

32. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace” which took the form of an open debate.¹⁰⁷³ More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers is given in the table below. In 2021, no decision was adopted in connection with this item.

On 12 October 2021, at the initiative of Kenya which held the Presidency for the month,¹⁰⁷⁴ the Council convened a high-level open debate under the sub-item entitled “Diversity, State-building and the search for peace”.¹⁰⁷⁵ Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the former President of South Africa and the first woman Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan.¹⁰⁷⁶

During his briefing, the Secretary-General underscored that any peace would be short-lived without including a wide range of diverse voices at every step of the process and bringing all people along.¹⁰⁷⁷ He noted that one undeniable trend was the sharp increase in the number of non-State armed groups at the heart of conflicts, and that there was also a rise in military coups and many conflicts were deeply rooted in long-standing inequalities among groups. His briefing emphasized that national institutions and laws had to work for all people, that countries had to consider giving more space to subnational regions, and that building and sustaining peace required women, young people and the most marginalized to be involved at every step.

Participating under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure,¹⁰⁷⁸ the President of Rwanda provided a briefing during which he emphasized that peacebuilding should be understood as an ongoing process, and that the intensity and the impact of conflicts could be minimized by remaining attentive to local needs and expectations.¹⁰⁷⁹ He also underscored that external advice and examples could be helpful in encouraging reflection and finding new

¹⁰⁷³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

¹⁰⁷⁴ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 6 October 2021 ([S/2021/854](#)).

¹⁰⁷⁵ For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

¹⁰⁷⁶ See [S/PV.8877](#). See also [S/2021/868](#). While briefers and Council members participated in-person at the meeting, non-Council members submitted written statements. For more details on the procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II of this Supplement as well as *Repertoire*, Supplement 2020, part II.

¹⁰⁷⁷ See [S/PV.8877](#).

¹⁰⁷⁸ For more information on participants in meetings of the Council, see part II, section VIII.

¹⁰⁷⁹ See [S/PV.8877](#).

approaches, since no universal template that could be transferred automatically from one context to another existed. Furthermore, he highlighted the growing power of social media to exploit vectors of division in society, and that peacebuilding was deeply political and human and had to take into account the emotions and the memories that the various parties brought to the table.

The former President of South Africa focused during his briefing on the primacy of politics, meaning that conflict resolution must address the vital matter of the root causes of the conflict, not to merely silence the guns but to ensure sustainable peace. He clarified that the resolution of conflicts should not be driven simply or mainly by security considerations. He stated that his own personal experience, derived from the involvement in conflict resolution on the continent, confirmed the centrality of the failure to properly managing diversity as one of the root causes of civil war and violent conflict. Lastly, he suggested that the Security Council proceeded from a position of acceptance of the primacy of the political as it discharged its obligation to maintain international peace and security, for its interventions to help produced sustainable peace and contributed to State-building by addressing such challenges as the proper management of diversity.

In her briefing, the first woman Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan highlighted that the women and men in her country who dedicated their lives to building peace, to promoting the rule of law, justice and equality were living under harsh oppression imposed on them through the power of exclusion. She said that what was happening in Afghanistan should have been of concern to all. She noted that power imbalances were at the root of conflict and inequality and mentioned two specific areas where power structures caused particular chaos, namely, in the relationship between men and women and when directed or misdirected at minorities. With reference to the public platform that Council members enjoyed, she stated that Council members had the duty to bring in those who were different rather than to push them out, and that Council members could promote the essential values of respect, compromise and dialogue. With regard to the situation in Afghanistan, she explained that drawing on the past 150 years of history of the country, a durable peace and sustainable State in a multi-ethnic and diverse country required a pluralistic social and political structure. As the humanitarian crisis loomed, women and children constituted the majority of the vulnerable population. To reach them, especially given the gender discrimination ideology of those holding power in Kabul, it

was imperative that the United Nations demanded the protection and inclusion of Afghan female aid workers and peacebuilders and other civic professionals and community organizations, not only the recipients but also the decision-makers.¹⁰⁸⁰

Some Council members shared their experience on addressing the challenges related to diversity and identity, including management of diversity, political transition, and post-conflict peacebuilding.¹⁰⁸¹ Council members also focused on the centrality of inclusion of all relevant actors and their views, such as women, youth, civil society and marginalized groups, in conflict prevention and resolution as well as transition and peacebuilding.¹⁰⁸² Several Council members emphasized the need for the Council to promote human rights, as well as recognize and call out human rights violations which could be a prelude to and even a driver of conflict,¹⁰⁸³ while some highlighted the role of the Peacebuilding Commission for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.¹⁰⁸⁴ Other participating Member States also shared views on diversity, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Some emphasized that diversity was a strength and a driver for peace in a country, while also sometimes a source of division and conflict.¹⁰⁸⁵ Several Member States also drew attention to the importance of developing strong, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in State-building.¹⁰⁸⁶ Several participants reiterated that peacekeeping, working closely with national stakeholders, should include peacebuilding considerations and components to sustain peace, with some relating it to the transition period from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.¹⁰⁸⁷ Member States also addressed the importance of ensuring predictable and sufficient financing for peacebuilding.¹⁰⁸⁸ Several Member States also highlighted the contribution and the important role of the Peacebuilding Fund, including in addressing peacebuilding challenges with holistic action and strengthening institutional capacity.¹⁰⁸⁹

¹⁰⁸⁰ For further information on the situation in Afghanistan, see part I, sect. 14.

¹⁰⁸¹ See [S/PV.8877](#), Kenya, United States, India, Niger, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Norway and Estonia.

¹⁰⁸² United States, United Kingdom, Mexico, France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, Norway and Ireland.

¹⁰⁸³ United States, United Kingdom, Mexico and Ireland.

¹⁰⁸⁴ United States, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, Tunisia and Ireland.

¹⁰⁸⁵ See [S/2021/868](#), Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iran, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Nepal, Netherland, Nigeria, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and Thailand.

¹⁰⁸⁶ Chile, Egypt, Japan, Malta and Nigeria.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Bangladesh, Haiti, Italy, Jordan, Nepal, Poland and South Africa.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Bangladesh, Egypt, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland and Portugal.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Ecuador, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland and Portugal.

Meeting: Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8877 12 October 2021	Diversity, State-building and the search for peace	Letter dated 14 October 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2021/854)	Rwanda ^a	Former President of South Africa; First woman Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan;	All Council members ^b and all invitees ^c	

^a Rwanda was represented by its President.

^b Kenya (President of the Security Council) was represented by its President. India was represented by its Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

^c President of Rwanda, the former President of South Africa, and the first woman Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan participated in the meeting by videoconference.