



EN

**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX II**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action programme for the Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2024

**Action Document for the Support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund OPSYS number: ACT-62379, JAD.1368284 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)			
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No			
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out globally			
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027			
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Priority 2: Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; Priority 3: Supporting peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies/ communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.			
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>				
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Multilateral Solutions, Peace, Conflict Prevention, Security			
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Other significant SDGs: SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15220 Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	41000 United Nations Agency, Fund or Commission (UN)			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-2024-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE Total estimated cost: EUR 4.0 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 4 million			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Indirect management</b> with an international organisation (United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund Office – UN MPFTO – on behalf of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund)			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

This action seeks to sustain and build peace and contribute to more concerted and coherent international efforts through continued support to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The action will also indirectly underpin the UN Peacebuilding Commission and enhance the overall capacity of the UN to fulfil its mandate on peace and security. The action contributes towards the implementation of the strategic EU-UN partnership on stabilisation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The action underpins the EU position on the upcoming UN Peace Agenda and will allow the EU to further contribute to the ability of the United Nations system to effectively perform its mandate in sustaining peace before, during and after an escalation of violent conflict. The EU's contribution would place it among the main donors of the Fund.

The 2021 Joint Communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism recalls the EU's commitment to promote a rules-based order and the importance of international cooperation and strong partnerships to make the world safer for all. The Council Conclusions on EU priorities at the United Nations during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly restated that multilateralism is a fundamental principle of the EU and that, in a world facing a proliferation of crises, challenges must be solved collectively. That is why the

EU and its Member States will continue to uphold the rules-based international order founded on the UN Charter and to strive for a well-functioning, reformed multilateral system, with an effective and sustainably funded United Nations at its core. More specifically with this action, the EU will enhance its efforts to promote peace and security and work together with other partners to uphold fundamental values and strengthen the capacity of the UN to fulfil its responsibilities. In follow-up to the July 2023 UN presentation of the New Agenda for Peace, the Council has further expressed that the New Agenda for Peace is an opportunity to shape new responses against old and new threats, including by strengthening prevention, adapting UN peacekeeping to this new environment, and strengthening the peacebuilding architecture, including by ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in all its dimensions as well as the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The Council has also expressed its continued support for further enhancing the advisory role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission to the United Nations Security Council.

The action is fully aligned with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument's Multi-Annual Indicative Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention and implements in particular the strong focus on support to multilateralism as a means to foster peace and security and as a cross-cutting theme of the EU's integrated approach to conflict and crisis and threats to peace and security.

The Peacebuilding Fund was created to address critical financing gaps for peacebuilding and to act as a timely, catalytic and risk-tolerant instrument responding to urgent needs, and helping pave the way to consolidate peace and to enable development in an internationally joined-up manner. It thus operates as a true tool for enhancing multilateral action at the nexus between peace, development and humanitarian activities as well as human rights.

Peacebuilding and conflict prevention are key elements of EU foreign policy. Over the past years the EU has provided political backing and operational support for the PBF and more generally UN initiatives advancing the peace agenda. It is considered essential to continue in the same direction in 2024.

### 1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out globally.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

The last years have been marked by the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War and a consequent, prevalent sense of insecurity around the world. In this challenging environment for peace and stability, with a combination of inter- and intra-state conflicts, a growing number of non-state actors involved and increasing internationalisation of conflicts, as well as protracted conflicts, including in the EU's neighbourhood, renewed efforts to achieve sustainable peace must be made.

When the UN Summit of the Future was announced in 2021, peace and security issues did not appear to be among the main priorities. The lessons of COVID-19 for future pandemics as well as climate change were the major preoccupations. In 2023, in addition to these problems, Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine changed the set up and has put the need to prevent future conflicts high on the agenda<sup>1</sup>.

The threat landscape is evolving fast as security challenges continue to emerge. Conflicts have become increasingly complex and protracted, affecting low-, middle- and upper-middle-income countries and their populations, involving state and non-state actors, including violent extremist groups that increasingly operate transnationally, occupying territories and threatening entire regions. New modes of operating, such as cyber-attacks, hybrid warfare, disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), the use of biological agents, drones and new forms of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are underpinned by diverse and increasingly sophisticated sources of conflict financing, including money laundering and other illicit financial flows often linked to transnational organised crime.

The foundations of peace and security can also be undermined by accelerating climate change and environmental degradation, growing economic vulnerability – caused by the cost-of-living crisis, financial instability and debt burdens that countries are facing, the unintended consequences of energy transition, struggles for control over

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/whats-new-about-uns-new-agenda-peace>

strategic areas, critical infrastructure, resources and technology (e.g. energy, cyber, space), new technologies, from drones to artificial intelligence, or the outbreak of infectious disease, such as COVID-19. In some situations, these may act as threat multipliers and affect the dynamics of conflict (i.e. by amplifying the competition over resources, forced and mass displacements, food insecurity, inequalities and discrimination).

Countries in situations of transition from UN peacekeeping operations are often at the crossroads between recovery and a relapse into conflict and require coordinated and predictable support to sustain and build peace.

Disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence trigger tensions, violence and conflicts, and can affect the stability and resilience of already fragile states and societies, undermining realisation of human rights and national and international efforts to respond to crises and violent conflicts.

Preventing entry and relapse into a cycle of violent conflict by addressing conflict risk related to newly emerging trends of fragility and violence, can avoid the immense human suffering and loss of lives and economic assets that accompany violent conflict and can help safeguard or enable important development gains. Conflict prevention through a more joined up multilateral approach in these situations can be effective in terms of impact as well as costs and resources.

Against this backdrop, and in light of the link between the external and internal security of the Union, the EU needs to continue ensuring its multilateral cooperation on conflict prevention and peace-building efforts.

The UN has created the UN Peacebuilding Fund as the UN Secretary General's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of or affected by violent conflict. The UN Peacebuilding Support Office, which manages the Peacebuilding Fund, reports directly to the UN Secretary General and ensures that the Fund's investment directly support the UN's global policies on peace and security.

Alike the EU's crisis response and conflict prevention mechanisms, the UN PBF acts as an accelerator, flexibly and in a risk-taking approach, addressing critical gaps for sustaining peace before, during and after conflict helping to better prevent and address conflict in an integrated manner. Support to UN capacities in this regard significantly increases the opportunity for more joined-up analysis and planning in crisis response and in sustaining and building peace in specific contexts on the ground.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2023<sup>2</sup>, the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.42 per cent. Since 2008, the same level of global peacefulness has deteriorated by five per cent, with 95 countries deteriorating and 66 improving in the GPI. The average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated for 13 of the last 15 years, with no year-on-year improvements recorded since 2014. Additionally, the gap between the least and the most peaceful countries continues to grow. Since 2008, the 25 least peaceful countries deteriorated on average by 9.8 per cent, while the 25 most peaceful countries improved by 0.1 per cent. The total number of conflict-related deaths increased by 96 per cent. Both the deaths from internal conflict and external conflicts fought indicators would have deteriorated even if Ukraine and Russia were excluded from the analysis. Of the 23 GPI indicators, ten recorded an improvement, 11 had a deterioration, and two recorded no change over the past year. The largest deterioration occurred on the external conflicts fought indicator, while UN peacekeeping funding had the largest improvement.

Against a background of growing populations, state fragility, expansion of conflicts, inter-communal violence and terrorism, separatist dynamics, organised crime, democratic backsliding, military rule, regressions on gender equality and human rights, including restrictions of freedoms as well as forced displacement and food insecurity, the proliferation of coups d'état in Africa is also worth noting.

These trends do not take account of the recent Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which sees an exponential increase of polarisation and radicalisation, intensifying levels of political instability in the MENA region and worldwide.

To face these complex new trends in violent conflict in many countries, more concerted efforts by global and local actors are needed to bring their tools and instruments to bear for peaceful solutions, in an inclusive, effective,

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/GPI-2023-Web.pdf>

complementary and efficient manner.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

In order to rapidly respond to situations of fragility and build and sustain peace in alignment with global policy priorities of the UN, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is housed within the UN Secretariat and manages the Peacebuilding Fund on behalf of the UN Secretary-General. To fulfil its mandate, serving as a vehicle for UN reform, it works to enhance coherence of response, and to strengthen partnerships with UN and non-UN actors in support of building and sustaining peace. Guiding principles as set out by the Peacebuilding Fund strategy 2020-24 as well as UN strategies and decision-making mechanisms at country (UN Common Country Analysis, Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, Mission mandates), regional (Regional Prevention Strategies) and global level (Secretary-General's Executive Committee and Regional Monthly Reviews) frame the Peacebuilding Fund's engagements. In addition, the Peacebuilding Fund is guided by its independent Advisory Group, including EU Member States, the Peacebuilding Fund Group of Friends, as well as the group of its top donors. Both of the latter fora include the EU as well as many of its Member States, allowing for course corrections for increased coherence.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to enhance the UN capacity to better fulfil its mandate on peace and security and increase EU leverage therein, particular with regard to the following specific objectives:

The Specific Objectives of this action are:

1. Peacebuilding Fund actions lead to more timely peacebuilding and conflict prevention, including in cross-border/regional and transition contexts, promoting gender mainstreaming and inclusion of women, youth and local communities.
2. Peacebuilding Fund actions provide the United Nations system and partners with a more coherent and integrated approach in situations of fragility thereby facilitating multilateral solutions.
3. Peacebuilding Fund actions underpin the EU-UN partnership for conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission's role as an advisory body therein.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

1.1 Contributing to Specific Objective 1 - PBF actions lead to more timely peacebuilding and conflict prevention, including in cross-border/regional and transition contexts, promoting gender mainstreaming and inclusion of women, youth and local communities.

The PBF will seek to address the increasing spread of transnational and regionalised conflicts, to which international aid systems have not sufficiently adjusted or enabled adequate responses. This will include the following key outputs:

- Support is extended to cross-border initiatives and cooperation between authorities and communities – and thus strengthening the political engagement and gender mainstreaming in such programming – that can help address wider regional trends, e.g. on issues like transhumance, migration, violent extremism and dealing with conflict drivers – such as but not limited to reduced access to natural resources – exacerbated by climate change. Mindful that focusing on climate/environmental programming bears the advantage to address immediate needs without being viewed as a political intervention and can be also an entry point for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, as well as social cohesion;
- New approaches in underserved geographies are piloted, working holistically across the development—humanitarian—peacebuilding nexus;
- With the objective to empower all actors to drive positive change and thus to realise the full potential of peacebuilding, civil society and grassroot organisations are empowered as implementers to sustain peace. There will be in particular emphasis on supporting local organisations in areas where UN access and presence is



limited, including those providing gender expertise as well as youth and minorities perspectives.

The PBF will assist countries undergoing complex transitions, especially when UN configurations change. This will include the following key outcomes:

- Momentum for peacebuilding strategies and international support is being created through close collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission and other stakeholders, leading to improved coherence and sequencing of aid instruments;
- Transition financing gaps are being addressed through greater investments in approximately eight transition contexts, providing more predictability for partner countries and the UN while preparing the ground for longer-term financing to start;
- The Secretary-General's planning directive on transitions is implemented through a 5-year financing planning framework beginning two years before mission closures.

The PBF will help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's commitment to "leave no one behind" by drawing on conflict sensitive, gender responsive and inclusive approaches and assisting young people and women in playing a critical role in peacebuilding. To achieve this objective the Peacebuilding Fund will ensure that:

- The meaningful participation of women, young people, and the most marginalised is supported in peacebuilding;
- The volume of the Peacebuilding Fund's special calls for proposals, the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives (GYPI), is increased to better meet growing demand;
- The focus of the special calls in close consultation with recipient entities is recalibrated to not only increase local ownership but also help address gaps in the delivery of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the Youth, Peace and Security agendas;
- Innovation to unblock the structural obstacles for participation, and facilitating inclusive and gender responsive governance receives appropriate incentives to strengthen local ownership; creating a space for learning from experiences, and continuous improvement in order foster knowledge exchange, collaboration and innovation;
- Partnerships with civil society organisations are expanded beyond dialogue and new avenues to make funding available for community-based organisations explored;
- At least 30% of resources are invested in gender-sensitive and gender-transformative peacebuilding to address women's specific peacebuilding and security needs;
- A significant percentage of resources (to be fixed) are invested in support of local peacebuilding organisations initiatives.

#### 1.2 Contributing to Specific Objective 2 - Peacebuilding Fund actions enable the United Nations system and partners a more coherent and integrated approach in situations of fragility thereby facilitating multilateral solutions.

- PBF supports both short-term and medium-to-long term peacebuilding initiatives, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General, cooperating closely with key partners, including the EU and its Member States, and keeps the Peacebuilding Commission abreast of relevant developments;
- PBF provides support in UN peacekeeping and special political mission settings, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General, cooperating closely with key partners, including the EU and its Member States, and keeps the Peacebuilding Commission abreast of relevant developments.

#### 1.3 Contributing to Specific Objective 3 - Peacebuilding Fund actions underpin the EU-UN partnership for conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission's role as an advisory body therein.

- The UN's regional prevention strategies are underpinned through joint approaches of a range of partners from the UN system, including the EU, as well regional and civil society organisations;
- The UN PBF reinforces exchange of information and coordination of plans and activities with the EU, to improve complementarity in peacebuilding initiatives, at the central and country level;

- The UN's strategic cooperation on peacebuilding with regional organisations especially the African Union is strengthened, opening up new opportunities for trilateral cooperation AU-EU-UN;
- The PBF will underpin the UN Peacebuilding Commission as a strengthened dedicated financing mechanism and thereby contribute towards improved global governance of peace and security related issues;
- Specific efforts could be envisaged to ensure share of good practices across countries and connecting civil society organisations facing similar challenges, for instance: disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), , violent extremism, radicalisation, climate change, reprisals, threats and discrimination/stigmatisation of women and minorities (e.g. ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ people).

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1

Peacebuilding Fund actions assist in the implementation of Cross-Border and Regional Approaches and Facilitate Transitions

Provision of support to peace and political processes to facilitate conflict resolution:

- Supporting gender responsive and inclusive political processes and political solutions for the effective implementation of peace agreements, in line with priorities defined under the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration;
- Supporting local-level and community-based processes to complement high-level mediation efforts, combining UN capabilities with those of other actors such as civil society and regional organisations;
- 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 strengthening of national institutions and processes set up under those agreements and in relation to implementing gender responsive provisions of the peace agreements.

Provision of Support to Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence:

- Facilitating inclusion of marginalised groups, given the extent to which exclusion has proven to be a driver of conflict;
- Countering hate speech and other divisive practices, and investing in civic education;
- Supporting durable solutions for displaced and host populations by complementing humanitarian efforts with investments in conflict management and dialogue;
- Building capacities that help communities cope better with shocks that can exacerbate conflict risks, such as insecurity, climate and economic shocks in both urban and rural settings.

Provision of Support to Generate and Consolidate Peace Dividends:

- Encouraging engagement in neglected or higher risk geographies, for instance on livelihoods, food security and peacebuilding in remote rural or border regions;
- Facilitating a shift away from short-term job projects to incentivising economic inclusion, especially of women and youth;
- Developing better sequencing strategies and partnerships to take successful initiatives to scale, especially through cooperation with the International Financial Institutions and other donors;
- Increasing engagement with the private sector, for example by expanding pilots with social impact investment bonds encouraging SME to invest and employ in higher risk areas.

Providing Support Towards the Re-establishing of Basic Services:

- Enabling the UN and others to accompany governments in strengthening their capacities especially at the local level and extending their ability to provide services for citizens, combined with a strong emphasis on state-citizen engagement;
- Strengthening local governance capacities;
- Providing infrastructure support to improve social cohesion within and between villages;
- Facilitating partnership and financing strategies with larger donors and national authorities to ensure the PBF can generate catalytic effects, such as piloting new systems or jump-starting critical capacity provision that can be taken to scale through larger financing instruments.

#### Inclusion through women and youth empowerment:

- Promote and facilitate active involvement and, where relevant, leadership of women and youths in all peacebuilding initiatives supported by the Peacebuilding Fund, including in political and peace processes and in activities aiming at generating peace dividends or ensuring the re-establishment of basic services;
- The volume of the Peacebuilding Fund's special calls for proposals under the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives, is increased to better meet growing demand for dedicated funding.

#### Activities related to Output 1.2

#### Peacebuilding Fund actions enable the United Nations system and partners a more coherent and integrated approach in situations of fragility thereby facilitating multilateral solutions.

- Facilitate partner country support requests for short term action in close cooperation with the national UN country teams, key international partners, including the EU and its Member States, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General, and keeping the Peacebuilding Commission abreast of relevant developments;
- Facilitate partner country requests for permanent eligibility in close cooperation with the national UN country teams, key international partners, including the EU and its Member States, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General, and keeping the Peacebuilding Commission abreast of relevant developments;
- Provide support in UN peacekeeping and special political mission settings and in transition contexts, in close cooperation with the national UN country teams, key international partners, including the EU and its Member States, reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General, and keeping the Peacebuilding Commission abreast of relevant developments;
- Provide support to facilitate the sharing of good practices across countries and connecting civil society organisations facing similar challenges, for instance: disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), violent extremism, radicalisation, climate change, reprisals, threats and discrimination/stigmatisation of women and minorities (e.g. ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ people).
- Communicate and share with a wide audience – including peacebuilding donors, decision-makers, and practitioners – the impact of peacebuilding efforts and evidence-based operational and strategic policy insights.

#### Activities related to Output 1.3

#### Peacebuilding Fund actions underpin the EU-UN partnership for conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission's role as an advisory body therein.

- The UN PBF implements regional prevention strategies through joint approaches of a range of partners from the UN system and broader international community, including the EU, as well regional and civil society organisations;
- The UN PBF systematically exchanges information and coordinates plans and activities with the EU, at the central and country level, through EU Delegations and EU HQ.
- The UN PBF strengthens its strategic cooperation on peacebuilding with regional organisations especially the African Union, opening up new opportunities for trilateral cooperation AU-EU-UN;
- The PBF liaises closely with the UN Peacebuilding Commission as a strengthened dedicated financing mechanism and thereby contribute towards improved global governance of peace and security related issues.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

During the period of implementation of the first EU contribution, the Peacebuilding Fund made substantial efforts to investigate the link between **climate change and conflict**. For example, it has committed \$3.2 million in facilitating the identification of innovative countermeasures in the low-lying atoll nations of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The Peacebuilding Fund continues to act as an innovator in this field. The impact and lessons learnt of the supported initiatives exploring ways to mitigate the conflict multiplying effects of climate change impacts will be further assessed through a thematic review planned for 2022. This should help inform dedicated actions in this still relatively new field of intervention.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the Peacebuilding Fund will help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's commitment to "leave no one behind" by assisting young people and women in playing a critical role in peace and security. To achieve this



objective the Peacebuilding Fund will: i) Foster meaningful participation of women, young people, and the most marginalised is ensured in peacebuilding; ii) Increase the volume of the Peacebuilding Fund's special calls for proposals, the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives to better meet growing demand; iii) Recalibrate the focus of the special calls in close consultation with recipient entities to ensure they help address gaps in the delivery of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) as well as the Youth, Peace and Security agendas (YPS); iv) Support innovation, e.g. changing concepts of masculinity and gender roles, unblocking the structural impediments for participation and decision making, and shifting programming towards facilitating inclusive governance receives appropriate incentives; v) Build and expand partnerships with civil society organisations and explore new avenues to make funding available for community-based organisations; vi) Invest at least 30% of resources in gender-sensitive and gender-transformative peacebuilding to address women's specific peacebuilding and security needs.

---

### **Human Rights**

The Peacebuilding Fund operates at the nexus between peace, development and humanitarian activities as well as human rights. Human rights considerations as an important dimension of conflict prevention, conflict sensitivity, and conflict resolution, are mainstreamed into all its actions. In addition, the dedicated UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on Support for Non-United Nations Security Forces ("HRDDP") fully applies to the UN Peacebuilding Fund and requires dedicated assessments for support provided in the security sector.

---

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that that project activities should aim to tackle challenges relating to disability and enhance the participation of people with disabilities when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project.

---

### **Democracy**

Good, participatory governance and democracy form a bastion for sustainable peace and fostering these builds one of the cornerstones of the Peacebuilding Fund's work to build and sustain peace.

---

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The Peacebuilding Fund dedicates all its resources to building and sustaining peace and resilience. All interventions funded are informed by conflict sensitive approaches. This is linked to the tools, mechanisms and methods, it relies upon, for example:

- Conflict analyses are conducted systematically when countries apply for full eligibility;
- In countries that have not yet applied for full eligibility, FPI co-funded Peace and Development advisers, as part of their core role, are responsible for identifying and advising the management of PBF actions and support conflict sensitivity and conflict analyses;
- PBF actions are also frequently designed solely to address conflict risks of a specific response sector, e.g. to ensure inclusivity, non discrimination and strengthening social cohesion;
- Where Covid-19 Recovery Needs Assessments, Recovery and Peacebuilding Needs Assessments, or Post Disaster Needs Assessments have been conducted, the PBF response strategy will be further informed by action plans resulting from these joint exercises, which specifically focus on conflict sensitive approaches and inclusivity in recovery and for which specific conflict sensitivity guidance have been designed.

---

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Disaster Risk Reduction is an important consideration for sustaining and building peace, and manifests in the Peacebuilding Fund's commitment to further explore and address the linkages between conflict and climate change.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
2	Inter-agency politics limits efforts to drive collaborative working, undermining the impact of funding and achievement of objectives	L	L	Active coordination and messaging from donors in governing bodies. Systemic linkages, e.g. close integration of UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme Peace and Development Advisers in Resident Coordinators' offices / Resident Coordinators' offices in assessment and decision-making processes.
1	Risk of PBF-supported countries lapsing or relapsing into violent conflict	H	H	Ongoing conflict analysis at both the strategic and project level highlight potential escalation of violence and allow for early response and enhancing Do-No-Harm and conflict sensitivity. Flexible reaction of the PBF to re-direct funding if needed.
1	Lack of demand from recipient countries or limited interest to focus on prevention and conflict sensitivity at country level	L	H	Fund allocations and longer-term eligibility are based on government requests; Although participation in the Peacebuilding Commission is voluntary, providing incentives to join the PB Commission for the recipient country could mitigate limited interested.
3	PBF recipient organisations unable to deliver intended results due to organisational or contextual constraints	M	M	PBF has introduced a tranche-based system, attaching delivery criteria to the release of subsequent tranches. This allows the PBF to reallocate funds flexibly from underperforming to higher need contexts. Continuous monitoring of PBF auditing/financial oversight procedures and ensuring that improvements are implemented according to plan. Internal procurement systems and audit measures are fit for purpose. Funds will not be re-directed within the system without significant oversight. In highly volatile security situations, the PBF prioritises working with local actors to ensure continued access and delivery.
3	Cooperation and collaboration between UN agencies and national/local governments hampered by an increasing lack of trust.	M	M	Strategies to enhance trust include – but are not limited to – fostering transparent and open communication channels including regularly sharing of information as well as establishing mechanisms for feedback; strengthening inclusive decision-making and thus the involvement of a variety of stakeholders to ensure that policies and programmes consider diverse needs and perspectives; and identifying common and shared objectives in order to align these.

#### Lessons Learnt:

1. The Peacebuilding Fund's five-year strategy, launched in January 2020 to advance United Nations reforms and forge more coherent cross-pillar United Nations responses to crisis situations, was **fully aligned with the EU's global priorities** on peace and security, including regarding its support to the UN peacebuilding architecture reform and its commitment to support multilateral solutions, to **build back better from the impact of COVID-19**, and to ensure the **meaningful inclusion of women, youth, and in particular the empowerment of local actors**. The priorities of the strategy were also widely consulted, notably with the Peacebuilding Fund's top 12 donors, with the EU, with the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, with the UN Resident Coordinators, UN entities and civil society organisations.

2. During the previous implementation period of the EU contribution, many Fund-recipient countries were confronted with additional economic hardship stemming from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbated inequality, tension and grievances generated by public health restrictions and low levels of confidence in State institutions. In this situation, the Peacebuilding Fund proved its flexibility. This has resulted in, for example, enhanced protection of female health workers, women leaders and human rights defenders in Colombia, and in a

fast-track mechanism through which funds were rapidly allocated for example to Chad, Sierra Leone and Togo, among other places, for **conflict-sensitive post-pandemic recovery planning**.

3. The role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), especially at local and community levels, is essential at all stages of peacebuilding processes. The General Assembly Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding (A/RES/76/305) recognizes the importance of considering the local context and highlights that civil society can play a vital role in advancing local solutions to global efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Furthermore, CSOs are essential partners in the implementation of peacebuilding projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and are key contributors to thematic, regional, and national discussions at the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). This is an opportunity to strengthen the contact points to assist UN policy makers and practitioners to know how and when to engage with CSOs to enhance peacebuilding activities. DPPA's Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) launched an annual CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding to enable networking and connections among a diverse range of CSOs from the global, national, and local levels, and in particular from the Global South. As such, the CSO Dialogue will act as a sounding board around strategy and policy on peacebuilding, allowing civil society actors to influence global peacebuilding goals and objectives.

4. Regarding support in situations that are in **transition from UN missions**, the Peacebuilding Fund's second priority window, actions in the context of transition from United Nations peacekeeping missions and/or special political missions were supported. In the Sudan, for example, where particular alignment is also being sought with the EU's crisis response portfolio, projects approved in 2019 and 2020 facilitate the transition from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to national institutions, also strengthening the UN country team and strategic partnerships within the broader international community for sustaining and building peace. In DRC, the reassessment of MONUSCO's departure timetable underscored the importance of staying responsive to evolving conflict dynamics and local sentiments.

5. Regarding the priority window of **gender-responsive peacebuilding**, 47 per cent of the Peacebuilding Fund's investments supported gender equality and the advancement of women's rights. The Peacebuilding Fund responded to the sharp increase in gender inequalities resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, and exceeded its annual target of 30 per cent of the Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Fund's annual **Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative**, which includes activities tied to the Call to Action for Human Rights by the Secretary-General in 2020, provided an important contribution to these results. To foster more equal partnerships between the United Nations and civil society organisations, the Peacebuilding Fund also approved \$38 million in joint United Nations-civil society initiatives.

6. Regarding the important **advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission** on peace and security issues at a global level, the Peacebuilding Fund provides regular updates on its work to the Commission with a view to strengthen linkages and enhance global political coherence and steer. The Peacebuilding Fund's recipient countries also briefed the Commission on their peacebuilding priorities, progress and challenges. Such exchanges foster a global policy dialogue on building and sustaining peace, and provide an opportunity for showcasing positive examples on increasing stability through inclusive action.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the risk and occurrence of conflict is reduced globally if multilateral action becomes more coherent and effective, global governance of peace and security issues improves, and adequate resources can be allocated flexibly and rapidly to sustain and build peace in fragile situations. This is because the internationalisation and increased occurrence and complexity of conflict requires a more systemic multilateral response, for which the Peacebuilding Fund is the vehicle mandated by the UN Secretary General and equipped with the required expertise.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results	Indicators (@):	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	To enhance the UN capacity and the effective implementation of reform efforts to better fulfil the UN mandate on peace and security, and increase EU leverage therein.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Score on effectiveness, impact and relevance of PBF projects from annual synthesis review exercise;</li> <li>2) % of PBF active projects considered "on track with evidence of peacebuilding results"</li> </ol> Level of cooperation with the EU through joint assessment missions in selected countries, complementary actions, and opportunities to increase engagement in the Peacebuilding Commission.	TBD	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Synthesis Review Exercise; PBF Reporting Dashboard: Project Score;</li> </ul>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	PBF actions have led to more timely peacebuilding and prevention, including in cross-border:regional and transition contexts, promoting gender mainstreaming and inclusion of women and youth and local participation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PBF has approved projects in line with priority windows and in support of gender-responsive peacebuilding;</li> <li>2) % of PBF approvals that support gender-responsive peacebuilding;</li> <li>3) % of annual PBF approvals to transition settings;</li> <li>4) % of annual PBF approvals to women's and youth empowerment</li> <li>5) % of PBF approvals to cross-border initiatives.</li> </ol>	TBD	1TBD	Dedicated end of year reviews and PBF Annual approval table	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	PBF actions have provided the United Nations system and partners with a more coherent and integrated approach in situations of fragility thereby facilitating multilateral solutions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) % of PBF approvals that are joint programmes</li> <li>2) number of PBF approvals directly complementary to actions of other donors</li> <li>3) number of PBF approvals directly implementing results from joint assessment and planning exercises (Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments, Joint Missions, etc.)</li> </ol>	TBD	TBD	UN Partnership surveys; NDICI – GE regular information notes to PSC.	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Peacebuilding Fund actions underpin the EU-UN partnership for conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission's role as an advisory body therein.	Number of updates delivered to the Peacebuilding Commission and engagements with the Peacebuilding Commission on related issues (e.g. strategic planning etc.)	TBD	TBD	Peacebuilding Fund Reporting.	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>3</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPFTO) on behalf of the UN Peacebuilding Fund. This implementation entails enhancing the UN capacity to better fulfil its mandate on peace and security and increase EU leverage therein. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: international mandate and expertise.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

### 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

### 4.5. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Specific objectives 1, 2 &amp; 3 Contribution to the UN Peacebuilding Fund</b> Indirect management with Indirect management with an international organisation – UN MPTFO & UN Peacebuilding Fund - cf. section 4.3.1.	4 000 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
<b>Contingencies</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 000 000</b>

### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) as contracting authority.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.



In order to promote synergies with other actions, other relevant Commission services and the EEAS will be regularly updated. The Peacebuilding Support Office facilitates discussions with donors through a group of Top Donors. The Peacebuilding Support Office also regularly updates the Peacebuilding Commission on its work.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- All data will be collected and analysed by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office's Monitoring and Evaluation Team;
- External evaluations may be conducted by the group of top donors;
- Regular evaluations and thematic reviews will be conducted by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office.

### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>4</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

### 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

<sup>4</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are **in principle** no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

<b>Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
<b>Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action(s)>
<b>Contract level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
	(...)	
<b>Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>