



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda items 66 and 136

### Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

#### Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

## Investing in prevention and peacebuilding

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The costs of responding to crises have grown to unsustainable levels in recent decades. Activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace can help to save lives and reduce the financial resources required to address emerging crises. The Peacebuilding Fund has proven to be an important tool in that regard, providing for a flexible, responsive and focused resource at the disposal of the United Nations system. However, a significant gap remains between the level of funding available and the level of funding required to meet peacebuilding requirements, a gap that is particularly pronounced in those countries in which United Nations peace operations are undergoing transition or have recently completed their mandates.

The Fund can play an important role in catalysing greater peacebuilding investments by other partners and helping to mitigate the “financial cliff” often seen following the departure of a peace operation. Its effectiveness, however, is undercut by its reliance on voluntary contributions. To address that perennial challenge, the Secretary-General, in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)), called upon Member States to consider the allocation of \$100 million in assessed contributions to the Fund to help provide for greater sustainability and predictability of the resources available through it.

In the present report, modalities for the implementation of that proposal are outlined. The report, which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/201](#), contains a request for the Assembly to approve the establishment of a funding mechanism through which assessed contributions to the value of \$100 million would be appropriated on an annual basis through a dedicated special account, starting from 1 July 2022.



The specific modalities proposed for the supplementary funding mechanism are intended to ensure that assessed contributions for the Fund do not divert requirements from other mandated activities, that they are used in a transparent manner that respects the oversight role of the General Assembly, that the manner in which the funds are provided does not compromise the flexibility and responsiveness of the Fund and that the provision of assessed contributions to the Fund strengthens programmatic coherence within the United Nations system and avoids duplication with other sources of funding, including programmatic activities financed through the budgets of peace operations.

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/201](#), through which it was requested, *inter alia*, that the relevant United Nations bodies and organs present inputs to Member States in advance of the high-level meeting of the Assembly being convened to advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

2. Ensuring the predictability and sustainability of the funding available through the Peacebuilding Fund has long been a challenge. In 2015, the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture recommended, in its report on the challenge of sustaining peace, that the General Assembly should consider taking steps to ensure that core funding, representing \$100 million or a symbolic 1 per cent of the value of the total requirements for United Nations peace operations (including both peacekeeping and special political missions), whichever is greater, be provided to the Fund ([A/69/968-S/2015/490](#), para. 171). That call was echoed by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#), para. 49 (e)) and reiterated in subsequent reports. In its resolution [72/276](#), the Assembly took note with appreciation of the recommendations and options contained in the 2018 report and requested the Secretary-General to further elaborate on those recommendations and options, including those on financing for United Nations peacebuilding activities.

3. The proposed use of assessed contributions in support of the Peacebuilding Fund would be based on four key principles. First, there would be no impact on the proposed budgets of individual peace operations. Second, the use of the Fund would be fully coordinated with peace operations and country teams to ensure that all funding sources are used in a complementary manner and without duplication. Third, the General Assembly would be informed each year of the activities that had been carried out by the Fund in the preceding year. Fourth, the use of assessed contributions must not erode the ability of the Fund to continue as a flexible, responsive and focused resource for sustaining peace.

4. The present report sets out a proposed mechanism to operationalize the recommendation of the Advisory Group of Experts and establish a means of providing \$100 million in assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. The mechanism would help not only to address the fundamental challenge of ensuring the predictability and sustainability of the Fund, but also to mitigate the impact of the financial cliffs resulting from the transition of peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

## II. Background

5. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace are critical activities of the United Nations aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict; addressing root causes of conflict; assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities; ensuring national reconciliation; and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace have become more urgent in the past decade owing to an increase in violent conflict to a level not seen since 1945, as well as the changing nature of conflict, including the growing role of non-State armed actors, which is driven by a range of factors in the political, economic, social and environmental arenas. Consequently, the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people have grown to record levels and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has multiplied in recent years, reaching 235 million in 2021. Responding to such crises comes with a substantial price tag. In the 10 years from 2010 to 2019,

the international community spent \$349 billion on United Nations peacekeeping operations, humanitarian-related official development assistance and in-donor costs for refugees alone.

6. The joint United Nations-World Bank Group study entitled *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* provided evidence that efforts related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace saved lives and resources. It was shown in the study that scaled-up preventive action could yield between \$5 billion and \$70 billion per year in net savings, and it was estimated that for every \$1 invested in prevention, \$16 could be saved in crisis response. Those cost savings include the possibility of reduced needs for humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping interventions, fewer displaced people and the safeguarding of hard-won development gains. In a review of approximately 400 documents – including independent evaluations, thematic papers, surveys and project reports – conducted in the preparation of the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/74/976-S/2020/773), some 300 examples were identified in which United Nations system peacebuilding activities had increased trust in government, improved social cohesion, lowered levels of violence, increased capacity to peacefully prevent and resolve conflict, led to the inclusion of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in public policy or contributed to durable political settlements in 35 country contexts.

7. Despite the demonstrated effectiveness of activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, such critical activities are underfunded. In the 10 years from 2010 to 2019, the total amount of official development assistance provided on an annual basis to conflict-affected settings increased, but the percentage of such assistance provided to peacebuilding priority areas – namely political processes, safety and security, rule of law and human rights, and core government functions – decreased. The General Assembly has previously acknowledged the gap between the supply of and demand for funding for peacebuilding, including in its resolution 69/313, and has noted, in its resolution 75/201, that peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge.

## Peacebuilding Fund

8. The Peacebuilding Fund, established in 2006 as a result of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), is a critical resource through which the United Nations can work to prevent and respond to violent conflict. While it is by no means the only source of funding available in the United Nations system for such activities, the flexibility, responsiveness and focus of the Fund situate it uniquely among the tools at the disposal of the United Nations and allow it to serve as an investment instrument of first resort and as a means of addressing contexts and sectors not adequately served by other sources of funding. Its role in providing upstream investment not only catalyses further funding, including from the World Bank and its State and Peacebuilding Fund, but also helps to facilitate alignment and coordination among partners. Moreover, the Peacebuilding Fund plays a leading role in gender-responsive peacebuilding and in promoting the youth and peace and security agenda.

9. As indicated in the revised terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund (A/63/818), the types of activities undertaken through the Fund include the following:

(a) Activities designed to respond to imminent threats to the peace process, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue, in particular in relation to the strengthening of national institutions and processes;

(b) Activities undertaken to build and/or strengthen national capacities to promote coexistence and the peaceful resolution of conflict;

(c) Activities undertaken in support of efforts to revitalize the economy and generate immediate peace dividends;

(d) Establishment or re-establishment of essential administrative services and related human and technical capacities.

10. National ownership is a condition for access to the Peacebuilding Fund. Full eligibility requires that a Head of State or Government present a vision for peacebuilding that includes priorities that can be addressed through the Fund. Moreover, the allocation of funds from the Fund is decided on the basis of requests jointly developed by national authorities and the United Nations presence in the country.

11. Responsibility for the overall direction of and guidance on programme management of the Peacebuilding Fund and for the monitoring of its operations rests with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, acting under the overall leadership of the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. The Assistant Secretary-General is supported in those responsibilities by the staff of the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group, which consists of a gender-balanced and geographically diverse group of distinguished external experts, provides advice on and oversight of the allocation, programming and policies of the Fund.

12. As indicated in the revised terms of reference for the Fund ([A/63/818](#)), the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serves as the administrative agent of the Fund and administers the Fund in accordance with the applicable UNDP financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Under the current memorandum of understanding between the Peacebuilding Support Office and UNDP, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office is accountable for effective and impartial fiduciary management and financial reporting and, on behalf of the United Nations, is responsible for tasks including receiving contributions, administering funds, concluding agreements with recipient organizations, disbursing funds to recipient organizations in accordance with the decisions of the Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office and preparing financial statements and reports.

13. In 2016, through General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), Member States described the Fund as “a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pre-positioned pooled fund providing financing to activities to sustain peace in conflict-affected countries”, and welcomed the contribution to “advancing strategic alignment within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and the international financial institutions”. Moreover, the Fund has gained a strong reputation for transparency, accountability and reporting of results, and has robust lessons-learned and evaluation processes in place. Information related to the Fund is also published under the International Aid Transparency Initiative and, in the Fund’s strategy for the period 2020–2024, commitments were made to further increase results synthesis reporting, impact evaluations and independent reviews.

14. The Peacebuilding Fund was established with an initial funding target of \$250 million (see [A/60/984](#)). In view of the global need for peacebuilding support and the demand and approval levels thereof in recent years, the Fund aims to invest \$1.5 billion under its strategy for the period 2020–2024, with a view to meeting the vision of the Secretary-General of making a “quantum leap” in terms of contributions to the Fund to achieve \$500 million of investments in peace per year through the

Fund. However, the amount of funding actually received by the Fund falls far short of that target and can vary significantly from year to year. For example, the Fund received \$134,788,567 in 2019 and \$180,255,932 in 2020 in contributions from donors. Moreover, demand for support from the Fund has significantly outpaced the available resources. Despite significant increases in contributions since 2016, the Fund has been forced to scale back on its approval targets in recent years because of insufficient donations. For 2021, contributions amounted to \$178 million, leaving a shortfall of over \$40 million compared with the levels reflected in the strategy for the period 2020–2024, thereby requiring a reduction in the Fund’s approvals. Worryingly, the experience of recent years suggests a plateauing of contributions to the Fund, whereas continued increases are required to achieve the target of \$1.5 billion over the five years of the strategy.

### **Proposal of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture**

15. In 2015, the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture concluded that, to maximize the potential and predictability of the Peacebuilding Fund, the General Assembly should consider steps to ensure that core funding representing the larger of either \$100 million or an approximate and symbolic 1 per cent of the value of the total budgets of United Nations peace operations (including both peacekeeping and special political missions) be provided to the Fund annually through assessed contributions. The Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)) made a similar recommendation to the Assembly.

### **Peacebuilding Fund in a time of transition**

16. The Peacebuilding Fund complements the work of peace operations. Between 2017 and 2020, the Fund invested between 19 and 35 per cent of its portfolio in peacekeeping settings, with a focus on peacebuilding activities not otherwise covered by the programmatic activities funded through mission budgets, and 20 per cent in special political mission settings. In such contexts, the Fund also supports system-wide integration at the country level. Access to the Fund generally comes through a joint request submitted by both the national Government and the resident coordinator; allocations are monitored by a secretariat located in the Resident Coordinator Office. As such, the Fund helps to reinforce the role of triple-hatted deputy special representatives of the Secretary-General who also serve as resident and humanitarian coordinators, in aligning all parts of the United Nations system towards sustaining peace.

17. The Peacebuilding Fund also supports missions and the broader peace and security activities of the United Nations by helping to operationalize regional approaches – an objective of the restructuring of the peace and security architecture at United Nations Headquarters (see [A/72/525](#)) – through facilitating cross-border and regional initiatives, including those related to mitigating the impact of climate change on transhumance and responding to conflicts involving non-State armed groups with transnational linkages. Since the first such programme in Central Asia in 2015, the Fund has allocated more than \$97 million to cross-border projects. Such regional and cross-border projects can be important complementary initiatives to efforts undertaken by individual peace operations, as they are able to address factors that affect the implementation of mission mandates but lie outside of mission areas. An example of that approach can be seen in West Africa, where the activities of the Fund are aligned with and support the implementation of the United Nations integrated

strategy for the Sahel, covering efforts across all three pillars of the strategy, namely governance, security and resilience. Those activities are planned and implemented in coordination with other parts of the United Nations system that are active in the region, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

18. When the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture made its recommendations on assessed funding, United Nations peacekeeping operations were in a period of growth, with total approved resources exceeding \$8.30 billion. Since then, the situation has changed significantly. Between June 2016 and June 2021, the overall level of resources approved by the General Assembly for United Nations peacekeeping operations decreased by \$1.52 billion. The decline in the overall level of peacekeeping activity translates into a reduction of nearly \$229 million in the annual peacebuilding-related official development assistance provided to conflict-affected countries through United Nations peacekeeping operations.<sup>1</sup> The recommendation of the Advisory Group of Experts has therefore become increasingly relevant.

19. Peacebuilding requirements remain considerable even after the departure of a peacekeeping mission. By way of illustration, financial estimates in support of the peacebuilding plan for Liberia, following the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, amounted to \$65 million per year for two years. In a recent evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the transition in Darfur (A/75/787), it was noted that the provision of basic services, infrastructure development and capacity-building through the State liaison functions funded from the budget of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had helped to build, strengthen and support State authority in Darfur and that those projects had been extremely well received by their beneficiaries. At the same time, concerns were raised about the sustainability of the programmes undertaken under the State liaison functions following the closure of UNAMID. According to the evaluation, it was found that the limited availability and predictability of funds for peacebuilding, early recovery and development in Darfur represented a major challenge.

20. Support to such transition processes represents one of the three priority areas for the Peacebuilding Fund under its strategy for the period 2020–2024, which includes a target of dedicating 35 per cent of the Fund's annual investments to supporting transitions. In transition settings, the Fund has played an important role in safeguarding the achievements of peacekeeping missions and helping to offset the financial cliff in international investment that generally follows the departure of a peacekeeping mission. Successful transition processes, however, require an increase not only in the magnitude of the resources available, but also in the predictability of such resources in the years leading up to the closure of a mission or any other major change in the United Nations configuration, as well as in the years following the departure of a mission. The importance of a longer-term view of transition processes is reflected in the planning directive for the development of consistent and coherent United Nations transition processes of the Secretary-General and has also been acknowledged by the Security Council, including in its presidential statements of 21 December 2017 (S/PRST/2017/27) and 18 December 2018 (S/PRST/2018/20).

21. Other recent developments also demonstrate the relevance of a responsive and flexible financing mechanism such as the Peacebuilding Fund and the need to ensure that it is adequately and predictably resourced. Activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace help to prevent conflicts from emerging in the first place, an

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<sup>1</sup> Based on data and methodology used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.



important consideration at a time of global economic challenges and in the light of a commensurate decrease in the willingness of the international community to engage in and finance large-scale, multinational peace and security interventions. Moreover, the flexibility and responsiveness of the Fund has also positioned it well, in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to adapt its activities in conflict-affected settings, including mission contexts, to help to address the economic hardship, inequality and tensions exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as to support conflict-sensitive post-pandemic recovery planning.

### III. Providing access to assessed contributions

22. The General Assembly originally requested that the Peacebuilding Fund be funded through voluntary contributions. However, voluntary contributions alone have proven to be insufficient to meet the demands placed on the Fund, including the additional requirements stemming from decisions taken by Member States to close or reconfigure United Nations peace operations. For that reason, the Secretary-General is renewing his call to provide the Fund with access to \$100 million in assessed contributions, along with a proposal for how that could be operationalized effective from 1 July 2022. The Secretary-General does not intend for assessed contributions to supplant voluntary contributions, which should remain the primary source of funding for the Fund. Instead, assessed contributions are intended to supplement the Fund's existing means of financing and to provide for a modicum of baseline stability and predictability that the Fund currently lacks.

#### Guiding principles

23. In considering the modalities for operationalizing the provision of assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, the Secretariat has been guided by several overarching principles. The first principle is that access to assessed contributions to augment the Fund should not be at the expense of funding provided to any other activities currently funded through assessed contributions, including peacekeeping and special political missions. The second is that the use of assessed contributions must be transparent and must respect the oversight role of the General Assembly. Under any proposed modalities, Member States should therefore be provided, on an annual basis, with detailed information on the performance and expenditures of the Fund. The third is that, as emphasized by the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, assessed contributions should be provided to the Fund in a way that ensures necessary oversight without undermining the Fund's comparative advantage as a fast, unearmarked, flexible and pre-positioned fund (see [A/69/968-S/2015/490](#), para. 171). The fourth and final is that funding provided to the Fund should continue to complement other sources of funding, including funding for programmatic activities channelled through the budgets of peace operations, in order to avoid any potential conflict or duplication of activities.

24. With regard to complementarity, the Advisory Group of Experts noted that access to assessed contributions would help to maintain the comparative advantage enjoyed by the Fund as a rapid, impactful, procedurally light and risk-taking investor of first resort to sustain peace. It also noted that such investment often serves as seed money for catalysing the support of other peacebuilding actors that could potentially mobilize more resources and for longer-term engagement in individual contexts, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks, regional and subregional organizations and bilateral donors ([A/69/968-S/2015/490](#), para. 172). Moreover, given that the Fund can be used by the Secretariat, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as implementing



partners external to the United Nations, increasing its level of sustainable funding also strengthens its ability to serve as a driver of programmatic coherence in conflict-affected countries. In that regard, it should be noted that – particularly in integrated contexts – joint planning, monitoring and evaluation functions play a critical role in promoting strategic alignment, maintaining programmatic complementarity and ensuring a focus on the impact and results of the activities undertaken by the United Nations system, including those financed through the Fund.

### **Proposed financing arrangements**

25. In line with the principles outlined above, it is proposed that \$100 million be appropriated on an annual basis, effective 1 July of each year, to a special account established by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller for the purposes of accounting for the assessed contributions provided for the Peacebuilding Fund. A separate assessment letter would be sent to Member States to inform them of their commitments with regard to making assessed contributions to the Fund. The provision of assessed contributions in such a manner – that is, separately from the budgets, accounts and assessment letters for the programme budget, peacekeeping operations and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals – provides for a maximum degree of assurance that those funds provided under assessed contributions for other activities of the Organization will not be diverted to financing the Fund.

26. Assessed contributions received by the Secretariat for the Peacebuilding Fund would be provided as grants to the Fund's account administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of UNDP. To allow for such funds to become available as soon as is practicable, the Secretary-General requests that such an appropriation be made as of 1 July 2022. If approved, a similar request would be made to the General Assembly on an annual basis.

27. While the Peacebuilding Fund currently supports projects in 41 separate contexts, much of the current demand on the Fund stems from the drawdown or closure of United Nations peace operations. As such, the General Assembly may wish to consider an approach whereby the assessment rates applicable to the regular budget are applied to half of the amount requested for the Fund, while the assessment rates applicable to the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations are applied to the other half.

### **Proposed management arrangements**

28. No changes to the existing arrangements for the consideration, approval, disbursement or management of funds are required to implement the proposed modality for providing the Peacebuilding Fund with access to \$100 million in assessed contributions on an annual basis. In integrated contexts, the increase in the size and predictability of the Fund would help to strengthen the ability of triple-hatted deputy special representatives who also serve as resident and humanitarian coordinators to effectively ensure the coherence of activities within the organizations of the United Nations system, while also being able to target areas that are not adequately served by existing sources of funding.

29. With regard to the global administration of the Peacebuilding Fund, the Secretariat would be treated by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office as a contributor to the Fund for the purposes of fund accounting. As such, the total amount received from the special account would be recorded as a contributor deposit and would be managed in the same manner as the voluntary contributions provided by individual

Member States. Avoiding changes to the manner in which the Fund is managed also helps to ensure alignment with the guiding principles of complementarity and responsiveness, thereby providing assurances against the possibility of duplication of effort, while also ensuring that the unique attributes that provide the Fund with its comparative advantages are neither compromised nor eroded.

### **Proposed reporting arrangements**

30. Two performance reports are currently prepared on an annual basis covering the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund for the previous calendar year. The first is the report of the Secretary-General on the Fund, which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [63/282](#) and is generally issued early in the year. It is a narrative progress report that provides information on the overall performance and lessons learned, region-specific engagements, oversight and management of the Fund and other pertinent observations. The report includes information on how much funding was allocated to individual countries during the reporting period, as well as the breakdown of funds disbursed under the Fund's two funding facilities, namely the Immediate Response Facility and the Peacebuilding Recovery Facility. The proposal, if approved, is that this annual report would be assigned an additional agenda item so that it could be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee when the latter considers its annual allocation under assessed contributions to the Fund.

31. The second report is the consolidated annual financial report prepared by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, as the administrative agent of the Peacebuilding Fund, providing summaries of the sources and use of funds, detailed information on income (including contributions and interest earned) and expenditure, as well as information on cost recovery, accountability and transparency, and direct costs. The detailed expenditure information provided in the report is derived from information contained in reports submitted by implementing partners. As the deadline for submitting such information is 31 March, the consolidated annual financial report is generally finalized by 1 May of each year. In line with the principle of transparency, the financial report would be shared with the Fifth Committee once it became available.

32. Unlike the budgets considered by the General Assembly, the level of resources requested through assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund is a static amount that is independent of prior period performance or expenditure information. Therefore, even though assessed contributions are being requested as of 1 July 2022, it is not necessary to change the current reporting periods for the existing performance reports, which are prepared on a calendar-year basis under existing legislative mandates. Moreover, the fact that the financial reports are prepared on a calendar-year basis also stems from the fact that the Fund is administered under the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP.

33. Although performance information would continue to be provided on a calendar-year basis, the Secretariat would use 1 July for the purposes of sending assessment letters and for monitoring and reporting on the status of contributions, including for the implementation of financial regulation 3.5 and the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations. If the proposed modalities are approved by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General intends to report on the status of assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund in the context of the regular reports and presentations to the Assembly on the financial situation of the United Nations.

## IV. Conclusion

34. The increase in the level of violence witnessed over the past decade necessitates a decisive response from the international community to prevent and respond to conflicts. The Peacebuilding Fund is an important tool at the disposal of the United Nations; its flexibility, timeliness and focus can be used to respond to needs, mitigate emerging gaps in funding, help to prevent the outbreak of crises, and serve as a catalyst for – and a means of promoting alignment of – peacebuilding investments from other actors. However, the Fund continues to suffer from persistent funding challenges, stemming in large part from the unpredictability and unsustainability of its exclusive reliance on voluntary contributions. Those challenges have only been exacerbated in the past decade due to increased demands arising from the transition and closure of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

35. Providing the Peacebuilding Fund with access to assessed contributions, as originally proposed by the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, has emerged as the only viable means for providing the Fund with a consistent baseline level of funding to complement the voluntary contributions provided by donors. Doing so will, in turn, help the Fund to meet the increased demands placed upon it, including by better mitigating the potential emergence of financial cliffs following the closure or reconfiguration of United Nations peacekeeping missions, and providing a means of funding those activities that are critical to preventative action.

36. The provision of a new, sustainable funding stream for the Peacebuilding Fund will not only place the Fund in a more sustainable position, but also strengthen the ability of the Fund to serve as a tool for enhancing coherence of delivery across the United Nations system and send an important message about the commitment of Member States to the important work of the Organization in terms of prevention and peacebuilding. With such an additional financing mechanism in place, the United Nations will be better positioned to reduce the potential for both the emergence of and relapse into conflict, thereby saving lives and avoiding the need for far costlier crisis response efforts in the future.

## V. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

**37. The General Assembly is requested to appropriate a total amount of \$100 million to the Peacebuilding Fund for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.**