



Peace Direct

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Chapeau

Greater engagement with local peacebuilders and implementing locally-led peacebuilding and development should be an inherent part of the Summit of the Future, the Pact for the Future outcome document, and the work of the United Nations.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

Chapter II. International peace and security

The 2020 Report of the Secretary-General on 'Peacebuilding and sustaining peace' (A/74/976-S/2020/773) affirms that "*Civil society engagement and participation is indispensable to peacebuilding.*" As the UN faces new, complex conflict challenges, there is growing recognition that locally-led actors and actions are a critical part of impactful, sustainable peacebuilding. Locally-led approaches are more effective because of local communities' knowledge and expertise of context, legitimacy, accountability, and their adherence to principles of inclusion, local agency, and rebalancing of power structures and decision-making toward those most impacted by conflict.

Recommendations:

- (1) Commit UN development, peacekeeping and peacebuilding entities to:
 - deep, sustained, consistent and ongoing, committed, two-way, local-level **community engagement through trust-based and equitable partnerships**; and,
 - shift operations toward truly locally-led approaches to peacebuilding and development, **normalizing localization as the primary form of engagement.**
- (2) Commit Member States, as per the December 2020 donor statement¹ on localization to:
 - **shift and share power** to ensure local actors have ownership over and can meaningfully and equitably engage in development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding programmes;

¹ Donor Statement on Supporting Locally Led Development, Effective Development Cooperation Summit, Dec 2022 <https://www.usaid.gov/localization/donor-statement-on-supporting-locally-led-development>

- **work to channel high quality funding as directly as possible** to local actors; and,
- **publicly advocate for locally-led development.**

Researcher and practitioner literature now state that ‘community engagement’ is no longer nicety or option when time or energy permits, but rather is the ‘sine qua non’ of any effective and successful peacebuilding.

How to implement?

- (1) *address attitudes and policies*: develop a robust protocol and practice to listen and be responsive to the needs articulated by local actors; build mutual trust and develop deeper relationships; be willing to share power and co-create [solutions](#).
- (2) *transform practices*: be transparent, reliable and accountable with clear communication and regular access plus conscientious effort to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of local people in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and sustaining peace work which has often been done unilaterally by the UN in host [communities](#).

The future of the UN’s prospects for success in peacebuilding and sustaining peace is inexorably tied to engagement with local communities and locally-led peacebuilding efforts. It would be an immense, practical and substantive step forward for the Pact for the Future to reflect this and advance this agenda.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)