

Peacebuilding Commission

“Our record of success in mediating and implementing peace agreements is sadly blemished by some devastating failures. Indeed, several of the most violent and tragic episodes of the 1990s occurred after the negotiation of peace agreements...if we are going to prevent conflict we must ensure that peace agreements are implemented in a sustained and sustainable manner.”

~Kofi Annan, In Larger Freedom

Why do we need a Peacebuilding Commission?

In the aftermath of World War II, the international community created the United Nations to maintain peace and security around the world and help countries resolve their differences peacefully. As an organization that represents the interests of all countries, the UN is in a unique position to coordinate efforts and help countries establish peace as they emerge from conflicts and wars.

In the past two decades, the United Nations has seen a surge in the need for peacekeeping operations around the world. The role of these operations has become more demanding, requiring peacekeepers to ensure that peace agreements are implemented, protect civilians and disarm militia. This has also placed a huge responsibility on the UN, straining existing resources and personnel. The UN has enjoyed successes, yet recent failures like Rwanda signal a need to do more to prevent such crises.

The concept of a Peacebuilding Commission was introduced in December 2004 in a [UN High-Level Panel Report](#) and gained momentum in March 2005 when Secretary-General Kofi Annan released his report, [In Larger Freedom](#). The idea was also endorsed by the bipartisan taskforce report [American Interests and UN Reform](#), headed up by former House Speaker Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Mitchell.

In the report, Annan noted a “gaping hole” in the UN’s efforts to assist countries recovering from war to make the transition from war to lasting peace. Currently, half the countries emerging from violent conflict slip back into instability or violence within five years. Since no part of the current UN system is directly responsible for helping countries rebuild quickly after a conflict ends and establish peace, the Secretary General proposed creating a permanent Peacebuilding Commission.

What will the Peacebuilding Commission do?

The Peacebuilding Commission will work on:

- Improving coordination of all relevant actors to mobilize necessary resources for early recovery and medium- to long-term financial investment;
- Advising on integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and promoting sustainable development;
- Focusing attention on reconstruction and institution-building;
- Developing best practices;

- Helping to ensure predictable financing;
- Extending the period of attention the international community places on post-conflict recovery.

The Organizational committee of the Commission will consist of 31 members:

- 7 members of the Security Council: the five permanent members – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States – and 2 non-permanent members;
- 7 members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- 5 of the top 10 financial providers;
- 5 of the top 10 providers of military personnel and civilian police to UN peacekeeping missions;
- 7 additional members elected by the UN General Assembly to ensure regional representation and give a say to countries with post-conflict reconstruction experience.

In addition, a representative of the Secretary-General, the World Bank (WBG), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other institutional donors will be invited to all commission meetings.

World Summit 2005

This proposal was given the green light by over 150 heads of state that came together in September for the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The creation of this commission is an important step toward creating space for countries to come together and work cooperatively in solving global problems.

About Citizens for Global Solutions

Citizens for Global Solutions envisions a future in which nations work together to abolish war, protect our rights and freedoms, and solve the problems facing humanity that no nation can solve alone. This vision requires effective democratic global institutions that will apply the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities. We work to build political will for our vision in the United States by educating Americans about our global interdependence, communicating global concerns to public officials, and developing proposals to create, reform, and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations.

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