

Agenda item 136
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning
of the United Nations

Investing in prevention and peacebuilding: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/732)

Introductory remarks by Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar,

On behalf of Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo
Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

12 May 2022

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo, and along with Assistant Secretary-General Zouev on behalf of Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, the report of the Secretary-General on investing in prevention and peacebuilding.

Mr. Chairman,

United Nations prevention and peacebuilding activities save lives. They can also save money. Increased investment in preventative action could save between \$5 and \$70 billion per year. Despite this, prevention and peacebuilding activities remain significantly underfunded.

The Peacebuilding Fund plays a unique role as the only instrument dedicated to financing coherent UN system-wide peacebuilding action. It supports national priorities, worked out between governments and UN leadership on the ground.

The PBF is supporting work to address farmer-herder conflicts in southern Chad and in border regions of Burkina Faso. In South Sudan, the PBF has supported UN agencies to engage with women's groups and police to enhance security and reduce gender-based violence.

However, the Fund relies on voluntary contributions and therefore lacks the predictability or scale to achieve its potential and meet growing demand.

In 2015, the Advisory Group of Experts on the peacebuilding architecture review recommended funding the PBF in part through assessed contributions. The Secretary-General has echoed this recommendation, calling for a quantum leap in financing for peacebuilding.

Mr. Chairman,

The report before you presents modalities for the proposal for the General Assembly to provide \$100 million in assessed contributions to the PBF, on an annual basis, through a dedicated assessment separate from either the programme or peacekeeping budgets. The amount received

would, in turn, be provided as an unearmarked grant to the Fund. If the proposal is approved by the General Assembly, Member States would be assessed in July for their share of this appropriation.

The Secretary-General has highlighted the need for the Fund's continued agility, while ensuring transparency and accountability. That is why the proposed modalities include appropriate oversight and reporting mechanisms. Additional reports on the activities and finances of the Fund would be made available to the Fifth Committee, and the appropriation would be considered for approval on an annual basis by the General Assembly. In line with its terms of reference, the Fund would continue to solely be subject to the internal and external audit procedures of the United Nations, and the General Assembly would continue to be informed of progress in the implementation of OIOS and BOA recommendations pertaining to the PBF.

Mr. Chairman,

If the General Assembly were to approve the provision of \$100 million in assessed contributions, voluntary contributions would nonetheless continue to be the PBF's primary source of funding. But assessed contributions would place the Fund in a more sustainable position, help to attract additional funding, spread the burden across the Organization's membership and send an important signal of our collective commitment to prevention and peacebuilding.

There has never been a more important time to invest in prevention and sustaining peace.

Thank you.

Agenda item 136
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning
of the United Nations

Investing in prevention and peacebuilding: Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/732)

Introductory remarks by Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions

On behalf of Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

12 May 2022

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce, on behalf of Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and alongside Assistant Secretary-General Spehar, the report of the Secretary-General on investing in prevention and peacebuilding.

Mr. Chairman,

The Peacebuilding Fund works in partnership with peace operations to address challenges to international peace and security.

Part of PBF investments are in peace operation contexts. In these countries, PBF projects complement and support efforts of peacekeeping missions, including working as a complement to programmatic activities funded through mission budgets.

PBF often supports strategic cross-border initiatives that may not be covered by mission mandates but help to support mandate implementation. For example, at the Mali-Niger border, PBF funding helped reduce local land conflicts in communities by integrating environmental protection into the work of local land commissions and strengthening local capacities for environmental protection and conflict resolution.

The oversight of PBF-funded projects by the triple-hatted Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in integrated settings ensures close coordination to avoid duplication and enhance complementarity with other UN activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Peacebuilding Fund also plays a role in supporting the transition of peace operations, safeguarding and building upon hard-won achievements.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, PBF investments focus on the provinces from which MONUSCO is withdrawing (Kasai and Tanganyika). PBF-funded transition projects also build momentum for national peacebuilding strategies.

The issue of the “financial cliff” that often emerges following the departure of a peace operation is where a strengthened PBF can be especially valuable.

Mr. Chairman,

With an additional channel of assessed funding in place for peacebuilding, including the Peacebuilding Fund and Programmatic Funds, the United Nations will be better positioned to reduce the likelihood of conflict, a core function of the Organization.

This will help save lives and livelihoods, and is a prudent investment to avoid costlier crisis response efforts in the future.

Thank you.