

Lessons Learned and Strategic Operationalisation of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in Eastern and Central Africa

Summary note of the informal regional consultation

Kampala, Uganda, 11 November 2024

This regional consultation for the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (2025 PBAR) provided an opportunity for local peacebuilders, UN and government representatives as well as the donor community to discuss the key steps that the UN peacebuilding architecture can take to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the region. These include: 1) intentional localisation of peacebuilding efforts, 2) integration of peacebuilding and sustaining peace across the work of the entire UN System, 3) multi-stakeholder coordination on peacebuilding in the region, and 4) promotion of political and institutional commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace among all peacebuilding stakeholders. In the Annexes to this summary note, you can also find an overview of the region's biggest shared challenges to sustaining peace and concrete, actionable recommendations for peacebuilding stakeholders (Annexe 1) and an initial mapping of the regional peacebuilding architecture (Annexe 2).

This summary note aims to inform the formal phase of the 2025 PBAR, as well as relevant actions of all peacebuilding stakeholders in Eastern and Central Africa (hereafter, the ECA region).

The following key takeaways emerged from the regional consultation:

1. To be impactful and relevant, peacebuilding policies require localisation.

The [2 July 2020 Peacebuilding Commission \(PBC\) Chair's letter](#) encouraged measuring the success of peacebuilding and sustaining peace 'in terms of impact rather than outputs'. Building on this, the 2020 UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace requested a 'comprehensive review of UN peacebuilding in 2025, [...] with emphasis on the systematic impact made at the field level' ([A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), OP 5). It is increasingly recognised that the impact of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is directly connected to the capacity of all peacebuilding actors to carefully consider and incorporate local realities, needs, situations and knowledge in their actions ([A/79/552-S/2024/767](#), paras. 13, 15).

Localisation means prioritising local needs over political interests and building on the work already being carried out by local actors. This approach requires trust in the knowledge and expertise of local actors, including their indigenous knowledge. It should be noted that localisation does not diminish the contributions or reduce the importance of other peacebuilding actors. It rather contributes to these efforts, making them more impactful to the communities peacebuilding and sustaining peace aims to benefit.

Localisation of peacebuilding policies and programming requires:

- Committing to intentional co-creation at every stage of policy and program development, implementation, and monitoring, involving diverse stakeholders, particularly local

actors. This means engaging diverse stakeholders, particularly local actors, from the outset by assigning them a formal and equal role alongside other peacebuilding stakeholders. Networks and coalitions could provide an effective avenue for inclusion as they are accountable to broader diverse constituencies.

- Translating global peacebuilding policies into local languages, with subsequent awareness-raising efforts within communities. This could be undertaken by local peacebuilding organisations and civil society.
- Developing local indicators to monitor the implementation of global policies¹.
- Click [here](#) for more guidance on how to localise global peacebuilding policies.

2. The entire UN System should integrate peacebuilding and sustaining peace into all aspects of its work.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace is the responsibility of the UN System ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/ 2282](#), PP5); therefore, it should also be integrated into the work of UN field presences (e.g., UNDP, OHCHR, and UNICEF) under an umbrella of a single peacebuilding strategy. Further, local peacebuilders underscore the link between sustainable development, human rights and peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/ 2282](#), PP4). For local peacebuilders, the main risks to peacebuilding and sustaining peace include harmful gender norms, exclusion, bad governance, access to justice, climate change, among other issues (See Annexe 1). As such local peacebuilders use global policy spaces connected to human rights, peace and security and development to inform global policies relevant to them in their mission to sustain peace in their communities. Overall, every global policy agenda should be conflict-sensitive and every institution within the global multilateral system should have a dedicated mandate, capacities and resources to contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The UN System should integrate peacebuilding and sustaining peace in all aspects of its work by:

- Developing a clear peacebuilding strategy for the UNCTs, supported by coordinated UN peacebuilding leadership and adequate peacebuilding capacities (i.e., peace and development or peacebuilding advisors).
- Ensuring that all UN agencies, funds and programmes within the UNCTs and regional offices have conflict-sensitive programming. Requesting conflict analysis from local peacebuilding networks could be an avenue to shape their programming in a conflict-sensitive manner.
- Bolstering the focus on peace in all global policy discussions across the Peace-Development and Humanitarian Nexus. A dedicated ‘peace day’ during the annual UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) can be considered a good practice.
- Ensuring that every UN agency, fund and programme at the field level has a clear mandate, the capacities and resources to contribute to sustaining peace.

¹ Examples of local indicators could be found in Bwire & Kumskova (2024). Participatory Governance and SDG16+ Localisation: The Case of CECORE: https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/CSO_Case_Studies_EN.pdf. Also, see Akiteng (2023). Local indicators for climate security risk assessment: Learning from Uganda how to strengthen climate action and peacebuilding: <https://gppac.net/news/local-indicators-climate-security-risk-assessment-learning-uganda-how-strengthen-climate>.

3. The regional and national peacebuilding architectures in the ECA region should be strengthened.

A strong peacebuilding architecture relies on several principles. These include, but are not limited to:

First, political will and institutional commitment to peace form the foundation of a strong peacebuilding architecture. While the UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace suggest that the responsibility for peacebuilding and sustaining peace lies with governments and other national stakeholders ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), PP8; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), OP3), every peacebuilding actor needs to commit to peacebuilding and conflict prevention action for sustaining peace to be realised. Local peacebuilders emphasise the lack of prioritisation of peace and conflict prevention by numerous actors across the region. During the consultation, local peacebuilders evaluated the political will and institutional commitment of national governments².

The governments in the ECA region do not demonstrate a clear commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Two countries have distinct peace policies (i.e., [Kenya's National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management](#) and [Uganda's Draft National Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Policy](#)). These policies could serve as examples for other countries across the region that wish to develop peace policies. However, it needs to be recognised that these two existing policies are yet to be properly operationalised and require significant resources, as well as political will at the national level. Additionally, [Ethiopia has a dedicated Ministry of Peace](#), which is a notable example of a government structure that centralises peacebuilding obligations, preventing peace efforts from being scattered across various ministries without coordination or proper accountability.

To advance national ownership in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, governments should consider:

- Identifying a government entity responsible for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Establishing clear modalities of civil society engagement in decision-making on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Developing a national prevention or peacebuilding strategy.
- Ensuring domestic mobilisation of resources for peacebuilding.

Second, the regional peacebuilding architecture in the ECA region requires effective multi-stakeholder coordination. The UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace identify a variety of stakeholders relevant to peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), OP18; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), OP1). The ECA peacebuilding architecture encompasses a variety of diverse actors, each with a complementary role in building and sustaining peace (see Annexe 2). Local peacebuilders have noted a significant overlap among various partners. For example, programming by the UN and local civil society often overlaps, while regional and UN assistance to peace processes often compete.

² Further inquiry is required to assess political will and institutional commitment by other stakeholders. However, the recommendations presented in this section could be relevant for a broader range of peacebuilding stakeholders.

Promoting multi-stakeholder coordination among peacebuilding actors based on their comparative advantages and on equal footing can help actors align on key concepts and coordinate policies and programming in a complementary manner.

Effective multi-stakeholder coordination involves:

- Establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue at the country level. The UN should elevate its role as a convenor rather than an implementer, focusing on facilitating annual meetings for partners to coordinate joint analysis and peacebuilding strategies, build capacities, and ensure strategic collaboration.

Third, peacebuilding networks are a crucial component of a strong peacebuilding architecture. These networks offer numerous benefits to peacebuilding. First, they help local peace actors combine their efforts in their collective endeavours to promote peace and prevent conflict, relying on principles such as local ownership, complementarity, mutual support and joint action. Additionally, peacebuilding networks are valuable partners to other peacebuilding stakeholders as they represent diverse local constituencies and engage organisations based in the peripheries, including new and unregistered, as well as grassroots organisations, while also involving local actors with diverse thematic expertise. As these networks continuously grow and expand, they engage more local actors in their endeavour to promote peace and conflict prevention. However, peacebuilding networks require nurturing and adequate support to reach their potential. While they at times struggle to deliver the clear outputs often required for programmatic funding, their critical impact is undeniable. Peacebuilding networks play a key role in promoting local leadership, enhancing capacities, and providing access to global platforms. These efforts contribute to creating more inclusive peacebuilding efforts ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/ 2282](#), PP9).

To fulfil the full potential of local peacebuilding networks, peacebuilding stakeholders should consider:

- Providing long-term sustainable financial support for regional and national peacebuilding networks;
- Institutionalising policy engagement with networks at the field level by including the representatives of peacebuilding networks at all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding policies and programming;
- Creating regular spaces and platforms for learning and exchange. There should be space for multi-stakeholder exchanges, as well as youth-only or women-to-women strategic gatherings to ensure that different local actors can find their safe space and sense of belonging to unlock their full potential.

Fourth, infrastructures for peace (I4Ps) could provide ‘a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace’ called for by [A/RES/70/262-S/RES/ 2282](#) (PP12). While popular in global policy discussions, the term ‘national prevention strategies’ is not yet well understood at the local level. At the same time, local peacebuilders continue to stress the importance and relevance of early warning systems and other I4Ps at the local level. ‘Infrastructures for peace’ is a term more familiar to local peacebuilders as a vehicle to advance [locally-led action on sustaining peace](#). Local I4Ps have demonstrated their ability to prevent extreme hardships that conflict inflicts on communities, offering a more cost-effective alternative to reactive

interventions. They play a key role in connecting local actors and national governments to facilitate inclusive responses. Across the ECA region, diverse and often fragmented efforts in early warning and conflict monitoring have shown effectiveness. For example, the SAFE programme for reporting conflicts via a toll-free line is a good practice. Peace committees are another effective formal structure for community engagement. At the same time, limited participation of youth and women is recorded in such committees. Further, early warning system coordinated by IGAD works effectively, with the participation of local communities. However, the early warning is not followed by an early response at national and/or sub-regional level. The sustainability of I4Ps also depends heavily on the availability of continuous financial support.

To strengthen infrastructures for peace (I4Ps), peacebuilding stakeholders should consider the following actions:

- Investing in new and building on existing I4Ps in a coordinated manner. The African Union should strengthen its efforts to establish a sub-regional early warning system in the ECA region, by bringing together and building on existing early warning efforts.
- Ensuring I4Ps are connected to proper government and intergovernmental processes at the national and regional levels.
- Adjusting existing funding strategies and developing innovative mechanisms to support I4Ps in an unrestricted and flexible way that provides for core funding and institutional support.

Fifth, quality and quantity of financing for peacebuilding are critical for a strong peacebuilding architecture. Inadequate financing for local peacebuilding efforts remains a critical challenge to effective peacebuilding and impactful local action ([A/RES/76/305](#), PP5). Local peacebuilders highlight persistent issues with both the quality and quantity of financing. In addition to limited resources generally available to local actors, the existing financing for peacebuilding fails to comply with [the principles of quality financing](#). Ineffective investments further compound the problem of limited financing for peacebuilding by failing to maximise local impact. Participants highlighted several challenges, including short funding periods, donor-driven restrictive agendas, and insufficient support for operational and institutional costs. Funding models often fail to align with local needs, lacking the flexibility required to adapt to evolving contexts. Moreover, the lack of donor transparency and a hierarchical donor-recipient relationship undermines trust and reduces the effectiveness of interventions. Smaller and newly-formed grassroots organisations, as well as youth-led organisations, in particular, struggle to build a track record required to secure funding.

Local peacebuilders in the region are working to diversify resources, by engaging with non-traditional donors, diaspora communities, and the private sector. However, building relationships with new donors takes considerable time. Some traditional donors are showing interest in exploring new modalities of supporting peacebuilding. A good example includes the 'Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031' Grant Programme by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which supports peacebuilding networks and provides flexible funding that allows space for learning.

To strengthen the quantity and quality of financing, the donor community could consider:

- Increasing quality financial support for local actors by allocating funding directly to local and grassroots organisations and prioritising long-term and flexible funding models that can adapt to the realities on the ground. The UN funding (e.g., the PBF's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative) specifically could be more accessible and long-term, following the practices of proposal co-creation present in some regional- and country-specific pooled funds.
- Co-creating participatory approaches to funding peacebuilding efforts together with local peacebuilders, replacing top-down, hierarchical funding models. Development corporation strategies, as well as calls for proposals, should be based on continuous, localised analysis to ensure that they are tailored to contextual needs.
- Developing strategies for the engagement of the private sector as a partner in financing sustainable peace initiatives.

Annexe 1: Risks to Sustaining Peace in Eastern and Central Africa.

Based on local conflict analysis shared during the consultation, peacebuilding stakeholders across the ECA region should prioritise action to address the following six (6) risks:

1. **Advancing national and regional good governance:**

While the term ‘good governance’ may not be explicitly stated in UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the principles encompassed within it—such as accountability, transparency, inclusivity, and the rule of law—are integral to the capacity of the national governments to exercise their primary responsibility for peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), PP8; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), OP3). At the national level, poor governance has been identified as a fundamental obstacle to peace in the ECA region, stemming from a range of interconnected issues such as corruption, constitutional crises, disregard for national constitutions, impunity, and inadequate resourcing for and prioritisation of peacebuilding efforts. Even when they have strong mandates, public institutions are weakened by these challenges. At the regional level, the political dynamics similarly challenge the capacities of regional organisations to act. Neighbouring states have a significant impact on how conflict manifests in countries within the ECA region, demanding improved regional coordination. This environment has eroded public trust in national and regional institutions and fueled growing grievances within communities, exacerbating instability and undermining peacebuilding efforts. Mutual mistrust between local communities and governmental institutions persists, with each viewing the other as a threat.

To advance good governance, peacebuilding stakeholders should consider the following recommendations:

- **Support community sensitisation and awareness raising on good governance:** The capacity of community actors is required for accountability and their active participation in governance processes. Materials on civic rights and responsibilities should be available in local languages and tailored to diverse cultural and linguistic contexts within the ECA region.
- **Promote transparent, accountable and participatory governance:** There is a need to strengthen public institutions, policies and human capacities based on merit and inclusivity. Governments, with the support of development partners, should launch open data initiatives that enhance public access to information on governance and develop mechanisms for citizen feedback. Further, governments should hold safe town hall meetings and participatory workshops as mechanisms to enhance diverse community engagement, including women and youth.
- **Strengthen national legal frameworks and their enforcement:** The enforcement of existing laws and policies, as well as the harmonisation of national legal frameworks with regional and international commitments, are critical. Additionally, training for law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and public officials on the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies is needed, along with support for the development of institutions, technology, and resources for effective enforcement.
- **Support regional integration:** The UN regional hubs and Country Teams should establish and improve formal communication structures between various peacebuilding actors at national, regional and global levels, through the UN convening capacity (i.e., the

creation of regional multi-stakeholder working groups to share conflict analysis and co-design regional strategies and approaches). The UN field presences should also engage with regional organisations to mobilise a timely response to risks of potential cross-border violence and displacement.

2. Preventing electoral violence:

While the UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace do not explicitly mention 'electoral violence', the UN emphasises the importance of inclusive and peaceful electoral processes, including through [SDG16](#), as a means to prevent conflict and sustain peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), PP4; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), PP3). Electoral violence remains a significant challenge in the ECA region, where elections are often militarised and marked by unrest. Past elections in Uganda, Cameroon, and Somaliland have been marred by violence, suppression of dissent, and restricted civic freedoms, leaving citizens distrustful of the electoral process. Upcoming elections in the ECA region carry the risk of repeating these patterns, making it crucial to address the root causes of electoral violence and promote peaceful democratic practices.

To prevent electoral violence, peacebuilding stakeholders should consider the following recommendations:

- **Secure safe and demilitarised elections:** The UN field presence should provide technical support to national authorities in organising elections. They should provide political and financial support to local violence prevention initiatives like Women's Situation Rooms (WSRs) and early warning systems (EWSs). On a broader scale, each country should have legal frameworks and institutions that promote free, fair, and peaceful elections. Finally, it is critical to provide training to security personnel on human rights, peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity and non-violent crowd management techniques to ensure they can effectively maintain peace during the electoral period.
- **Promote civic education and awareness on non-violence, tolerance and peaceful co-existence:** National electoral commissions, with the support of civil society organisations and educational institutions, should design and implement voter education programs tailored to local contexts and languages. This could include organising workshops, town halls, and interactive sessions in local communities to address misinformation, promote non-violence and tolerance, explain voting processes, and highlight the impact of elections on development and governance. To reach broader audiences, multimedia campaigns should utilise both traditional and digital platforms. Local leaders, including traditional and religious figures, should be equipped with the tools and knowledge to effectively promote non-violence and tolerance within their communities. Recognising the crucial role of women and youth in advocating for peaceful elections, their efforts should be adequately supported.

3. Promoting inclusion and non-discrimination:

The UN resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace emphasise the importance of inclusivity for sustaining peace ([A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282](#), OP3; [A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558](#), PP5). Exclusion and discrimination against specific groups—such as women, youth, stateless and displaced communities, and ethnic minorities—emerged as a

significant challenge to peace in the ECA region. Participants highlighted that these groups are often left out of decision-making processes, leaving their voices unheard and their needs unmet. Youth unemployment and the lack of youth inclusion in decision-making is a particularly pressing issue, with a generation of well-educated young people facing limited opportunities despite their aspirations. Women are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful gender norms and practices within traditional societies and are rarely meaningfully involved in peace processes. Other groups, including tribal communities with distinct local languages and people of diverse political ideologies, face additional layers of exclusion, further deepening societal divides. This environment risks social dissolution and, in extreme cases, fuels civil conflict.

To promote inclusion and non-discrimination, peacebuilding stakeholders should consider the following recommendations:

- **Promote political inclusion of vulnerable groups:** This includes the introduction and implementation of political reforms, such as quota systems, to ensure intentional representation for women, youth, and ethnic minorities in decision-making processes. Governments should promote affirmative action and create pathways for at-risk groups to access opportunities. Further, the governments should develop and operationalise national action plans on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) to support the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding. These national policies can build on [the AU's Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#), the [African Youth Charter](#), and [the Youth Decade Plan of Action](#) as well as global policy agendas. Where political inclusion is made possible, adequate funding must be provided to ensure that vulnerable groups can participate meaningfully. Youth, women and other interest groups should be supported in their advocacy and network-building (i.e., national peacebuilding networks, youth councils). Many minority groups also continue seeking formal recognition and policies that safeguard their rights.
- **Promote economic empowerment of vulnerable groups:** Inclusive education is critical to ensure meaningful participation for youth and marginalised groups. Action to address poverty should be at the forefront of the government's priorities, as highlighted by [the Pact for the Future](#) (Action 2). Development partners could consider partnering with civil society to offer alternative livelihoods and skills development packages, resilience-building initiatives, and opportunities for resource mobilisation.
- **Invest in peacebuilding programming aimed at behavioural change:** Community dialogues that challenge cultural norms and mindsets that perpetuate exclusion should be supported. Women and youth, along with other interest groups, need to be supported in efforts to restore confidence and trust in their own ability to contribute to peace and make a change through capacity-building and the creation of dialogue opportunities with decision-makers. One way to do so is to provide technical and financial support for peer-to-peer mentorship programming and solidarity platforms within locally-led networks.

4. Addressing the appeal of violent extremism and organised crime groups among vulnerable groups:

Terrorism, violent extremism and activities of organised groups undoubtedly undermine communities' opportunities to build and sustain peace ([A/70/674](#), para 1). It is critical to

address both the reasons why people join extremist groups and organised criminal groups and the factors that allow these groups to operate. Violent extremism and the presence of organised groups pose serious security threats across the ECA region. For example, in the Central African Republic (CAR), the activities of IS-CAP, a terrorist military group, raise concerns about potential regional spillover. These groups also exploit the vulnerabilities of communities by providing economic opportunities, a sense of belonging, and ideological narratives, thereby further perpetuating cycles of radicalisation among those who feel left behind by their governments.

To address the appeal of violent extremism and organised crime groups, peacebuilding stakeholders could consider the following recommendations:

- **Develop effective policies and laws to combat extremism and organised crime, while ensuring their adequate implementation.** Such efforts could be part of a broader inclusive and participatory Security Sector Reform (SSR) that needs to be carried out with civilian oversight. Adequate implementation of relevant laws and policies includes enhancing the capacity of security institutions and law enforcement to respond to these threats and of the legal system to ensure accountability and justice.
- **Support strategies and initiatives on livelihood support and empowerment of vulnerable groups.** This includes community programmes that provide education, employment and economic empowerment to reduce their vulnerability to recruitment by violent groups. These initiatives could be supported by peer-to-peer mentorship programmes to provide alternative, positive platforms to engage youth and vulnerable groups. The [Youth Peace Champions](#) (implemented in Uganda and replicated in Cameroon) programme could be an example of a community initiative that could be expanded across the region.
- **Prioritise conflict-sensitive transitional justice programming:** There is a need to engage local communities, including victims and ex-combatants, in designing transitional justice initiatives to ensure they address their needs and grievances. There should be a link between reintegration assistance for ex-combatants and their participation in truth-seeking processes. To the extent possible, ex-combatants/warriors/former child soldiers/former royal guards and community members need to be involved in joint economic and social projects to rebuild trust.
- **Promote restorative justice as a peacebuilding tool:** Local civil society, with the support of the government and development partners, should facilitate local dialogues and reconciliation processes to mend the social fabric and promote peaceful coexistence. Further, establishing a common narrative of the past through documentation of past abuses and dialogue on how to move forward is essential.
- **Develop peacebuilding programming aimed at behavioural change:** Restoring the mental well-being of both victims and ex-combatants is crucial to address trauma and facilitate healing. It is critical to engage with communities to understand their psychosocial needs prior to developing grants and programming. Traditional leaders and traditional/cultural chiefs could provide guidance and inspiration for future programming, as they have been traditionally addressing the mental well-being within their communities. Efforts should map and strengthen existing community initiatives that advance behavioural change. Providing technical and financial support for peer-to-peer mentorship programming and solidarity platforms within locally-led networks is critical.

- **Promote peace education through schools and community initiatives:** Schools must integrate peace education into their student-centered and participatory curricula to develop the knowledge and skills for listening, empathy and compassion, while exploring principles such as peace, human rights and social justice. There are generations of peace educators and information materials already created in many countries in the ECA region that can serve as a foundation for the development of school programmes. Further, the media, digital spaces, and other local outreach channels (i.e., radio, community audio towers) should be leveraged to counteract violent and terrorist narratives through an evidence-based approach that promotes peaceful co-existence. This should be supported by training for journalists, editors and other actors in the communication profession on conflict sensitive reporting. All initiatives and materials should be accessible in different local languages and developed with the involvement of local actors.

5. **Promoting action on small arms and light weapons (SALW):**

The [UN's Agenda for Disarmament](#) emphasises the need for coherent strategies that integrate disarmament into broader peacebuilding and development plans. Armed violence in the ECA region is fueled by several factors: 1) the legal and illegal distribution of arms by state and non-state actors, 2) the illicit supply of arms from governments to non-state actors, and 3) the illegal use of weapons. These dynamics, compounded by weak governance, create an environment of persistent insecurity.

To address the prevalence of armed violence, peacebuilding stakeholders could consider the following recommendations:

- **Keep ceasefire agreements:** The foundation for effective disarmament is the ability and political will of diverse stakeholders to honour ceasefire agreements.
- **Develop robust disarmament programmes:** Robust DDR programs should include mechanisms for regular assessment to ensure their effectiveness and allow for adjustments and improvements based on feedback and changing circumstances. In addition to national DDR programmes, there must be uniform and coordinated cross-border/regional disarmament programmes. Strengthening the capacities of national governments is critical for the successful implementation of such programmes.
- **Promote accountability:** At the global level, the national voluntary reporting on the implementation of SDGs is an opportunity to take stock of disarmament commitments under SDG Goal 16. However, meaningful progress requires political will to identify and address the gaps. At the national level, governments should ensure open and transparent access to information on the implementation of national disarmament commitments. Regular constructive engagement with civil society can then help national governments identify priorities for action towards strengthening action on their disarmament commitments.
- **Support locally-led initiatives:** Peacebuilding stakeholders should provide greater support for locally-led peacebuilding and reconciliation. One good practice to build on is the [Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Programme](#). It demonstrates how eliminating small arms and light weapons, combined with alternative economic opportunities, can effectively reduce armed violence and promote stability within

communities. Also, the Youth Peace Champions program on deradicalization of youth through mental disarmament/mindset change, peace connectors and trauma healing and management of former warriors, combatants, former child soldiers and former royal guards that brought a good number of youth from hideouts and continued voluntary surrender of arms

6. Accelerating national action on climate change:

It is globally recognised that peace and security risks are ‘exacerbated by the challenges of climate change’ ([A/RES/77/104](#), Annex, PP3) and that climate change is one of the ‘compounded risks’, along with armed conflict, natural disasters, violence ([E/RES/2022/10](#), PP5). Experiences in the region confirm this context. In the Kaabong district of north-eastern Uganda, climate change exacerbates conflict drivers, increasing the risk of social and violent conflict. Kaabong is just one of many areas in the ECA region where climate change disrupts livelihoods, leads to displacement and intensifies resource competition. Despite the existence of policy frameworks on climate change at the national level in some contexts, the implementation remains weak, compounding the challenges of land mismanagement, deforestation, and resource scarcity.

To accelerate national action on climate change, peacebuilding stakeholders could consider the following recommendations:

- **Aligning national commitments to international standards and ensuring their enforcement:** National governments, with the support of development partners, need to take stock of [existing global commitments on climate change](#), including [the Climate Relief, Recovery, and Peace Declaration](#), and identify gaps against the global standards on climate change. Priority should be given to policies that address local needs, particularly those on the forefront of climate action within the communities (e.g., adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and transition towards renewable energy). Existing and new policies should be adequately enforced to have an impact. The capacity of national actors needs to be enhanced to do so.
- **Support local action in climate change mitigation and adaptation:** Climate change action requires a very active involvement of local actors and civil society. More resources should be available to support locally-led conflict-sensitive risk assessments (e.g., [a localised risk assessment in Uganda](#)). Local action on climate change mitigation and adaptation, based on these assessments, should be politically and financially supported. Local dispute resolution mechanisms for climate-related conflicts are an approach to support and build on (e.g., for the distribution of water during drought). To maintain a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing climate change, [the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance \(PACJA\)](#) should continue supporting regular learning and exchange among diverse stakeholders, including local actors.
- **Provide financial and technical support to locally-informed climate action:** Development partners should ensure that all new interventions are informed by existing work of local climate and peacebuilding actors and that existing work is sustained and strengthened. Participants highlighted [the UN Climate Adaptation Fund](#) as a valuable funding mechanism to build on as it supports climate-smart agriculture practices, helping communities adapt to changing climate patterns.

- **Strengthen multi-hazard early warning:** In response to the call by the UN Secretary-General to ensure that [every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years](#), the development partners must ensure that early warning systems integrate climate indicators. These systems should be locally-led and run by local community monitors. They should also utilise indigenous and local knowledge systems to identify risks. Finally, these systems should connect to the broader national and regional processes that ensure early action.

Annexe 2: The Peacebuilding Architecture in Eastern and Central Africa³:

Actor:	Expected Roles:
National government	<u>adopt and enforce people-centered laws and policies</u> , including on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (e.g., peace policies) <u>support I4Ps</u> , including at the local level <u>mobilise resources for peace</u> , including from the national budget <u>take ownership of peace processes</u> and honour peace agreements <u>strengthen good governance</u> and access to rights <u>make decisions based on the basis of safe, continuous and meaningful dialogue</u> with local constituencies
UN	<u>lead coordination</u> among diverse peacebuilding stakeholders <u>provide support</u> to national and local actors in the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including financial support to local actors <u>systematically engage</u> local actors and civil society in peacebuilding and sustaining peace <u>advocate</u> for national commitments to peacebuilding and sustaining peace
(Sub-)regional organisations	<u>promote accountability</u> for commitments on peacebuilding and sustaining peace <u>respond to cross-border issues</u> <u>promote 'a good neighbor' culture</u> <u>strengthen I4Ps</u> , including regional early warning mechanisms
Local actors (e.g., elders, traditional, cultural & religious leaders, youth, women)	<u>raise awareness</u> of existing peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their relevance to communities <u>promote accountability and advocate</u> for stronger peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their implementation <u>develop I4Ps</u> , incl. local conflict resolution mechanisms and early warning
Local civil society	<u>advocate</u> for stronger peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their implementation <u>conduct peacebuilding programming</u> , including peace education and capacity building <u>create spaces for exchange and dialogue</u> at different levels <u>act as independent experts</u> and provide conflict analysis to those in policy- and decision-making roles
Media, influencers & journalists	<u>raise awareness</u> about the culture of peace and peaceful co-existence <u>address misinformation</u> and, hate speech and establish the truth <u>promote peace education</u>
Academia	<u>support peace education efforts</u>
INGOs	<u>support local civil society and local actors</u> with relevant administrative and technical support
Private sector	<u>promote conflict-sensitivity</u> in their actions <u>provide financial support</u> to local actors working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention <u>promote social entrepreneurship</u>

³ This is a preliminary effort by local peacebuilders to outline the roles and responsibilities of various peacebuilding actors from the perspective of local peacebuilders. This framework can serve as a foundation for further mapping initiatives and efforts to enhance coordination and foster collaboration among these stakeholders.

Actor:	Expected Roles:
National government	<u>adopt and enforce people-centered laws and policies</u> , including on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (e.g., peace policies) <u>support I4Ps</u> , including at the local level <u>mobilise resources for peace</u> , including from the national budget <u>take ownership of peace processes</u> and honour peace agreements <u>strengthen good governance</u> and access to rights <u>make decisions based on the basis of safe, continuous and meaningful dialogue</u> with local constituencies
UN	<u>lead coordination</u> among diverse peacebuilding stakeholders <u>provide support</u> to national and local actors in the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including financial support to local actors <u>systematically engage</u> local actors and civil society in peacebuilding and sustaining peace <u>advocate</u> for national commitments to peacebuilding and sustaining peace
(Sub-)regional organisations	<u>promote accountability</u> for commitments on peacebuilding and sustaining peace <u>respond to cross-border issues</u> <u>promote ‘a good neighbor’ culture</u> <u>strengthen I4Ps</u> , including regional early warning mechanisms
Local actors (e.g., elders, traditional, cultural & religious leaders, youth, women)	<u>raise awareness</u> of existing peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their relevance to communities <u>promote accountability and advocate</u> for stronger peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their implementation <u>develop I4Ps</u> , incl. local conflict resolution mechanisms and early warning
Local civil society	<u>advocate</u> for stronger peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and their implementation <u>conduct peacebuilding programming</u> , including peace education and capacity building <u>create spaces for exchange and dialogue</u> at different levels <u>act as independent experts</u> and provide conflict analysis to those in policy- and decision-making roles
Media, influencers & journalists	<u>raise awareness</u> about the culture of peace and peaceful co-existence <u>address misinformation</u> and, hate speech and establish the truth <u>promote peace education</u>
Donor community	<u>prioritise funding for conflict prevention and peacebuilding</u> <u>consult with local actors</u> on its investments, prioritising local needs over their political goals (when providing support to the UN) <u>make localisation a precondition</u> for receiving funding adopt <u>quality financing principles</u> , including simplified requirement for youth and new organisations