United Nations*, Accessed September 21, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/supportoffice>.

¹⁴³ “Our Cross-Cutting Work.” *United Nations*, Accessed September 22, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/our-cross-cutting-work>.

¹⁴⁴ “The Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council: From Cynicism to Synergy?” *Security Council Report*.

¹⁴⁵ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.” *United Nations*, accessed September 24, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/meetings-and-activities-peacebuilding-commission>.

¹⁴⁶ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.” *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁷ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.” *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁸ “Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.” *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁹ “Climate Security and Peacebuilding.” *United Nations*, July 2020. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/brief_climate_security_20200724_2.pdf.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations, Security Council, *With Climate Crisis Generating Growing Threats to Global Peace, Security Council Must Ramp Up Efforts, Lessen Risk of Conflicts, Speakers Stress in Open Debate*. United Nations, New York, NY (UN Headquarters), June 13, 2023. <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15318.doc.htm>.

¹⁵¹ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, Nadwa al-Dawsari, Cristal Downing, Adam Day, and Raphael Bodewig, “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*, accessed November 2021, 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/climate_security_tr_web_final_april10.pdf.

employment and transitional justice – and evaluated previous projects and initiatives funded by the PBF, offering guidance to better address these measures in the future.¹⁵²

In the 2023 thematic review, *Climate Security and Peacebuilding*, the PBSO examined climate-security and environmental peacebuilding efforts across 33 Member States by analyzing climate-security projects approved by the PBF between 2016-2021.¹⁵³ This study emphasized the ability of climate change to act as a “risk-multiplier” and aggravate “existing vulnerabilities and drivers of conflict,” thus impacting communities both at the macro and micro levels.¹⁵⁴ As a result, it found climate change to be disproportionately impacting “low-income, fragile countries, and typically the poorest and most vulnerable communities within these countries.”¹⁵⁵ In addition, the review noted the unequal impact of climate change on women and girls in vulnerable Member States, as prevalent structural barriers and gender inequities place significant limitations on adaptation and coping strategies for these populations.¹⁵⁶ Furthermore, the review highlighted the increased risk of violence against women and girls in areas of conflict where climate change has compounded resource and livelihood constraints.¹⁵⁷

Leaning on case studies of PBF projects in the Liptako Gourma Subregion, Yemen, and the Pacific Islands, the PBF found climate- and environmental-related issues to be a unique and effective point of engagement in Member States where engagement may be limited by conflict or social barriers.¹⁵⁸ Climate-sensitive programming allows the PBF to address immediate material needs and root causes of conflict – such as gender discrimination and cross-border conflicts – without being viewed as “overtly political as other peacebuilding activities.”¹⁵⁹ Through climate- and environmental-related peacebuilding initiatives, the PBF has advanced women’s economic empowerment and inclusion in community decision-making and the role of women and youth in agriculture, such as fetching water, and other areas related to natural resource management.¹⁶⁰ The PBF has found success in climate-security and peacebuilding projects focused on women, such as the “Blue Nile” project in Sudan, where the PBF – recognizing there are more female-headed households in North Kordofan, Sudan – trained women in sustainable farming techniques and other livelihood activities traditionally performed by men, spurring their economic and political participation in local decision-making.¹⁶¹ However, these gender- and youth-inclusion projects have faced challenges as women’s participation is often merely symbolic and many youth are not interested in the agricultural opportunities offered.¹⁶²

Actions Taken by the United Nations

In 2019, the UN Security Council recognized the adverse effects of climate change on stability in Africa (S/RES/2499) and again in 2020 and 2021.¹⁶³ These resolutions highlighted the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters on the Central African region, namely the resulting “drought, desertification, land degradation, food insecurity, and energy access.”¹⁶⁴ In addition, these resolutions call for the participation of women and youth in political processes and peacebuilding initiatives and the continued collaboration of the Central African Region with the PBF to establish sustainable peace.¹⁶⁵ Similarly, the Security Council recognized the effects of climate change in

¹⁵² “Synthesis and Thematic Reviews.” *United Nations*, accessed September 20, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/reviews>.

¹⁵³ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁴ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁵ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁶ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁷ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁸ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁹ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁶⁰ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁶¹ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁶² Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . “Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review,” *United Nations*.

¹⁶³ United Nations, Security Council, *The UN Security Council and Climate Change*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 21 June 2021. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/research-reports/the-un-security-council-and-climate-change-tracking-the-agenda-after-the-2021-veto.php>.

¹⁶⁴ United Nations Security Council resolution 2499, *Resolution 2499 (2019) / adopted by the Security Council on 15 November 2019*, S/RES/2499, November 15, 2019, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-res-2499.php>.

¹⁶⁵ United Nations Security Council resolution 2499, *Resolution 2499 (2019) / adopted by the Security Council on 15 November 2019*, S/RES/2499, (November 15, 2019).

Iraq (S/RES/2576) and South Sudan (S/RES/2567) in 2021.¹⁶⁶ Both resolutions recognized the effects of climate change and natural disasters on the stability of the Member States and their humanitarian situations.¹⁶⁷ Additionally, they emphasized the need for risk assessments to “adapt to or mitigate challenges posed by climate change and ecological change.”¹⁶⁸ Furthermore, the DPPA has acknowledged that climate-related security risks do not affect everyone equally and therefore special attention is needed both to assess the impact on women in high-conflict areas as well as their potential to be change makers.¹⁶⁹

In 2015, the PBC established a Gender Strategy to ensure an inclusive approach to gender-related peacebuilding activities.¹⁷⁰ The PBC’s Gender Strategy aims to consider women’s perspectives and their needs in order to develop effective peacebuilding through the promotion of gender equality.¹⁷¹ Furthermore, the PBSO highlighted the connection between women and natural resource management as a way to develop effective peacebuilding.¹⁷² Women’s access to natural resources, primarily land, and management of resources encourages their participation in decision-making and strengthens a Member States’ post-conflict recovery and promotes effective peacebuilding.¹⁷³ Additionally, in 2021, the PBC approved a Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding.¹⁷⁴ This Strategic Action Plan advocates for greater youth participation in peacebuilding through dialogue platforms, workshops, youth groups, and more.¹⁷⁵ It also mandates the PBC to provide the General Assembly, Security Council, and EOCSOC with timely updates on the role of youth in peacebuilding.¹⁷⁶ This strategy further emphasizes the need for youth in decision-making processes and natural resource management to promote a climate-sensitive peacebuilding approach.¹⁷⁷

Case Study: Women As Agents of Peace in Sudan

In Sudan, drought and deforestation have created tensions – and at times even conflict – between communities that rely on the region’s dwindling natural resources.¹⁷⁸ For instance, Al Rahad, a city located on the southern outskirts of the Al Baja desert, was once known for producing more Gum Arabic than anywhere else in Sudan, serving as a longstanding source of income for farmers in the region.¹⁷⁹ However, changing rainfall patterns and warmer temperatures have caused the population of acacia trees, which produce the gum, to dwindle.¹⁸⁰ Scarcity of essential resources, like the acacia tree, can trigger disputes over other resources, such as water, trees, and fertile land.¹⁸¹ It

¹⁶⁶ United Nations, Security Council Report, *The UN Security Council and Climate Change*.

¹⁶⁷ United Nations Security Council resolution 2567, *Resolution 2567 (2021) / adopted by the Security Council on 12 March 2021*, S/RES/2567, (March 12, 2021). <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3905149?ln=en>.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations Security Council resolution 2576, *Resolution 2576 (2021) / adopted by the Security Council on 27 May 2021*, S/RES/2576, (May 27, 2021). <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-res-2576.php>.

¹⁶⁹ United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, “Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security,” accessed August 19, 2023. <https://dppa.un.org/en/addressing-impact-of-climate-change-peace-and-security>.

¹⁷⁰ “Gender, Peace and Security.” *United Nations*. Accessed September 21, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>.

¹⁷¹ “Gender, Peace and Security.” *United Nations*.

¹⁷² “Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential,” *United Nations Environment Program, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, and United Nations Development Program*, November 2013, accessed August 19, 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/women_and_nrm_report.pdf.

¹⁷³ “Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential,” *United Nations Environment Program, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, and United Nations Development Program*.

¹⁷⁴ “The Peacebuilding Commission’s Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding,” *United Nations*, accessed September 21, 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/PBC_Youth%20Strategic%20Action%20Plan.

¹⁷⁵ “The Peacebuilding Commission’s Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁶ “The Peacebuilding Commission’s Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁷ “Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023,” *United Nations*, accessed September 23, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/thematic-review-climate-security-and-peacebuilding-2023>.

¹⁷⁸ UN Environment Program, “Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan,” *UNEP*, September 30, 2017, accessed September 21, 2023. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/women-agents-peace-natural-resource-conflict-sudan>.

¹⁷⁹ UN Environment Program, “Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan,” *UNEP*.

¹⁸⁰ UN Environment Program, “Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan,” *UNEP*.

¹⁸¹ UN Environment Program, “Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan,” *UNEP*.

can also lead to lack of income-generating opportunities, which can drive entire families to migrate or men to seek income sources elsewhere.¹⁸² Although many villages in Al Rahad are now left with only women and elder men, women continue to be excluded from social structures for decision-making.¹⁸³

In partnership with UN Women and the UN Development Program, UN Environment is working to increase women's decision-making role in conflict resolution and natural resource management in these communities.¹⁸⁴ The project aims to increase women's participation and representation in local community management committees while also incorporating their perspective in peacebuilding.¹⁸⁵ In October 2019, Sudan was also approved for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for a period of five years.¹⁸⁶ Since then, the PBF has catalyzed urgent peacebuilding processes across Sudan to support progress in areas, including women's political participation and gender-responsive natural resource governance.¹⁸⁷ Specifically, Search for Common Ground implemented a PBF-funded project that trained 85 female political leaders, young women, and government representatives on various peacebuilding topics, including leadership and conflict transformation.¹⁸⁸

On January 31, 2023, the PBC convened a meeting on South Sudan in which PBC representatives reflected on their visit to South Sudan and emphasized the need to build peace in communities through local governance and community reconciliation.¹⁸⁹ Part of the PBC's recommendation to the government of South Sudan included encouraging women's political participation in local communities by upholding the 35 percent threshold and holding elections in 2024.¹⁹⁰ The 35 percent threshold is based on the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, which aims to have women represent at least 35 percent of all appointments in transitional government institutions of national unity.¹⁹¹

Conclusion

In recent years, the PBC, along with the PBF and PBSO, has increasingly called upon Member States to take a "climate-sensitive" approach to peacebuilding, as the unsustainable depletion of resources can exacerbate existing tensions, reignite violent conflict, and drive forced migration and displacement.¹⁹² While climate change has the potential to multiply threats in all conflict-affected Member States, it disproportionately affects already vulnerable populations, such as women and rural communities, in fragile Member States.¹⁹³ As a result, many climate-sensitive peacebuilding efforts incorporate elements of empowering women and youth to aid in building sustainable peace.¹⁹⁴ The PBC has driven conversations around climate change in a multitude of meetings focusing on a wide variety of topics, including the impact of climate change on social cohesion and women's political, economic, and social

¹⁸² UN Environment Program, "Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan," *UNEP*.

¹⁸³ UN Environment Program, "Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan," *UNEP*.

¹⁸⁴ UN Environment Program, "Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan," *UNEP*.

¹⁸⁵ UN Environment Program, "Women as Agents of Peace in Natural Resource Conflict in Sudan," *UNEP*.

¹⁸⁶ United Nations Peacebuilding, "The Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: Sudan," *United Nations*, July 2022. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance-on-sustaining-peace.170117.final_.pdf.

¹⁸⁷ United Nations Peacebuilding, "The Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: Sudan," *United Nations*.

¹⁸⁸ United Nations Peacebuilding, "The Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund: Sudan," *United Nations*.

¹⁸⁹ UN Web TV "South Sudan: Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-Level Meeting - Building Peace in Communities through Local Governance and Community Reconciliation in South Sudan," *United Nations*, January 31, 2023, accessed September 21, 2023. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k17/k17z2hyp99>.

¹⁹⁰ UN Web TV "South Sudan: Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-Level Meeting - Building Peace in Communities through Local Governance and Community Reconciliation in South Sudan," *United Nations*.

¹⁹¹ Aluel Atem and Eva Lopa, "Young Women in Political Institutions in South Sudan: Lessons from Lived Experiences," *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Sudan Office*, February 2023, accessed September 21, 2023, <https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/suedsudan/20021-20230221.pdf>.

¹⁹² Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. "At the Crossroads of Climate, Gender and Sustaining Peace: What Is the Role of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture?" *Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation*, October 27, 2021, accessed September 21, 2023. <https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/climate-gender-and-sustaining-peace-summary-note.pdf>.

¹⁹³ Erica Gaston, Oliver Brown, et. Al., . "Climate Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review," *United Nations*.

¹⁹⁴ "Gender, Peace and Security." *United Nations Peacebuilding*, accessed September 21, 2023. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>.

participation.¹⁹⁵ As the demand for natural resources continues to grow and the adverse effects of climate change disproportionately threaten post-conflict Member States, the PBC has emphasized the importance of identifying climate-sensitive peacebuilding efforts specialized to specific regions and Member States, working closely with the PBSO and PBF to support durable solutions that will promote sustainable peace.¹⁹⁶

Committee Directive

During the committee, delegates should look at how their Member State is currently involved in the topic of peacebuilding and climate change, whether directly within domestic and international foreign policies or indirectly through socioeconomic implications of other Member States' actions. Delegates should research the national, regional, and global practices on how their Member State plays a role in promoting peacebuilding, with a particular interest in preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change and the depletion of natural resources. Delegates should also seek information on what their Member State is doing domestically to address the issue and how those actions may affect other Member States both regionally and internationally. In doing so, delegates should ask themselves: What are some current domestic, regional, and international peacebuilding aid policies or programs that have seen positive improvements toward climate-specific conflicts? What can the PBC do to incentivize Member States to proactively become involved in creating cross-border and women- and gender-inclusive climate-sensitive peacebuilding solutions? What are the consequences of ignoring a climate-sensitive approach to peacebuilding, such as economic, security, and humanitarian effects? Overall, delegates should address these questions with attainable solutions for implementing their goals. Delegates should focus on building upon established PBC, UN, and other multilateral programs and initiatives rather than creating new bodies within the PBC or the UN. Delegates should also focus on the issue as a whole and not specific situations.

¹⁹⁵ "Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission," *United Nations*.

¹⁹⁶ "Meetings and Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission," *United Nations*.

Annotated Bibliography

I. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Peacebuilding Engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa

“New WBG Strategy Focuses on Conflict Prevention and Partnerships for Peace and Security in Africa.” *World Bank*, February 27, 2020, accessed on December 1, 2023. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/02/27/new-wbg-strategy-focuses-on-conflict-prevention-and-partnerships-for-peace-and-security-in-africa>.

The World Bank is a financial institution dedicated to providing monetary support to Member States around the world. The article addresses the peacebuilding difficulties in Africa in relation to poverty and lack of financial opportunity. Fragility, Conflict, and Violence or FCV is a large barrier to ending poverty according to the World Bank and they discuss the ways their programs have helped to end or stem FCV. The report goes over specific programs the World Bank has initiated or been involved with to help alleviate FCV as well as future steps that may be needed.

United Nations, Security Council. *Amid Mixed Results for Africa’s Effective Governance, Peace, Security, Speakers in Security Council Spotlight Ways to End Violence, Build Capacity for Growth*. New York, NY, 2022. <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14993.doc.htm>.

The United Nations Security Council is an intergovernmental organization of the highest level with the duty of maintaining peace and security around the world. The press release in 2022 covers the 9106th meeting of the Security Council and the opinions of many Member States in attendance. Outside resources and aid can only do so much in regard to securing peace in Africa, with many projects not meeting projected goals. This can lead to less funding and aid from international sources. Contrarily though the most effective aid is when it’s given to individual Member States in Africa and they are left to run their own national initiatives, with delegations saying, “Africa knows best how to resolve its own problems.”

“Peacebuilding in South Africa: A Brief Historical Overview.” *SaferSpaces*, August 1, 2016, accessed on December 17, 2023. <https://www.saferpaces.org.za/understand/entry/peacebuilding-in-south-africa-a-historical-overview>.

SaferSpaces is a knowledge sharing organization in South Africa dedicated to providing accurate information to allow for the creation and maintenance of safe communities within the Member State. The article provides a close look at the history of peace building efforts in South Africa from 1834 to the modern day. Peacebuilding within South Africa has been turbulent but steady, with progress being made more and more towards a safer society with time. This is largely in part due to a large number of civilian organizations that have helped guide the Member State.

“African Union – Home Page,” *African Union*, accessed on December 6, 2023. <https://au.int/en>.

The African Union is a continental body geared towards organizing cooperation between its Member States in Africa. Their efforts span every field from peace development to economic ties, agriculture, and more. The African Union is a wealth of information to explore in regards to efforts to assist the continent. This source provides access to various frameworks, programmes, and goals for the African Union

United Nations, Security Council. *Root Causes of Conflicts in Africa Must Be Addressed beyond Traditional Response, Special Adviser Tells Security Council Debate on Silencing Guns*. New York, NY, 2023. <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm>.

The United Nations Security Council is an intergovernmental organization of the highest level in the world with the duty of maintaining peace and security worldwide. This press release in 2023 goes into the root causes of conflicts in Africa instead of focusing on the conflicts themselves. Addressing the conflicts themselves does deal with the most immediate problem and can prevent many individuals from being harmed physically, mentally, and financially, but without treating the causes of conflict more often than not

another one will eventually come. The press release emphasizes the large roles that the presence of Member State services can have on conflict, as well as the many cultures within the continent that can be helped to better get along as they are contained within post-colonial borders together. This press release provides a wonderful source of information about where to start problem solving.

II. Addressing Conflict Through Climate-Security and Environmental Peacebuilding Efforts

Alex Grzybowski and Chanda Hunnie, *Mediating Peace with Climate Change*, (Pacific Resolutions, July 9, 2023), <https://ecopeaceme.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/mediating-peace-with-climate-change.pdf>.

EcoPeace Middle East is an NGO that brings together environmentalists from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan dedicated to conserving water resources and generating lasting peace in the region. The organizations work closely to ease tensions between their communities as well as to bring their conservation efforts across borders, ensuring that their efforts aren't undermined by others. This publication specifically addresses effects of climate change and their impact on the region and also provides some ideas for frameworks to both reduce the impact of climate change and bring some stability in the region.

Florian Krampe, Farah Hegazi, and Stacy D VanDeer. "Sustaining Peace through Better Resource Governance: Three Potential Mechanisms for Environmental Peacebuilding," *World Development* volume 144, (2021). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X21001200?via%3Dihub>.

This research article covers three specific methods of resource governance in relation to their effectiveness on peace. These methods are the Contact Hypothesis, in which multiple organizations share control over the resources to reduce bias in the receivers of it. The Diffusion of Transnational Norms, which supports the use of good government norms to strengthen communities within the area, and similarly the State Service Provision method, which aims to provide instrumental services to the communities within the area to alleviate fears and worries. The insights provided by their in depth looks into these methods shouldn't be undervalued.

Florian Krampe, "Ownership and Inequalities: Exploring UNEP's Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding Program," *Sustainable Science* volume 16 (2021): 1159-1172. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-021-00926-x>.

This research article is an in depth analysis of the United Nation Environment Programme's policies and how they affect ownership of resources and what that means for peace. The paper provides an in depth look into ownership of resources from domestic and international ownership to the domestic and international actors who ultimately gather these resources. Naturally there are many problems in regards to ownership of resources as many actors wish to claim sole ownership of any resource. This is often for a profit which can lead to the overutilization of resources resulting in their quick depletion or affect the rate at which renewable resources diminish and disappear if abused. The article posits that solutions to these problems must be contextual, as opposed to "broad universal blueprints" as the situations in which these problems arise are all related to economic and social aspects of the area they occur.

Emel Akcali, and Marco Antonsich. "'Nature Knows No Boundaries': A Critical Reading of UNDP Environmental Peacemaking in Cyprus," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* volume 99, no. 5 (2019): 940-947. https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/journal_contribution/Nature_knows_no_boundaries_a_critical_reading_of_UNDP_environmental_peacemaking_in_Cyprus/9484742.

This article is an analysis of the United Nations Development Programme's peace building efforts in Cyprus and the environmental success they found there. Specifically the paper analyzes the project called Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) which aims to promote partnerships between communities over environmental protection. This can often be difficult as neighboring communities in many parts of the world are often not on agreeable terms with one another and can often harbor doubts about the other party's

intentions or actions, leading to increased conflicts between them. What this analysis found was that increased environmental awareness about the importance of the projects these communities were working together on led to increased success in both the environmental protection but also served to lessen tensions between the communities working together.

“Environmental Cooperation and Peacebuilding.” *United Nations Environment Programme*, accessed on December 1, 2023. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/disasters-conflicts/what-we-do/environment-security/environmental-cooperation-and>.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to providing assistance and data to Member States around the world as well as having their own body to pass policy within. This article on the UNEP’s website provides a brief overview into their role within environmental peacebuilding between Member States. The article also contains an evaluation of the Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding Programme’s second phase, which took place between the years 2010-2012, with the programme itself being launched in 2008. The article is a great overview of the UNEP’s actual role within this topic, and the evaluation of their program within is a wonderful source of information to see where improvements could be made for any programs moving forward.