	Organisation name:	Is organisation?
Existing Yes	The Stimson Center Not St	Yes
Unknown risks	Conflict or political violence Institutional inclusivity or accountability	Short
Global catastrophic risks mitigated	Risk multipliers managed	Implementation timeframe

DETAILS

Create a strong UN Peacebuilding Council to replace the current Peacebuilding Commission

Similar to the transformation of the Human Rights Commission into a Council, it is time for the UN Peacebuilding Commission to be upgraded into a Council with enhanced powers and responsibilities; and mandated to lead on policy development, coordination, resource mobilization, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in areas not directly addressed by the Security Council.

Similar to the 2005–06 transformation of the UN Human Rights Commission into an empowered Human Rights Council, it is time for the UN Peacebuilding Commission—currently a joint "advisory subsidiary body" to the Security Council and General Assembly—to be upgraded into a Peacebuilding Council with enhanced powers and responsibilities. A new Peacebuilding Council should be mandated to lead on policy development, coordination, resource mobilization, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in areas not directly addressed by the UN Security Council. Without amending the UN Charter, the new Peacebuilding Council could be established as a full subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, like the Human Rights Council, or as a full subsidiary body of the Security Council, like UN peacekeeping operations and political missions, or both. Another option—with appropriate Charter amendment—is to supplant the long-dormant Trusteeship Council as a principal organ of the United Nations. (The Trusteeship Council's operations were suspended on 1 November 1994, one month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining UN trust territory.) A Peacebuilding Council, as a new principal organ of the United Nations, would focus on countries and regions in non- (and especially "post-") peacekeeping environments, monitoring as well as marshalling collective action to avert the outbreak or recurrence of deadly conflict and tracking closely the UN's system-wide efforts at sustaining peace.

As presently structured, the Peacebuilding Commission has made some important strides, including through innovating various engagements with countries emerging from conflict and a flexible and streamlined integrated peacebuilding strategy instrument that aims to better help host countries address and resolve deadly conflict. However, it continues to fall short of delivery in its core mandated areas, and its tenure has coincided with a tripling of major violent conflicts. Two central questions are: should real authority be invested in this body, and what is an acceptable division of responsibility with the Security Council?

In light of the difficulties in achieving a more representative Security Council, an empowered Peacebuilding Council would allow more capable UN Member States to contribute directly to the UN's primary purpose of maintaining international peace and security. It should be entrusted with a conflict prevention mandate operationalized through a new "Peacebuilding Audit" tool, modeled on the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) instrument for tracking the human rights situation of all UN Member States. As with the UPR, all countries would participate periodically in such audits of early warning indicators, supported in some cases by the rigorous work of UN special rapporteurs. This would be consistent with current efforts to track the ten targets and associated indicators of all countries' progress toward meeting their commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Incorporating several recommendations from the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, the 2016 UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council's resolutions on the Peacebuilding Architecture, the 2018 Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, and subsequent UN High-Level Meeting on that subject, the proposed transformation of the Peacebuilding Commission into a Peacebuilding Council could garner support in the run-up to the September 2020 Leaders Summit. Supportive venues could include ongoing discussions in the Peacebuilding Commission's Organizational Committee, and supportive countries and organizations including current and recent Commission chairs and vice-chairs (Colombia, Romania, Egypt, Germany, and the Republic of Korea), the Executive-Office of the Secretary-General, the UN Department of

Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and the larger non-governmental peacebuilding community. The new

[illegible] current Peacebuilding Commission and Trusteeship Council.

[illegible]

In light of the difficulties in achieving a more representative Security Council, an empowered Peacebuilding Council would allow more capable UN Member States to contribute directly to the UN's primary purpose of maintaining international peace and security. [illegible] Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and the larger non-governmental peacebuilding community would be concerned by the proposal.

[illegible] created in 2006, the PBF represents one of the possible options for the Peacebuilding Council to be realized using existing frameworks and processes, as well as existing working institutions in the UN system. Finally the proposed Peacebuilding Council would absorb all costs currently associated with the Peacebuilding Commission as well as the Trusteeship Council, making it particularly cost-effective in relation to the current UN budget.