

# New Paradigms in the United Nations' Peace Financing and Peacebuilding Architecture

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the new paradigms in global peace financing with particular focus on how the United Nations is evolving from peacekeeping to peacebuilding or sustaining peace in the face of growing global peace and security challenges. The central argument of the paper is that for decades, the United Nations was preoccupied with the financing of peacekeeping operations while marginalizing the financing of peacebuilding in the maintenance of peace and security. This was the case despite the fact that peacekeeping was, and still is a costly strategy for achieving peace. Worse still, conflicts persisted after many decades of peacekeeping involving substantial peace financing. However, it is noteworthy and commendable that since the early 1990s, the United Nations recognized the inadequacy of peacekeeping and ushered in a paradigm shift, prioritizing peacebuilding. In pursuance of peacebuilding, the United Nations has established an array of peace financing institutions and various streams for mobilizing funds for peace keeping. Anchored on Integrative Peace Theory (IPT) and utilizing secondary data, the paper highlights the burdens and limitations of financing peacekeeping and argues that the United Nations' refocusing on the financing of peacebuilding is a timely and the most effective strategy for achieving sustaining peace if it is well implemented. Given its intertwinement with conflict prevention, sustaining peace, peace education, and a culture of peace, peacebuilding can offer a more enduring pathway for achieving peace and security in the world generally, and Africa in particular. Therefore, peace financing should be directed to the issues of conflict prevention, peace education and the fostering of a peace culture.

**Keywords:** *The United Nations, Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, Peace Financing, Peacebuilding, Sustaining Peace.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

International organizations play crucial roles in maintaining peace and security (Dantata, 2025) by establishing peace and security architectures, framing policies, assigning mandates and financing peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities. Traditionally, internationals prioritized peacekeeping operations involving the deployment of military force to enforce ceasefires and peace settlements. In recent time, attention is moving increasing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace processes and mechanisms. This shift is energized by the understanding and reality that there is a close interconnection between peace, security and development. Indeed, peace research has established that peace and security are prerequisite for sustainable development in all societies (Bruk & Milante, 2014; OECD, 2014; International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), 2021). Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) links development to peaceful and inclusive societies. The security of life and property, peaceful and secure homes, villages, communities, States, regions and

the international community at large are pillars of sustainable development. Peace and security provide the enabling environment for individuals, organizations, communities and governments to undertake economically, socially and politically beneficial activities. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), 2021).

In recognition of the intertwinement of peace, security and development, the United Nations, has since inception in 1945 been involved in the maintenance of peace and security through the Security Council's authorized peacekeeping missions or operations across the world, especially in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. Despite the UN's efforts, achieving a peaceful and secure world for succeeding generations has been largely unfulfilled as wars and conflicts have continued to soar in spite of substantial funding of peacekeeping operations by the UN (Palik, Obermeier, & Rustad, 2022; Amani Africa, 2023). Funding challenges have persisted while the cost of peace funding has generally exceeded funds available for peace keeping. In recognition of

this challenges, the United Nations initiated the transition of its peace and security architecture based on the financing of peacekeeping operations to peacebuilding. This paper has highlighted the limitations of peacekeeping, stressing that if well implemented, the paradigm shift to peacebuilding offers significant prospects for peace and security across the world.

## II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

### ➤ *Peacebuilding*

The world over, peace has been recognized as a classic public good (Bruk & Milante, 2014) as well as “a precondition for and a consequence of sustainable development” (Bruk & Milante, 2014, p.220). Peacebuilding seeks to achieve a peaceful society where development in all ramifications occurs. The United Nations 1992 report, titled *An Agenda for Peace*, defines peace-building as solidifying peace and avoiding a relapse into conflict. This view associated peacebuilding with post-conflict peace building. For the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2008), “peacebuilding involves a range of measures aimed at reducing the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict, by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and laying the foundations for sustainable peace. It is a complex, long-term process aimed at creating the necessary conditions for positive and sustainable peace by addressing the deep-rooted structural causes of violent conflict in a comprehensive manner. Peacebuilding measures address core issues that affect the functioning of society and the state. In this regard, they seek to enhance the capacity of the State to effectively and legitimately carry out its core functions. According to the International Peace Institute (2009, p.1), “peacebuilding involves implementing a range of reconstruction and reform efforts in countries with some of the worst fragile, fluid and unpredictable political environments”. For Bruk and Milante (2014, p.224), peacebuilding is a “form of soft power and negotiations to nudge political processes into the public and constructive sphere of diplomacy and dialogue, and away from escalation into violence and conflict”.

Galtung’s (1995; 2011), conceptualization of peace is helpful in unravelling the concept of peacebuilding. Galtung (1995) discusses peace in terms of negative and positive peace. Negative peace is characterized by the absence of violence or war, while positive peace is the absence of social injustice (Galtung & Fischer 2013). Put differently, negative peace means the absence of physical violence while positive peace entails the absence of structural violence. Therefore, peace means the absence of violence and the presence of social justice (Galtung, 1995). The International Peace Institute (IPI) (2009, p.4) maintains, “Peacebuilding ranges from achieving negative peace or absence of war to the expansive positive peace which encapsulates the need to redress root causes and deliver social and political goods, including justice, equity and reconciliation”. For the United Nations, peacebuilding aims to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by

strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. It is a complex, long-term process of creating the necessary conditions for sustainable peace. Peacebuilding measures address core issues that affect the functioning of society and the State, and seek to enhance the capacity of the State to effectively and legitimately carry out its core functions. For the United Nations, peacebuilding and sustaining peace are interwoven (Dantata, 2025). This means implies that peacebuilding requires not only military intervention, but effective governance, the rule of law, economic development and social reconstruction. (Dantata, 2025). In recognition of the synonymy of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, United Nations General Assembly has stressed that sustaining peace broadly understood is “a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development” (Kumskova, Gonzalez & Hilbert, 2022). Furthermore, sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility of governments and all other national stakeholders, the United Nations engagement, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society organizations and local peace builders such as women and youths (UNGA, 2020; Chen, 2021; Kumskova, Gonzalez & Hilbert, 2022).

Peacebuilding, therefore, intertwines conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, conflict resolution and peace education. Bruk and Milante (2014) have stressed the significance of conflict prevention noting that “no army can guarantee freedom from violence” Peacebuilding tempered by peace education offers the possibility of not only conveying the knowledge of peace and the dangers that conflict poses to society, but it is also a means of transforming peoples’ worldviews, consciousness and attitudes in favour of peaceful and secured society. Peace education usually seeks to work toward a violence-free future, rather than just the end of war and physical violence. Harris (2004) describes peace education as the process of providing knowledge about the problems of violence and strategies for peace through teaching. Navaro-Castro and Nariao-Galace (2019, p. xvi) have instructed that “to reach peace, teach peace”. Peace education ensures that a culture of violence is replaced by a culture of peace. According to Navaro-Castro and Nariao-Galace (2019), the key pillars of peace education are upholding human dignity, mainstreaming women in peace, overcoming prejudice and building tolerance, promoting non-violence, challenging the war system, dismantling the tools of war and violence, resolving and transforming conflict, just use of the earths resource endowments, caring for the earth and cultivating inner peace. The object of peace education is to build a culture of peace which in turn fosters sustainable peace and development in

society (Harris, 2004; Schupp, 2024; Navaro-Castro & Nario-Galace, 2019; Danesh, 2006; Chelule, 2014; Schupp, 2024).).

Peacebuilding is therefore broader than peacekeeping. Peacekeeping involves the deployment of an impartial military force or peacekeeping missions to support the implementation of a ceasefire or peace agreement, including peacemaking efforts in some situations and may also be involved in early peacebuilding activities (Jentzsch, 2024). Classic peacekeeping is based on the “holy trinity” of consent, impartiality, and the minimum use of force. (Bellamy et al. 2011). In recent times, especially after the end of the cold war and the intensification of internal conflicts, the mandates of peace keeping missions are becoming multidimensional often including separating forces, disarming combatants, organizing elections, and delivery of humanitarian aid, and protecting humanitarian and UN personnel (Jentzsch, 2014). It is, therefore, clear that while peacekeeping focuses on managing conflicts, peacebuilding encompasses conflict prevention, conflict resolution, reconstruction, and the fostering of a culture of sustainable peace as well as meeting human security needs of the people (Jentzsch, 2014).

#### ➤ Financing Peace

Finance is a key requirement for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in any society. Financing peace involves securing funds for the full and lasting implementation of peace. Peace financing involves the mobilization and utilization of financial, material, logistical and technical resources by member states under a collective security system for the purposes of conflict prevention and resolution. In the context of collective security arrangements, such as international or regional organizations, peace financing is usually the collective responsibility of all Member States and every member State is required to contribute a specifically determined amount or assessed contributions to a peace fund or a specific mission fund (Bruk & Milante, 2014). The authors have further maintained that peace and security financing can be more effective if it prioritizes conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts over conflict management. They further emphasize that for peace financing to be effective, funding should be directed peace and security mechanisms that are proactive rather than reactive. This means that emphasis should be placed on conflict prevention and peacebuilding which can be more efficient and cost-effective than waiting for conflict to occur and dealing with its costly aftermath that often involves rebuilding damaged property, and managing humanitarian and economic crisis. In their view, therefore, peace financing should focus on peacebuilding which is cost-effective and can avert violent and costly conflict rather than conflict management. Finally, funding for peace should be adequate to cater for all that is required for fostering long-lasting peace ((Bruk & Milante, 2014).

### III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Integrative Theory of Peace (1986; 2002; 2006), Danesh & Danesh, (2002a) offers the theoretical anchors for the analysis of the dynamics of the United Nations peace financing and peacebuilding in a changing world. Integrative theory of peace is concerned with the nature of peace and the dynamics of peacebuilding. It emphasizes that the process of peacebuilding requires the development of the inherent capacities of individuals, institutions, communities, civil society, and governments in preventing violence and creating harmonious relationships. It seeks to explain how individuals, communities and societies undertake “building a civilization of peace” which connotes the fact of making a society peaceful and just, united and diverse, prosperous and benevolent, technologically advanced and environmentally healthy, intellectually rich and morally sound. The theory postulates that peace is, at once, a psychological, social, political, ethical, and spiritual state with expressions at intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, international, and global areas of human life. It holds that all human states of being, including peace, are the outcome of the main human cognitive (knowing), emotive (loving), and conative (choosing) capacities, which together determine the nature of human worldview. ITP consists of four sub theories:

- Peace is a psychosocial and political as well as moral and spiritual condition;
- Peace is the main expression of a unity-based worldview; • A unity-based worldview is the prerequisite for creating both a culture of peace and culture of healing;
- A comprehensive, integrated, and lifelong education is the most effective approach for development of a unity-based worldview.

In addition, ITP posits that peace has its roots in the satisfaction of human needs for survival, safety and security, human quest for freedom, justice, and interconnectedness; and human search for meaning, purpose, and righteousness. The theory further holds that peace is the finest fruit of the human individual and social maturation process. It is the ultimate outcome of human transition from self-centered and anxiety ridden insecurities of survival instincts and the quarrelsome, dichotomous tensions of identity formation processes to a universal and all-inclusive state of awareness of the fundamental oneness and connectedness with all humanity and, in fact, with all life. The concepts of unity, worldview and human Individual and Collective Development are the pillars of integrative theory of peace.

According to the concept of unity, unity, not conflict, is the central governing law of life and that once unity is established, conflicts are often prevented or easily resolved. Unity is defined as “...a conscious and purposeful condition of convergence of two or more unique entities in a state of harmony, integration, and cooperation to create a new evolving entity(s), usually, of a same or a higher level of integration and

complexity” (Danesh & Danesh, 2002a) have argued that the animating force of unity is love, which is expressed variably in different conditions of existence. Therefore, unity in all its psychological, social, and moral expressions is a deliberate phenomenon and not a chance occurrence devoid of intention, purpose, and informed operation. People or individuals therefore have the option to create unity and conditions conducive to life which translates to peace or to do the opposite which leads to conflict. As soon as the law of unity is violated, conflict with all its destructive properties shapes intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social processes and relationships. Simply put, “conflict is the absence of unity and disunity, the source and cause of conflict” (Danesh, 2006, p.2).

The concept of worldview refers to individuals or peoples’ view of reality, human nature, the purpose of life, and the character and quality of human relationships. Simply put, it refers to how individuals or people see the world. The issues of personal and group narratives and identity construction that play a significant role with respect to both conflict and peace are important aspects of this formulation of worldview (Bar-Tal, 1999, 2000; Salomon, 2002, 2006). Worldviews are formed by our respective life experiences, education, and unique individual endowments and creativity. It has been argued that education has a profound impact on how we both respond to and shape our life experiences. It is within the framework of our worldviews that we understand ourselves, explain events, and interpret the words and deeds of others (Danesh, 2006). Integrative theory of peace applies to this discourse in the sense that its main thrust is on peacebuilding.

➤ *The Dynamics of Peacebuilding and Peace Financing in the United Nations Systems*

Since 1992, the peace and security architecture of the United Nations has been evolving from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. This paradigm shift is also occurring in peace financing as the priority of the UN is gradually drifting to the financing of peacebuilding initiatives rather than the traditional preoccupation with the funding of peace keeping operations. Traditionally, the UN Security Council’s approach privileged peacekeeping. As Dantata (2025) has posited, the United Nations (UN) played a pivotal role in conflict resolution in through a variety of mechanisms, including peacekeeping missions, diplomatic mediation, sanctions, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The UN’s peace operations have been guided by Chapter VI of the UN Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes and Chapter VII, which permits enforcement action in cases where peace and security are threatened (United Nations, 2022). Peacekeeping has therefore been the United Nations longstanding mechanism for maintaining peace, security and stability. For this reason, the United Nations had over the decades devoted its peace financing to peacekeeping missions that usually involved the deployments of peacekeeping missions to conflict affected countries with the highest share of these peace operations deployed to Africa (Dantata, 2025). Through peacekeeping, the

UN is involved in mediation, peace negotiations, brokering ceasefires and facilitation of peace agreements, and imposition of sanctions to deter aggression and human rights abuses, protection of civilians, investigating and reporting human rights violations and facilitation of political transitions (Dantata, 2025).

UN peacekeeping missions usually involved the combined deployments of military and civilian personnel to stabilize conflict-prone regions and support post-conflict reconstruction. Classic examples of UN peacekeeping missions include the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the United Nations peacekeeping Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM) (Kandie, Ichani, & Onyango, 2025). These missions have operated under mandates that include facilitating cease fires, protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian assistance, assisting in disarmament, and supporting political transitions (Diehl, 2020).

Despite these efforts, UN peacekeeping operations usually involves substantial mobilization and utilization of financial resources for mission deployments, technical support through training of military and civilian personnel, provision of infrastructure and humanitarian assistance (Dantata, 2025). However, owing to the increase in the number and scale of conflicts as well as the non-payment of assessed contributions by Member States, the UN has been experiencing peace financing crisis due to shortages of funds. Funding of peacekeeping missions has been imperiled by inadequate funds resulting in operational inefficiencies and mission downsizing (Diel, 2020). Peace operations have not yet translated into the full realization of a peaceful and secure world as envisaged by the United Nations Charter. More and more wars and conflicts have continued to occur as more and more peacekeeping missions are authorized and funded by the United nations. As Chen (2021, p.1) posits “After decades of growth, peacekeeping entered a consolidation phase and the United nations shifted abruptly from managing mission’s startup and expansion to supporting mission-downsizing and closure”. The United Nations, therefore, realized that peacekeeping alone was inadequate in achieving a secure and peaceful world. It realized that conflicts continued to multiply and the cost of financing peace keeping operations continued to soar. These challenges resulted in the paradigm shift from conflict management to conflict prevention with peacebuilding and sustaining peace becoming highly prioritized within the United Nations system.

Peacebuilding has thus gradually come to the centre stage in the United Nations peace and security architecture. For instance, in 1992, the UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali introduced a new global strategy for maintaining peace known as “preventive diplomacy”. Preventive diplomacy

identified peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding as interrelated elements of the UN security architecture. In order to effectively implement prevent diplomacy, the United Nations began to create new institutions to accommodate peacebuilding. In 1992 the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs as part of the United Nations Secretariat with the responsibility to monitor and assess global political developments and advise and assist the UN Secretary-General in the peaceful prevention and resolution of conflict around the world. It also manages field-based political missions in Africa, Central Asia, and the middle-East, with increasing technical expertise in conflict prevention and mediation and preventive diplomacy. Despite the UN's introduction of preventive diplomacy, the UN continued to prioritize peacekeeping at the detriment of peacebuilding.

In furtherance of UN's commitment to peacebuilding, it established the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005. The Peacebuilding Commission is an intergovernmental advisory body that is mandated to support peace efforts in conflict-affected countries. It is key actor in the UN's broad peace agenda. It is composed of 31-member States with seven members each elected from from the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The rest of its membership is constituted by the five member states each from the top financial contributing countries and top-troop contributing countries to the United Nations system. The PBC is mandated to carryout peace advocacy to conflict-affected countries, advise the General Assembly and the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, act as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant organs of the UN by sharing advice on peace building needs and priorities, and bring together all relevant actors within and outside the UN system for peacebuilding. Based on requests by governments, the PBC supports national and regional peacebuilding efforts with thematic engagements in the areas of institution building, transitional justice, security sector reform, the rule of law, electoral processes, reconciliation, management of displacement, climate change, education, socioeconomic development and partnerships for peacebuilding. In the discharge of its mandate, the PBC receives substantive and technical support from the Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch (PBCSB), the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO), and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace operations. Since its inception, the PBC has engaged with 34 countries on peacebuilding through meetings, joint events, briefings, field visits, informal interactions with relevant stakeholders and provision of advice to the relevant UN bodies.

The peacebuilding policy of the United Nations was further strengthened by the United Nations Education, Social and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Declaration and

Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace issued in 1998. The declaration laid the groundwork for a culture of peace, and its preamble underscores the significance of peace education, noting that "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed" (UNESCO, 1998). Through Resolution A/52/13 of 1999, the United Nations General Assembly Adopted the UNESCO Declaration on Culture of Peace in 1999. The Declaration defines a culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes and behavior that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflict and address the root causes of conflict with a view to solving problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups, and nations. In the year which followed, that is 1999, the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (resolution A/53/243) called on the civil society, media, parents, teachers, among others to assume responsibility for building a culture of peace. This was followed with UN General Assembly Declaration of the period from 2001 to 2010 as International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the children of the world. This was indeed a move aimed at translating the declaration through education for the achievement of quality and a well-grounded universal values and practice of a culture of peace and non-violence.

In keeping with its peacebuilding philosophy, the United Nations has since 2015 embarked on the review of its peacebuilding architecture to with the aim of aligning it with peacebuilding and sustaining peace approaches. The Peace Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture observed that peacebuilding was "critically underrecognized, underprioritized, and under-resourced globally and within the United Nations". To address this challenge, the expert group recommended peacebuilding (International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), 2021). Following the conclusion of the review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2020, the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council recognized that conflict prevention was at the core of the activities. In 2016, the United Nations adopted the twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace which emphasized the need for predictable and sustained support for UN's peacebuilding activities (Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), 2021). Peace building and sustaining peace were one of the eight priority commitment areas within the Declaration of Shared Commitments under the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative launched in 2018. In addition, the Secretary-General's institutional reforms have integrated the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) into the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat with greater delegation of authority to peace operations for enhanced mandate implementations and increased coherence (Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), 2021).

In the area of the financing of peacebuilding, the United Nations has also made significant headway. As Chen (2021, p.1), noted “The United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Security Council have long recognized the importance of adequate funding for peace building activities to support the structures which will strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid relapses into conflict”. United Nations established the Peacebuilding Trust Fund, the Trust Fund for Human Security, Peacekeeping mission budgets, and country-specific trust funds that are managed at the field level by individual missions (Chen, 2021). It is noteworthy that these peace financing mechanisms were established at different times and under different circumstances, and therefore have disparate governance arrangements and funding cycles.

The Trust Fund for Human Security was established in 1999 as a mechanism for funding peacebuilding projects at the country level. The Fund is based on the philosophy of the human security approach which focuses on human wellbeing and survival. Its operations are based on national ownership and does not entail the threat or the use of force or coercive measures. It is focused on identifying and addressing the cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals. It calls for people-centered, context-specific responses and recognizes the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights and equally considers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. For operational activities in support of human security, the Trust Fund provides seed money of up to USD 2 million per project. In 2020, the Trust Fund made USD 7.4 million in grants and finished the year with a balance of approximately USD 25.5 million. Projects funded through the Trust Fund have covered all regions and activities such as rebuilding war-torn societies, addressing natural disasters, strengthening food security and improving access to healthcare and food security and improving access to health care and education in times of crisis.

The Peacebuilding Fund is perhaps the best-known mechanism for the financing of United Nations peacebuilding activities. The Fund was established with an initial funding target of \$250 million following the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It became operational in 2006 as a multi-year standing fund for post-conflict peacebuilding. It is funded through voluntary contributions by member states and other entities, to ensure the immediate release of resources needed to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery. The Fund has been designed to address critical gaps in the peacebuilding process, particularly where no other funding mechanism is available, and to serve as a catalyst for more sustainable peace support mechanisms. The Peacebuilding Fund is used to support countries that are listed on the Peacebuilding Commission’s agenda or whom the Secretary-General determines may be on the verge of lapsing or re-lapsing into conflict. Under the Fund’s 2020-2024 strategy, the Peacebuilding Fund planned to invest in around 40 countries at any given time. Management of

the Peacebuilding Fund is the responsibility of the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

There is also the Peace and Development Trust Fund established in 2016 following a commitment by the government of the People’s Republic of China to contribute USD 200 million over 10 years to support the work of the United Nations in peacebuilding. In 2020, China announced that it would extend funding by five years beyond its originally planned completion in 2025. The Fund itself is split into two sub-funds of equal size, of which one is a Peace and Security Sub-Fund administered by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. One of the stated purposes of the Sub-Fund is to support efforts of the Secretary General towards the maintenance of international peace and security, including support to mediation, preventive diplomacy, electoral assistance and peacebuilding activities. In addition to projects approved during the annual project review cycle, the Sub-Fund includes a flexible funding mechanism of up to USD 100,000 per project to support urgent peace and security activities. Other trust funds managed centrally by the Secretariat that have also been used to fund activities that support peacebuilding efforts include the United Nations Democracy Fund, the Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the Trust Fund for Counterterrorism, the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament and the Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

Specific Trust Funds have also been established to support peacebuilding-related activities in countries affected by conflicts. These include the Trust Fund in Support of Peace and Security in Mali, established in May 2014; the DRC Stabilization Coherence Fund, established in November 2015; and the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund, established in December 2018. Although these funds differ in their terms of management and governance arrangements, they generally involve both the mission and the United Nations country team, with the mission stabilization unit (which generally reports to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator) serving as the technical secretariat for the trust fund (Chen, 2021). These trust funds have become a preferred vehicle for the financing of programmatic and peacebuilding activities at the mission level. Generally, these funds attract support funding from donor agencies (Chen, 2021). It is therefore, clear from the foregoing analysis that the United Nations is actually transitioning from reliance on peacekeeping and the funding of peace operations to peacebuilding activities. This shift is commendable considering the fact that the United Nations is confronted with funding challenges. The capacity of the peacebuilding institutions and peace funds should be enhanced through strategic peace financing that accord priority to peacebuilding.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Peace financing by the United Nations is critical to the maintenance of a peaceful and secure societies and achievement of sustainable development. However, the availability and the type of peace strategy that finances are committed to determines the extent to which peace and security can be realized. Peace financing that prioritizes peacebuilding rather than peacekeeping offers the possibility for enduring and lasting peace. This paper examined the evolving paradigm shift in the United Nations Peacebuilding architecture. It has particularly noted that the UN peace and security architecture is transitioning from peacekeeping which prioritizes conflict management to peacebuilding and sustaining peace which focus on conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, human security and peace education. It maintains that transition to peacebuilding is the most realistic approach in the quest for a peaceful and secure world. It argues that the strategy of maintaining peace and security through peacekeeping usually involves the deployments of peacekeeping missions and substantial funding by the UN. However, the more peace operations have been carried out, the more conflicts and fragility have persisted across the world. Thus, peace and security that are critical public goods for sustainable development have remained largely unattainable especially in Africa, the middle-east and central Asia. Therefore, UN's peacebuilding strategy which aims to prevent and resolve and create a sustainable peace is regarded as the best strategy for promoting peace, security and stability. It is therefore, necessary to intensify and prioritize the financing of peacebuilding initiatives. In financial and economic terms, peacebuilding it is also a less costly strategy and does not require huge financing like peacekeeping missions. By focusing on prevention, resolution, peace education and nurturing a culture of peace, peacebuilding can be the only practical way of restoring peace and stability in Africa. Therefore, it is expected that peace financing by the United Nations and the African Union should prioritize conflict prevention by focusing on peace education, and the development of a culture of peace. In this way peace and security will become deeply entrenched and embedded in society, and ultimately become a way of life. The paper concludes with the suggestion that financing of peacebuilding should be prioritized.

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