



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations, New York
Security Council -2021-2022

VIEWS, PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE:

Our Common Agenda rightfully notes that “there is need for a reassessment of core assumptions, including how peace and security are defined, negotiated and sustained.” As we collectively seek to develop a *New Agenda for Peace* on how to address the challenges facing the global community, it is essential that we consider new priorities and strategies, and where necessary, reconsider existing approaches to take into account the changing global landscape and practically address current and evolving key issues in the promotion of peace and security.

In this regard, Kenya makes the following recommendations:

1. Financing for Peacebuilding as a Commitment to the New Agenda for Peace:

Without dedicated, predictable and adequate financing for peacebuilding, which is itself a critical capability to strengthen, as we recommend below, the *New Agenda for Peace* will be unattainable. The increasing global demand for peacebuilding efforts requires increased investment. Despite this, there has been inadequate progress in securing predictable, adequate and sustained funding. In this instance, the attitude to peacebuilding may serve as a canary in a coal mine to the broader New Agenda for Peace. It is critical that member states agree to shift from late and expensive conflict responses to prevention and conflict management. They should therefore regard commitment to the operationalisation and implementation of the recommendations contained in the consensually agreed General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding (A/RES/76/305) as an opportunity to demonstrate the will to shift gears. For the first time, the General Assembly agreed that assessed funding can be used as a necessary funding stream to reinforce the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The UN should build on this important shared political commitment to allow for broader ownership of the protection and promotion of peace.

2. **Enhancing the role of the Peacebuilding Commission:** We should respond to the call in *Our Common Agenda* to expand the capacities of The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). The Security Council should be open to deepening its cooperation with the PBC, and regard it as an important complement to its own mandate. The PBC already carries a mandate to support nationally- and regionally-led conflict prevention, state building, socio-economic development and recovery. The *New Agenda for Peace* should enhance this role to allow a broader peacebuilding reach in both peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping settings. This would include the Council working in synergy with the PBC and the Council actively seeking integration of peacebuilding efforts and advisories when it comes to its peace and security engagement in protracted conflict and crisis contexts. To this end, it is also important to strengthen the peacebuilding aspects and mandate of UN peacekeeping and special political missions, and the Council to integrate peacebuilding and development activities, including those of specialised agencies and programs, as much as possible in its national and regional engagements.
3. **Reforming the Global Peace and Security Architecture:** seek to make global governance more effective in the protection of international peace and security by undertaking the strategic review and reform of the UN Security Council. This should make it more representative and increase its legitimacy, credibility, and acceptability. There is a need for more reform urgency in light of the changing global conflict dynamics, including the expansion of great powers, multi-polar rivalries, and the advancement of the peace and security architectures in different regions. The present make up of the Council, and its lack of inclusive legitimacy, is hobbling its ability to command the respect and regard it requires to fulfil its mandate. It is in the interest of all member states for this to change to ensure that the UN is more responsive to the complex plurality and emerging challenges to international peace and security, as highlighted in *Our Common Agenda*.
4. **Good Offices Mediation for Nuclear-Armed States:** Design the good Offices of the Secretary-General to offer mediation support on dangerous conflicts involving permanent members of the Security Council or nuclear armed states, in line with the provisions of the UN Charter and the Secretary-General's mandate to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes. This will ensure the impartial and independent mediation support necessary to address conflicts between major powers and reduce the risk of escalation.
5. **Building Peace and Capabilities to Achieve it from the Ground Up:** Enhance support and operationalisation of localised peacebuilding and peacemaking as critical to sustaining peace. The first responders to security crises are the people and institutions closest on the ground. Preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution must be built and woven into societies through a local mapping and deployment of peace builders. Ensuring

adequately resourced and functioning governance institutions, vibrant domestic economies, resilient infrastructure, and localisation of the women, youth and security agendas should remain key. It is also important to prioritise national healing, reconciliation and transitional justice mechanisms. All these constitute incentives to nationally own and sustain peace.

6. **Enable Greater Competence and Responsiveness to the Management of Diversity as Key to State Building and Peacebuilding:** Enabling UN missions, institutions, regional organisations, and member states to have more tools for the fair and inclusive management of ethnic, religious, and regional differences in a way that prevents or mitigates conflict as a key competence in state building and peacebuilding. This includes addressing issues such as discrimination, marginalisation, and inequality, and promoting dialogue, tolerance, and mutual understanding, as outlined in the 2007 General Assembly resolution 61/221 on the Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.
7. **Disengagement and Reintegration of Violent Extremists to Prevent and Minimise Recruitment by Terrorists:** The campaigns against terrorist groups, particularly those adhering to Al Qaeda and ISIS ideologies, is a long-term undertaking. Kinetic and punitive tools may be necessary, but they are insufficient to minimise the ability of Al Qaeda and ISIS affiliates, splinter groups and copycats to recruit new adherents and operatives. Success against these groups requires more effort to disrupt their recruitment pipelines. In addition to criminal justice efforts, the UN and states should design and deploy disengagement and reintegration capabilities that adhere to International Human Rights Law while utilising risk management tools.
8. **Design and Utilise Peer Review Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Transitions from Armed Conflict:** Build capabilities and appetite for member states to utilise peer review mechanisms as part of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Peer review mechanisms involve the voluntary, collaborative, and transparent review of the policies and practices of member states in a particular area. They provide an opportunity for member states to share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, and to identify areas for improvement and capacity-building. A good starting example for the Africa that Africans want, and that requires further linkages, is the African Peer Review Mechanism, which was established by the African Union in 2003 as a voluntary self-monitoring mechanism to promote good governance, democracy, human rights, and socio-economic development on the continent. The Common African Position on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the African Union's Agenda 2063 also provide useful frameworks for regional cooperation and integration in the promotion of peace and security on the continent. The use of peer review mechanisms can help to build the

capacities of member states to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, and to build and sustain peace in the long term.

9. **Strengthening the role and capacity of regional organisations to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security**, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. This includes supporting the efforts of regional organisations to prevent conflicts and address root causes of violence as well as supporting their efforts to promote dialogue and reconciliation and strengthen the capacity of regional mechanisms and frameworks to respond to crises including those that have implications on intra- and cross-border stability such as climate change and environmental degradation, and illicit flow of small arms and light weapons.

10. **New Technologies:** Developing a UN-driven treaty or body of standards to guide the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in military or security applications is critical. The rapid advancement of AI and its potential military and security applications raises significant ethical, legal, and strategic challenges that must be addressed in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. A treaty or body of standards that reflects the values and principles of the UN Charter, such as respect for human rights, international humanitarian law, and the rule of law, could provide a framework for the responsible development and use of AI in military and security contexts. This could include measures to ensure transparency, accountability, and the protection of civilians, as well as provisions to address the challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems and other emerging technologies.

11. **Effective Implementation of Instruments for International Disarmament:** The threat of a nuclear conflict is not being addressed sufficiently by open-ended nuclear deterrence. Proliferation and the development of more advanced weapons and delivery systems, rising multipolar rivalries and the open use of threats to use nuclear weapons demand the attention of the *New Agenda for Peace*. It is therefore important for Member States, particularly Nuclear Weapon States to demonstrate political will and contribute to the *New Agenda for Peace* through the implementation of existing instruments, treaties and legal obligations pertaining to disarmament and nonproliferation to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear Weapon States and Nuclear umbrella states should also aim for new defence and security doctrines devoid of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

12. **Calibrated Application of Sanctions:** The global economy is deeply interconnected. Whereas the application of sanctions remains a viable tool to address the threats to

international peace and security, decisions must avoid the unintended socio-economic and humanitarian consequences. Too often, the impact of unilateral or multilateral sanctions is harmful to civilians in the targeted country, and others that trade with it or use its infrastructure in meaningful ways. It is therefore important to ensure that unilateral and multilateral sanctions are smartly applied. Member States through the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals considered the possible unintended consequences of sanctions, in particular sanctions implementation should be in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations so as not to impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. Sanctions when required should be applied objectively, targeted, and context specific, and regularly reviewed to take account of the specific context as it evolves. Sanctions when required should be measured and proportionate in order to be effective and limit any eventual unintended consequences.