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*Understanding and Combating Global
Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality*

Report Segment 1.1

Committee: Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

Subject: Creating Opportunities for Youth Education and Involvement in the Peacebuilding Process

The Peacebuilding Commission,

I. Introduction:

Creating Opportunities for Youth Education and Involvement in the Peacebuilding Process

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is the authoritative body on the incorporation of peacebuilding measures into current United Nations peace operations. As a consulting body for the Security Council, the PBC is charged with finding the best peacebuilding measures for each peace operation, including ways to incorporate youth into the peace process. Once a peace operation can conduct peacebuilding measures, the Member State's youth need to be involved in creating a sustainable peace, as the youth often serve as both the combatants and the victims in conflict. Youth provide the knowledge of local history and conflict context, while also having the most at stake for needing a sustainable peace. Peace operations must have the ability to incorporate the youth population into decisions within their communities and give youth the peacebuilding tools to sustain peace. Education on peacebuilding techniques and methods is imperative to sustaining peace post-conflict. PBC must remain committed to assuring that peace operations are providing the local youth population with the necessary peacebuilding education and opportunities to be involved in the peacebuilding process within their own communities.

II. Mandate:

In the resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council mandated it:

1. to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
2. to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution binding efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
3. to provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices and to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

A. Conclusions

1. Protection of Vulnerable Persons-

Violence and intersection in gender roles have had a major impact on young people's lives. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) would like to reference the report A/HRC/39/33 created by the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights. The report finds that youth, which is defined for the purpose of this committee, as people between the ages of 15 to 24, in the world are increasingly subject to poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion. The report finds that age is only one of the multiple ways youth are discriminated against. Young women and others face subjection to discrimination of sexual and reproductive health in multiple instances. Furthermore, because of the intersection of their age and gender, and the unstable conditions in post-conflict areas, young women are made particularly vulnerable in society. Based on the SG Report, S/2020/167, there has been progress made towards youth security. However, the PBC concludes that current protections of vulnerable youth must be expanded and additional protections be explored, as the peacebuilding process relies on ensuring that no group of peoples are excluded from peacebuilding.

2. Protection of Education

This committee's findings suggest access to equitable education as well as involvement in peacebuilding-related extracurricular activities should be used as a tool to shape knowledge of the peacebuilding process and create opportunities for young people. This Committee concludes that helping to end existing barriers for education access and the prevention of discrimination and politically-motivated curriculum from arising is a crucial goal to help youth become more involved within the peacebuilding process. According to the 2020 Security Council report on Youth, Peace and Security (S/2020/167), the barriers to participation include access to education and opportunity. The transitional period from education to employment remains a crucial part to securing economic inclusion. The use of formal education which is defined as government-led, formal curriculum has been seen to reinforcing expectations of gender behaviour and stigmatization. At the same time, according to the 2017-2018 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, only 83 percent of the children who go to school at all complete elementary school, and just 45 percent of students aged 15 to 17 will finish secondary school. The same report finds that the number of boys and girls who are denied access to education is 264 million as of 2016.

3. Protection of Youth from Armed Conflict-

This committee believes that it is of critical importance to protect youth from armed conflict by further expanding current policy to prevent armed conflict. This committee has also found that youth are particularly vulnerable to involuntary conscription, as found within the Youth and Armed Conflict Fact Sheet published by United Nations Youth. Youth are also most at risk of conflict, namely poverty, unemployment, poor governance, and the disintegration of families and communities. According to a 2016 report from the United Nations Security Council, an estimated 408 million youth lived in settings affected by armed conflict or organized violence. Currently eighteen action plans have been signed by armed groups to end The Six Grave Violations. The Six Grave Violations were specified by UNICEF as particular violations against children in times of conflict. The action plans have been signed with twenty armed groups,

resulting in the removal of thousands of children from active involvement in armed conflict.

B. Recommendations

1. The Peacebuilding Commission recommends making youth consultation and advisory boards for Member States who are a part of active peacekeeping operations. Partnering with the Goi Peace Foundation Forum, these boards should be composed of a diverse population of young people from the member state. The Forum already provides a platform for activists, policymakers, experts, diplomats and the public to come together for a peaceful future. With an expansion to establish a youth forum, it can ensure the involvement of youth on discussions of peacebuilding. The PBC recommends five geographic regional boards (Africa, Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East). This committee further recommends the creation of a conference within the youth forum, for a youth-led, professionally supervised, three (3) day advisory board to be held quarterly to discuss regional issues and a seven (7) day annual conference to discuss issues on a worldwide stage. Each regional board should meet on the first through third days of April, August, and November, and the annual conference is to be held the last week of July. Delegates to these conferences will have the opportunity to advocate for reforms for their local regions, and provide insight to other delegates as they discuss solutions to their delegation's strife. This committee emphasises the potential for success if Member States were to contribute voluntary funds for this project, and the potential of youth to make significant change over the next ten (10) years.
2. In order to give youth the opportunity to participate in the peacebuilding process, Member States should prioritize integration, equity, safety, social inclusion, and diversity in educational settings. This can be achieved through:
 - a. The further expansion of the Global Peacebuilders Program. The program helps educate youth volunteers, with the help of UN agencies to engage in peacebuilding and development. UN Volunteers (UNV) and the Global Peacebuilders Program contribute to empowering women, youth and other vulnerable persons. The program also aims to build trust among local communities in post-conflict situations in order to improve UN coordination
 - i. The Global Peacebuilders Program is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan. However, this committee encourages additional funding through voluntary contributions from participating Member States.
 - b. The encouragement of Member States to invest in an inclusive educational environment through formal and informal initiatives such as values of diversity, socioemotional learning and conflict resolution, as well as digital literacy training. The Peacebuilding Citizenship education should entify, interrogate, and re-work the implicit and explicit education about conflict. The expansion and modeling of the School for All Program, created in conjunction with Japan to ensure access to education

and community based involvement. The program improves access to education and does it through local community based involvement. With an increased local trust of the education present, it increases the opportunity for peacebuilding on the community level. The program has spread to more than 45,000 schools across Africa.

3. The Peacebuilding Commission recommends several practices to encourage the involvement of youth post-conflict. This includes access to modes of communication and support through partnerships with organizations such as the Goi Peace Foundation and Youth4Peace. Youth that were formerly engaged in military conflict report exclusion from peacebuilding conversations as well as stigmatization in local communities and isolation from peers. Post-combatant youths cannot become involved in the peacebuilding process if the same youth are sequestered from discussions on reunification and reconstruction within young people's communities. This committee recommends that youth continue to be used as an energizing voice, organized and connected, and participating at the regional and local levels without the fear of retribution, persecution, and isolation. This committee furthers this recommendation by stating that no youth should be barred from the peacebuilding process, regardless of their background or involvement in armed conflict.
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