

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the Peacebuilding Commission
(PBC) NMUN Simulation*



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Conference A

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Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

Committee Staff

Director	Kyle Roberts
Chair	Sheng Nie Loh

Agenda

- I. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding
- II. Sustaining Peace through Partnerships

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
PBC/1/1	Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding	Adopted by Acclamation
PBC/1/2	Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding	Adopted by Acclamation

Summary Report

The Peacebuilding Commission held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding
- II. Sustaining Peace through Partnerships

The session was attended by representatives of 20 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding.” By Monday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics such as youth development, education, empowerment, and leadership. The atmosphere in the committee was one of collaboration and by the end of the session on Tuesday evening, two working papers merged along complementary and similar themes.

On Wednesday, two draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted both resolutions following voting procedure, both of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including youth empowerment, development, education, gender justice, protection from radical groups, and improved technological access. The committee worked to identify goals in empowering youth to become key shareholders in peacebuilding and was guided to do so through the highest spirit of diplomacy. The body was dedicated to find solutions for this world’s future.



Code: PBC/1/1

Committee: The Peacebuilding Commission

Topic: Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC),

Recognizing the global impact of the youth and their roles in contributing to efforts in peacebuilding and their responsibility for inheriting, protecting, and progressing the future of our world,

Supports the participation of young people in peace discussions as young human rights defenders and peacebuilders, including the negotiation of peace agreements,

Dismayed by the lack of representation and general disinterest of youth within the political arena,

Having heard that youth, due to stigmatization, are often not represented in peacebuilding processes, and that women are disproportionately excluded due to gendered prejudices,

Understanding that there are conflicting definitions of the age demographic identified as youth throughout the United Nations (UN) and other International Organizations,

Keeping in mind the five pillars set by Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, Disengagement and Reintegration re-emphasized by the 2020 report released by UN Secretary General,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) on Youth Peace, and Security urging the PBC to incorporate youth's participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes,

Recalling the United Nations' Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically goals such as establishing universal primary education for boys and girls as well as committing to gender equality and the empowerment of women whilst eliminating the gender disparity in schools,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1261(1999) and 1265 (1999) on Freedom of Movement and Resettlement efforts,

Affirming the importance of developing sustainable solutions to empower the youth to become agents of peacebuilding through a review on the dynamic status of conflict according to youth engagement in peacebuilding efforts, aligned with the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA),

Taking notes of the report *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (YPS) and the recommendations made,

Alarmed and concerned by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) estimate that nearly one in four youth globally are affected, in some way, by armed conflict, and considering the vast scale of armed conflict's disruption of youth's educational and economic opportunities,

Acknowledging the establishment of a youth quota of 20% in Yemen through strong encouragement from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, agreed upon by all parties involved in shaping a new Yemeni Constitution in 2011 and aware of the lessons learned from this experience,

Recognizes that youth often deal with mental health trials within conflict and post-conflict, but mental health is an aspect of conflict that is often overlooked,

Expressing its appreciation for the countless young people among the most involved in the global response to the COVID-19 global pandemic,

Deeply disturbed by the exacerbation of the issues that drastically affect youth during these difficult and unprecedented times,

Taking into consideration that young people are among the most affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic as well as external conflict,

Keeping in mind the roles of inclusive social policies in improving young people's mental health and wellbeing in alignment with the upcoming World Youth Report (WYR) published by the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) within the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA),

1. *Strongly recommends* setting a precedent for youth to be considered as ages 15-29; noting that the definition of youth varies and proposing a combination of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) where youth is defined as ages 18-29 as well as the UN General Assembly resolution 36/215 definition where youth is defined as ages 15-24;
2. *Reaffirms* the recommendations made in *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (YPS) created through Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), as youth play an important role in the promotion and maintenance of positive peacebuilding;
3. *Calling for* collaboration with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Center of Transitional Justice (ICTJ) for the implementation of transitional justice through sustainable judicial and non-judicial measures in regard to youth-specific issues, such as child labor, violence, and neglect, in order to provide an opportunity-rich environment for youth to flourish in their communities;
4. *Urges* for the monitoring, through UN Country Teams in country-specific configuration, of the equal participation of the most vulnerable members of our societies in these programs alongside with the monitoring of any violent acts against these peoples which could be exercised on them;
5. *Encourages* Member States involved in the implementation of educational systems to acknowledge the needs of youth which have been displaced during armed regional conflict;
6. *Calls upon* Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to renew their commitment to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in efforts to ensure the steady development of rural areas;
7. *Implores* all relevant actors to ensure means of facilitating projects designed to shift rural areas away from violent extremist ideals;
8. *Encourages* the creation of UN educational initiatives to further assist youth access to and mobility within UN structures of peacebuilding using Youth2030 as a model:
 - a. Focusing on peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development in all contexts, Youth2030 initiative strengthens the UN's capacity in engaging youth across cultures and backgrounds;
 - b. Hosting direct meetings between UN members and youth delegates in UN headquarters, youth views, insights and ideas are seriously considered, emboldening inspiration and political activism;
 - c. Encouraging dedicated committee members to publicize this program where possible;

- d. Highlighting that Youth2030 demonstrates how youth may effectively be included in addressing youth issues in a coordinated, coherent, and holistic manner;
9. *Suggests* to the Security Council and the General Assembly to explore the option of implementing strong institutional mechanisms within the UN peacebuilding architecture in order to meaningfully include young people, such as non-binding youth quotas to PBC-led peacebuilding missions, favoring gender-equitable representation:
 - a. Implement youth quotas through Joint Steering Committees in country-specific configurations;
 - b. Stresses the importance of determining youth quotas in collaboration with local governments;
 - c. Recommends that youth quotas should not be the sole solution and the PBC should enhance youth participation in decision-making processes by:
 - i. Advocating for youth participation in elections and electoral processes;
 - ii. Establishing, with local governments, credible youth councils, and/or parliaments to enhance general collaboration between youth and local authorities;
 - iii. Facilitating the creation of decision-making forums at both local and national levels;
10. *Opposes* institutional and societal stereotypes, prejudices, and stigmatizations against any demographic, further communicating the message of peace and inclusivity on all levels;
11. *Strongly suggesting* the use of the Gender Initiative created by UN Women as a model for policies that UN committee members can implement at a national level, as these initiatives can be relevant to different states, reflective of the different issues faced by the countries in which gender-inclusive youth programs may be applied:
 - a. Insists upon the wider scale installation of youth centers in cohort with regional UN Women's and Youth offices within rural areas that are adversely affected by armed conflict;
 - b. Recommends increasing occupational training workshops tailored specifically to young women and female-led entrepreneurship forums, as modelled by the UN Women Safe Cities, Safe Public Spaces flagship program;
 - c. Further invites the thoughts and opinions of young women especially, as they are among the most affected during the COVID-19 global pandemic as well as in times of conflict;
12. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate in sharing achievements made by their individual states in the promotion of activities surrounding youth engagement in peacebuilding to adapt a UN Review on the Status of Youth Empowerment in Peacebuilding (UNRYEP) to the existing PBC periodic review:
 - a. Developing an emergency review plan which works to address immediate changes within the ever-changing status of conflict that might affect youth peacebuilding programs among Member States;

- i. Understanding that issues of great pertinence should be addressed when explicitly necessary within the five-year review period as to adapt to new forms of global discord;
 - ii. Emphasizing that emergency hearings will vote on a in the form of acclimation with a simple majority in order to implement pertinent and state-relevant changes;
 - b. Including the five-year UNRYEP review into the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA) in order to develop a holistic approach in understanding the state of youth empowerment as peacebuilders and evolving situations of conflict within each Member State:
 - i. Outlining in the PBA necessary topics to be reviewed in order to ensure that excluded topics such as violent conflict, human rights, and gender equality are prioritized within the UNRYEP;
 - ii. Partnering the PBA annual review and the UNRYEP to develop comprehensive solutions to developing innovative peacebuilding strategies at the local and state level among states;
 - c. Utilizing the data and accomplishments of other Member States to advance future innovative forms of peace engagement among the youth within the five-year review:
 - i. Developing data accountability strategies aligned with the UN Big Data for Sustainable Development goals;
 - ii. Emphasizing the need for qualitative and quantitative data that addresses the key necessities of peacebuilding education across diverse Member States;
- 13. *Strongly encourages* the inclusion of young people and women in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to harness their innovative capacities to spur economic activity:
 - a. Encourages the continued focused integration of women in peacebuilding;
 - b. Recognizing the increased obstacles of gender issues:
 - i. Urges Member States to develop domestic policies and procedures to further integrate women into peacebuilding processes;
- 14. *Recalling* the importance of the roles that youth partake in during times of post-conflict reconstruction and development as well as maintaining peace and security:
 - a. Reaffirms its belief that there must be steps taken to better the mental health of those ages 15-29;
 - b. Further recommends the establishment of mental health resources that include but are not limited to:
 - i. Suggests regional anonymous mental health hotlines with trained operators provided by regional blocs to respect lingual and cultural similarities;
 - ii. Encourages the continued awareness of resources created by youth leaders and innovators which aid their communities and peers;

- iii. Requests the establishment of mental health clinics in areas where cell service is unavailable or cell phones are few and far between with resources provided by the Peace Corps and/or Doctors without Borders where possible;
15. *Understanding* the youth are the ultimate agents for the betterment of our society and implementing the necessary skills and knowledge will lead to further development of our nations:
- a. Recommends discussing the necessary funding to implement these programs on a successful level, which include, time, money, and effort, where emphasis will be placed on the need for non-governmental funding:
 - i. Welcomes the facilitation of the necessary funding towards these organizations with the help of voluntary funding and Public Private Partnerships (PPP);
 - ii. Further invites the creation of new economic opportunities and challenges to inspire the youth, which would include providing the youth with the necessary skills to understand the world of finance, economics and business;
 - iii. Confidently encourages the International community and NGOs to become aware of the economic disparity within certain nations and to promote their need for funding;
 - iv. Further invites the voluntary collaboration with private companies within the technology industry giving youth access to modern development tools;
 - b. Urges Member States to expand the culture of development through considering cultural exchange programs in order to form a more interlinked global society which will aid economic development and improve international trade deals and international economic alliances resulting in economic growth amongst our societies, through The Development Through Cultural Exchange (DTCE) which will focus on implementing the youth first hand in international programs which focus on the arts, politics, economics and sports;
 - c. Insists on establishing cultural development programs with the initiative of strategically developing our communities with the aid of the international community in order to benefit our communities as a whole:
 - i. Further recommends development of the necessary infrastructure needed to develop these programs, taking into account the efforts of the UN Broadband Commission;
 - d. Encourages the equal representation of the most vulnerable members of our society in the cultural exchange programs for development, urging for the monitoring of the equal participation of the most vulnerable members of our societies in these programs alongside with the monitoring of any violent acts against these peoples which could be exercised on them;
 - e. Recommends the use of an internship program amongst nations, especially for the purpose of business, negotiation, and work opportunities which would lead to the exchange between people and work in further broadening the mind of the youth with new ideas and cultures:

- i. Further invites the expansion and collaboration with similar organizations like The Peace Corps and WHO internships;
16. *Appeals* for the development of after-school youth programs to facilitate interpersonal peace on a community level:
 - a. Intends after-school youth programs to be of no cost or minimal cost to users and to serve as an aid to families as a whole;
 - b. Encourages local members to volunteer and build initiatives that reflect the best interests the regions' respective cultures;
 - c. Suggests after-school youth programs receive support from local governments and funding from Non-Governmental Organizations;
17. *Appreciates* continued monetary contributions to the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF):
 - a. Acknowledges that 97% of volunteers in youth-led peacebuilding initiatives occupy volunteer roles;
 - b. Welcomes the use of voluntary funds, but suggests broadening the donor base of the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund through nongovernmental organizations as well as regional organizations;
 - c. Invites economic based partnerships to further remove obstacles to youth participating in peacebuilding globally;
 - d. Calls on Member States financial support to continue to remove barriers of youth's participation in peacebuilding efforts.



Code: PBC/1/2

Committee: The Peacebuilding Commission

Topic: Empowering Youth as Agents of Peacebuilding

The Peacebuilding Commission,

Highlighting the importance of youth engagement in peacemaking decisions and inclusion in the global political agendas, noting that in the context of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and that there is not a standard definition for youth, that youth will here be defined as persons between the ages of 15 to 29 years old,

Reiterating the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in achieving and sustaining peace with special emphasis on numbers 4, 5, 8 and 16,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 2419 (2018) on the powerful impact that youth can have on all peacemaking decisions and 2535 (2020) reiterating the clarion call to Member States to increase inclusive representation of youth in peacebuilding as well as promotes their protection,

Reaffirming young people in positions of leadership aids in the overall betterment of peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives while building encourage peacebuilding relations amongst young people as well as the efforts of United Nations Volunteers to engage civilians in peace through facilitating skilled volunteerism as is evidenced by the *Amman Youth Declaration*,

Recalling the Peacebuilding Commission's founding documents General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 in regard to the mission established for this body on peace operations and the need to foster an inclusive environment for peacebuilding,

Alarmed by the underrepresentation of women and youth in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and in post-conflict reconstruction as is evidenced by Security Council resolution 1251,

Noting the importance of promoting peacebuilding, conflict management and conflict resolution capacity at the community and cross border levels and that economic stability is intimately linked with sustainable peace,

Recognizing the importance of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which improves youth employment options and the vital financial inclusion of youth, women and other vulnerable groups communities,

Taking into account the lack of long-term investment in economic infrastructure in order to stabilize the economy and providing jobs opportunities in local communities in post-conflict areas,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 74/64 on Youth, disarmament, and non-proliferation,

Acknowledging individual Member State sovereignty and the right of non-interference within educational content,

Encouraging the Member States to cooperate with other non-governmental organizations to share the share the task of building up peacebuilding infrastructure and fight against the lack of resources together,

1. *Proposes* the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to consider installation of technology equipment in the rural area and conflict zones for more accessibility to internet and communication systems as a funding priority;

2. *Recommends* the expansion of regional and international programs that are focusing on internet access and the distribution of technological devices such as One Laptop per Child (OLPC) by UN Development Programme and The World Economic Forum and the “The State of Broadband 2020: Tackling digital inequalities - A decade for action” by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), by establishing regional youth action plans, that are specifically adapted to the resources in their region;
3. *Proposes* to hold an annual, youth-led conference to be a hybrid collaboration of virtual and in-person platforms, with Ambassadors for Peace (AfP) from every Member State with the support of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to evaluate the technology infrastructure in their Member States;
4. *Proposes* the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) to establish an expert group specifically focusing on youth and their access to internet and information and communication technologies (ICTs);
5. *Recommends* to extend the Youth Peace Program especially in conflict-affected areas with an Online Outreach Program (OOP) to educate the youth about their possibilities on how to contribute to peace processes with the collaboration of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations People Fund (UNPF), the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNDFTD) and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), suggesting that these funds realign their priorities to support needs of the specific region and Member States, through:
 - a. Recognizing the regional and global digital divide and that conflict widens this digital divide;
 - b. Expanding upon the World Programme of Action for Youth’s Connect a School, Connect a Community Initiative to increase internet access in rural communities while also teaching communities how to use ICTs, by partnering with the Rural Broadband Policy Framework to increase broadband in underserved areas;
 - c. Translating all information distributed by OOP so everyone may understand it, while highlighting barrier-free languages to reach the fullest potential of OOP reaching many young people;
 - d. Implementing interactive websites where younger people can participate actively, these websites can teach and inform about:
 - i. Peace and the importance thereof by showing how to engage in peacebuilding in their region;
 - ii. Possibilities of the youth to participate in specific Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO’s) and other student or youth associations in their region;
 - iii. Supporting youth influencers as Ambassadors for Peace (AfP) which promote peace and the empowerment of youth through the internet to establish a peer-to-peer-connection among the national youth through;
 - iv. Social Media campaigns educating the youth about building peace and solving conflicts in their region;

- v. Podcasts and radio programs to be able to reach out to the youth in both urban and rural areas;
 - vi. Recognizing that the introduced methods should be adapted to the existing infrastructure and resources, especially in developing Member States;
- e. Promoting basic education through virtual tools even when schools are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), referring to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Policy Brief: Education During COVID-19 and Beyond with reference to the programs developed under the UNDP Sustainable Development Solutions Networks publication of the Youth Solution Report (2020) and Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving No Country Behind;
 - f. Implementing the Peacebuilding application (PBA) providing the youth with an international communication platform, where they can share their positions, ideas and experiences about Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping to make them fully aware of their responsibilities and possibilities they have because of the rights of the youth;
 - g. Using the Online Outreach Program (OOP) to promote already existing youth councils and youth conferences to make youth more aware of the existence of these initiatives whilst emphasizing every Member State to include the youth as advisors or participants in governmental institutions and councils to give the youth a voice and the possibility to make a change for their future;
 - h. Emphasizing the need of keeping the youth away from recruitment into violent extremist groups through the before mentioned educational programs through:
 - i. Monitoring activities of extremist or terrorist groups both on the internet and in person in post-conflict areas;
 - ii. Preventing extremist groups from implementing brainwashing education to youth;
 - i. Noting the importance of strengthening cybersecurity to ensure proper implementation through the before mentioned educational programs in collaboration with relevant organization such as International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
6. *Further requests* consideration of the rural area and conflict zones affected youth with the direct concerns of empowerment, through finding inspiration within programs such as Brazil's National Service for Industrial Apprenticeship and National Rural Learning Services (SENAR), funded via payroll taxes for sustainability of funding and to be supplemented with the growth of initiatives such as the United Kingdom's People's Postcode Lottery, which uses a percentage of lottery proceeds towards aiding developing nations:
- a. Programs should be modified for nation state specific job training programs to reflect sovereignty of Member States;
 - b. Promotes primary skills for workforce needs within rural, underserved, and impoverished regions within Member States;
 - c. Implementing adolescent mental health resources for global youth citizens, which have in the past been under-prioritized by global health programming;

7. *Strengthening* the importance of programs and initiatives in supporting the youth participation in leadership roles, as well as inclusion in local and national interests, giving youth an inclusive role in current political discussions;
8. *Recommends* the construction of additional regional Peacebuilding Centers (PCs) on an international level to train and establish intercultural dialogue, inspired by the existing Global Peacebuilders Program in Japan:
 - a. Recommends cooperation between UN Volunteers and the established PCs to conduct training in six-week workshops for civilians entering work-force;
 - b. Emphasizing intercultural dialogue and innovation within peacebuilding, by empowering youth as peacebuilders and leaders within their communities and thereby advancing self-sufficient and stability within these communities;
 - c. Endorsing the participation of conflict-affected youth by funding their participation through the program itself;
9. *Recommends* the introduction of specific regional or rural youth and support centers to allow youth to gain a strong education and learn key life and peacebuilding skills:
 - a. Calling on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to consider funding in order to ensure that a lack of financial support does not hinder the opportunities young people have within their empowerment journey, involving education and in the future to increase socio-economic inclusion;
 - b. The project of increasing youth centers will be greatly beneficial in order to extend our knowledge due to the cooperation with NGOs and other international organizations;
10. *Recommends* increasing accessibility to internet service and public libraries in rural and developing areas to promote inclusion in virtual peacebuilding efforts:
 - a. Building upon existing broadband expansion plans from the UN Broadband Commission to implement internet access to rural areas that would allow for public spaces such as schools and libraries to provide an equal distribution of resources;
 - b. Allocating appropriate funding to promote peacebuilding efforts in rural areas;
 - c. Further invites Member States to promote the AfP program with a focus on connecting youth to political engagement opportunities, in specific the Member State youth councils and the United Nations Youth University;
11. *Encourages* the General Assembly to continue to strive to reduce the gender inequality and stigmata towards women in peacebuilding by mainstreaming gender issues and raise awareness through different initiatives such as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) targeted at all peacebuilding agents including not only regional actors but also UN field staff or other members of NGOs;
12. *Recommends* the PBF to take further actions on involving the youth into the peacebuilding process in different ways but not limited to:
 - a. Endorses Member States to collaborate with existing peacebuilding structures on local, national, and regional levels to include all stakeholders and guarantee effectiveness in all efforts;

- b. Suggesting the central and local governments of all Member States include youth into both the consultation and decision-making process, such as the seminars including several sectors;
13. *Invites* Member States to be inspired by the Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration (RASMI) project, focusing on developing local communities to be self-sufficient in peacebuilding, conflict management, and conflict resolution within themselves;
14. *Takes notes of* Tiwale, which is a youth-led community organizing initiative for educational growth opportunities towards marginalized identities through four different approaches such as education, skills training, community outreach and employment opportunities and suggests Member States to be inspired by this program;
15. *Invites* Member States to draw their attention to the possibility of implementing regional programs, similar to the United Kingdom's Fight For Peace Program, a youth program for underserved communities where youth can participate in sporting events and also receive education assistance, mentoring, and employment training to prepare them for sustainable jobs and prepare them for the workforce, as a means to keep youth from joining organized crime and violent terrorist organizations by partnering with the United Nations Education-World Youth Programme of Action;
16. *Suggests* Member States to use International Labour Organization's (ILO) Decent Jobs for Youth, a hub for catalyzing partnerships, collaboration and coordinated action grounded in evidence-based strategies and their vision is a world in which young women and men everywhere have greater access to decent jobs;
17. *Acknowledges* the importance for Member States to provide sufficient jobs for youth supporting the before-mentioned initiative in order to create greater employment options, in which youth have necessary access to improved career counseling, further assisting youth's participation in peacebuilding efforts;
18. *Requests* that PBF funded portfolios concentrate more efforts into long-term investment in bankable projects:
 - a. Suggests that bankable projects must have shown their feasibility status using the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) model:
 - i. Must be bankable, have demonstrated impact on growth in trade, transit, or extractives;
 - ii. Must have proper Project Management and Governance Arrangements in place and encourage private and public sector development;
 - iii. Must have sufficient cash flows and positive Net Present Value and Internal Rate of Return above the opportunity cost of capital;
 - iv. Can be implemented in 12-36 months;
 - v. Must contribute significantly to employment and revenue in the region;
 - vi. Must have a clear risk management and mitigation plan;
 - b. Prioritize that these investments in bankable projects should be toward conflict-sensitive employment:

- i. Create jobs where unemployment is a driver of conflict;
 - ii. Ensure that these jobs allow employees to build a future and avoid a “hire and fire” approach;
 - iii. Ensure that direct foreign investment leads to the promotion and creation of inclusive employment opportunities for the local population, their vocational training, and the basis for sustainable livelihoods;
 - iv. Ensure that these jobs comply with the International Labor Organization’s standard for decent work;
 - c. Recommends that investment for such projects could be sought from other public and private sources, including Multilateral Development Banks as well as Private Equity and Sovereign Wealth Funds;
- 19. *Welcomes* the consideration of continued support of youth disarmament programs, in response to the illicit sale and acquisition of firearms, as well as, the weaponizing of youth by extremist/terrorist organizations in conflict areas, through initiatives such as, Security Council resolution 2220 on small arms and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), but also:
 - a. Helping with the achievement of the African Union’s “Silencing the Guns Act” which aims to reduce violence and prevent genocide in Africa so that peace can become a reality for potential child soldiers;
 - b. Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development, an African-wide media campaign and raising public awareness of conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution;
- 20. *Takes note* of the importance for all Member States to support and promote reintegrating former child soldiers, in response to youth combatants in conflict areas, through peer-to-peer approaches, with the aim of reducing deadly conflicts taking the former Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP) as an example, and a focus on mental health of these victims of violence.