

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 14 February 2023 from the Chair of the
Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

I thank you for inviting the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to submit written advice, under rule 39 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, in connection with the open debate on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: sea level rise – implications for international peace and security", scheduled for Tuesday, 14 February 2023.

I kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ivan Šimonović
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 14 February 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council in connection with the open debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security: sea level rise – implications for international peace and security”, 14 February 2023

With regard to building on good practices emerging from relevant activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, including its engagement in the Pacific Islands, the Commission would like to address the issues below.

Climate change is a complex phenomenon that impacts all spheres of human life. Different countries are affected in different ways, on the basis of their geographic and climate conditions. Therefore, responses to address the impact must take into account the requests of States that are affected by sea level rise driven by climate change and that regard this as a fundamental, in some cases existential, question.

The Commission acknowledges the central role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the broader United Nations system in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its broader efforts to achieve sustainable peace and development as there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

In its resolution [70/1](#), on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly recognized that climate change was one of the greatest challenges of our time and that its adverse impacts undermined the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. It indicated that increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts were seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States. It also indicated that the survival of many societies, and of the biological support systems of the planet, were at risk.

The negative consequences of sea level rise may affect multiple States and regions around the globe, albeit the major burden is carried by the island nations and coastal regions. Therefore, we must act jointly with a sense of urgency and a commitment to place people, especially those in vulnerable situations, at the centre of our efforts to tackle the negative implications of sea level rise in peacebuilding.

These risks underscore the need for the mobilization of finance. The Commission recognizes that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and it also recognizes the ongoing efforts in this regard.

In May 2022, the Commission convened a meeting on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands. Some Member States echoed the concerns raised by the Pacific Islands States that climate change presented the greatest threat to the well-being, exacerbating insecurity, and livelihoods of the people in the Pacific Islands, and highlighted that Pacific Island States were being affected by increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events and sea level rise.

The Commission, therefore, recommends addressing climate-related risks, based on the priorities and needs of the countries concerned, in a holistic manner through measures that contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

In this regard, investing in peacebuilding programmes and scalable durable solutions based on nationally owned and determined priorities, as well as taking into account contextual integrated risk analysis on climate change, will be critical to reducing the vulnerabilities of the affected countries.

The Commission underlines the need for effective local, national and regional institutions with strengthened institutional capacities to manage the possible adverse effects of sea level rise. The Commission also acknowledges that the existing good practices, tools, mechanisms, innovative solutions and technological opportunities may strengthen the ability to prevent and cope with the negative consequences of sea level rise. As a matter of urgency, the Commission calls for scaling up all efforts, including to enhance access to financial resources for peacebuilding projects, and will continue to strengthen the delivery of its advisory, bridging and convening mandate in support of resource mobilization for nationally owned peacebuilding priorities in the countries and regions under its consideration.

In this regard, the Commission notes the importance of the Peacebuilding Fund investments focused on integrated programming approaches in support of building and sustaining peace. The Commission calls for increased engagement between the Commission and the Fund to forge a stronger link between the two agendas.

The Commission underscores the importance of reinforcing collaboration and partnerships as a key to successfully advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, and peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Today's challenges require coherent responses. To this end, the Commission reaffirms that effective peacebuilding and sustaining peace must involve the entire United Nations system, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of joint analysis and programmes and of effective strategic planning.

The Commission stresses the importance of partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations and local peacebuilding stakeholders, as crucial to advancing an effective, overall peacebuilding response.

For peacebuilding efforts to be effective, the Commission recommends the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding and sustaining peace processes. The Commission stresses the importance of enhancing the engagement of local youth in peacebuilding and sustaining peace processes.

The Commission reiterates its full commitment and engagement in support of addressing the issues of building and sustaining peace and will continue its support, in accordance with its mandate, to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.