



Anglican Consultative Council

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The Anglican Consultative Council submits the following recommendation for Chapter II of the Pact for the Future.

Chapter II. International peace and security

The Pact for the Future should refer to the importance of working with faith actors on issues of international peace and security.

Member States and the UN need to account specifically for the influence and insight that faith actors have locally and globally. Throughout the conflict cycle, faith actors can build trust, motivate behaviour change, engage varied stakeholders (including women, youth, political actors, traditional and indigenous leaders) and envision reconciliation across divides. Examples of when this influence has been used negatively (coopted in conflict) serves to reinforce the importance of constructive engagement and the need to see afresh the positive impact faith actors are already having on issues of peace and security around the world.

Through partnership, faith actors can make increasingly significant contributions to conflict prevention, enabling holistic and people-centred responses, and combining sustainable development with prevention and peacebuilding. Embedded in and trusted by their local communities, faith actors can bring unparalleled insight into the complex root causes of conflict. They are also often part of regional and global networks and therefore offer insight into how local and regional dynamics interact. Their networks are highly attuned to the signs that conflict prevention is needed and what it will take to strengthen cohesion and trust in particular contexts. In the vast majority of these contexts, faith actors are already delivering services and support, including food aid, education, shelter, healthcare, counselling (including on gender-based violence), resilience-building against climate shocks, conserving biodiversity and more, which form the core of the community's sustainable development and efforts to reduce inequality. Faith actors are key to holistic and integrated conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

For these contributions to make a greater impact, more effective partnerships need to be developed between faith actors, Members States and the UN. This should include improving faith actors' access to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (where they have the potential to bring fresh perspectives on integrated strategies, relevant actors to involve, and marshalling of resources) and the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as increasing opportunities for faith actors to brief Member States, the Security Council and DPPA. Resources should be allocated to support specific thematic engagement e.g. in how faith actors contribute to national prevention capacities; how faith actors can become partners in mediation; and how faith

motivates behaviour change around the links between climate, peace and security. These example themes are aligned to the Secretary-General's priorities in his New Agenda for Peace.

Positive examples of partnership are emerging. A UN Mediation Support Unit partnership with faith actors (including Christian, Muslim, traditional and women leaders) in Mozambique has enabled the revitalisation of a network of interfaith PeaceClubs, which draw together local communities across Cabo Delgado and surrounding areas affected by the recent insurgency. The PeaceClubs strengthen community cohesion, enhance shared understanding, engage youth at risk of recruitment and support recovery for survivors. The PeaceClubs also act as a dialogue platform, sharing information through hubs across the region, providing updates on the conflict and undermining rumour, as well as sharing analysis with global organisations including the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, multinational companies active in the area, the UN, the ICRC and more. The strategy for developing this iteration of the PeaceClubs was supported by a UN Senior Mediation Adviser through DPPA's Mediation Support Unit. Similar partnerships are underway in South Sudan, DRC and Nigeria, and there are plans to expand to pilot programmes on climate, peace and security.

Faith is an ancient phenomenon that is constantly evolving and will have a significant impact on the future of peace in our world. A specific reference to this is required in the Pact for the Future.

The Anglican Consultative Council thanks the co-facilitators for their dedication to this process and for including civil society, including many faith groups, in this Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future.