

# Danish Organisation Strategy for support to the United Nations' efforts to prevent conflict and violence and sustain peace

## Introduction:

This organisation strategy functions as an umbrella for the Danish support to the UN's efforts to sustain peace, including the Peacebuilding Fund and the multi-year appeal of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

## Key results:

- Timely, integrated, multidimensional, gender-responsive, data-driven and climate-informed analysis.
- Inclusive crisis-response and support through UN 'good offices' and peacebuilding projects.
- Longer-term prevention and peacebuilding support, based on national ownership and inclusion.
- More effective multilateralism through support to UN bodies.
- Institutional learning, innovation, diversity, and collaborative practices informing responses.

## Justification for support:

- The support relates to the objective in Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation to deliver safety and security through peacebuilding and stabilisation.
- Denmark's Foreign and Security Policy Strategy recognizes the importance of effective multilateralism, including a long-term approach to the prevention and stabilisation of conflicts and crises.
- The contribution to the Peacebuilding Fund provides resources to the UN's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of being affected by violent conflict.
- The funding of the multi-year appeal supports the UN's capacities to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and sustain peace and to work more efficiently, effectively, inclusively and innovatively to deliver collective impact on the ground.

## Risk and challenges:

Contextual risks include increased internationalization of conflict, continuing divisions amongst major powers, greater fragmentation of conflict actors at the local level, rise of global challenges such as climate change. Programmatic risks include decrease in political support by key actors, uncertainties about funding availability, inclusive partnerships.

<b>File No.</b>						
<b>Responsible Unit</b>	Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in New York					
	<i>Mill.</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	total
<b>Commitment</b>		<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<b>Projected ann. Disb.</b>						
<b>Duration of strategy</b>	2023 – 31 December 2026					
<b>Finance Act code.</b>	§ 06.32.08.80					
<b>Desk officer</b>	Maria Stage					
<b>Financial officer</b>	Michael Blichfeldt					

## SDGs relevant for Programme

 No Poverty	 No Hunger	 Good Health, Wellbeing	 Quality Education	 Gender Equality	 Clean Water, Sanitation
 Affordable Clean Energy	 Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth	 Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure	 Reduced Inequalities	 Sustainable Cities, Communities	 Responsible Consumption & Production
 Climate Action	 Life below Water	 Life on Land	 Peace & Justice, strong Inst.	 Partnership for Goals	

## Budget

*TBA – budget awaits final confirmation*

## Danish involvement in governance structure

- Denmark contributes annual meetings on the multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund and participates in other donor meetings and field visits, as relevant.
- Denmark is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission (2023-2024) and has a candidacy for the Security Council (2025-2026).

## How will we ensure results and monitor progress:

- Annual narrative and financial reports by the UN on the DPPA multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund.
- Establishment of a contact group and reporting.

## Strat. objectives

To contribute to a reduction in the risk of outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of violent conflict, while also helping move towards recovery and long-term development.

## Priority results

Preventing and resolving violent conflict and sustaining peace.

A more effective multilateral architecture for international peace and security.

Strengthened organisational effectiveness through increased capacity and resources within the UN.

## Core information

The UN is a key actor for the international community's efforts in promoting peace and security. Within a changing and challenging geopolitical landscape, the number of crises around the world has grown and many countries are facing multiple and interrelated threats and risks to peace and security.

Denmark's contributions to the DPPA multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund are consistent with these Danish foreign policy and development priorities with a focus on conflict prevention, multilateralism, political processes, women and youth participation, incorporation of human rights and climate in efforts, and coherent and integrated approaches to peace and stabilization. Both contributions are complementary to other Danish contributions to the UN's peace and security pillar

# **Organisation Strategy for support to the United Nations' efforts to prevent conflict and violence and sustain peace**

## **I. Objective:**

This Strategy for the cooperation between Denmark and the United Nations forms the basis for the Danish contributions to the Multi-Year Appeal of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and it is the central platform for Denmark's dialogue and partnership with DPPA, including the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). It sets up Danish priorities for the DPPA and PBF performance within the overall framework established by their own strategies. As part of these priorities, it outlines specific goals and results vis-à-vis UN DPPA that Denmark will pursue in its cooperation with the organisation. Denmark will work closely with like-minded countries towards the achievement of these.

The UN is a key actor for the international community's efforts in promoting peace and security. Within a changing and challenging geopolitical landscape, the number of crises around the world has grown and many countries are facing multiple and interrelated threats and risks to peace and security. DPPA and its field operations are an important part of the UN's capacities to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and sustain peace and to work more efficiently, effectively, inclusively and innovatively to deliver collective impact on the ground. In addition, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of being affected by violent conflict.

The UN plays an important role in relation to Denmark's development policy priorities. The Strategy for Development Cooperation sets out that we must do more to prevent conflicts and crises and react properly when they erupt. There is a need for more than humanitarian assistance to address protracted crises, which is among the reasons to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Denmark's Foreign and Security Policy Strategy recognizes the importance of equal partnerships and effective multilateralism, including a long-term approach to the prevention and stabilisation of conflicts and crises.

The cooperation is expected to further strengthen Denmark's strategic partnership with DPPA, including the Peacebuilding Support Office, by supporting the Department to leverage its capacities for prevention and peacebuilding and improve its support to Member States in upholding international peace and security.

## **II. The organisation:**

The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is the lead entity of the UN for good offices, political analysis, mediation, electoral assistance and peacebuilding support. The Department manages more 30 Special Political Missions around the world, providing vital

operational support to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) and Special Envoys. Across all areas of work, DPPA often relies on a diverse range of partners to prevent conflict and promote peace, including Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, regional and sub-regional organization, Member States upon request and civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has approved nearly \$1.9 billion for peacebuilding projects in 65 recipient countries.

The strategic focus of the cooperation is to contribute to a reduction in the risk of outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of violent conflict globally, while also helping move towards recovery, increased social cohesion, reconstruction and development. The **theory of change** set out in DPPA's Strategic Plan (2023-2026) is that *'if DPPA deploys the full range of its resources based on cross-cutting analysis, in collaboration with others within the UN system and in partnerships with regional, national and local stakeholders, drawing on an internal culture shaped by a commitment to learning and innovation, it will contribute to the prevention and resolution of violent conflict and to sustainable peace'*.

**Organisational structure and governance arrangements:** DPPA is headed by an Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs who reports to the Secretary-General. The Department – in its current structure – was established on 1 January 2019 following the reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar, which brought together the former Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. DPA and the former Department of Peacekeeping Operations (now the Department of Peace Operations, or DPO) also merged their previously parallel regional divisions to create a single structure to provide more coherent political analysis and strategic advice. The Under-Secretary-General is supported by three Assistant Secretaries-Generals who collectively oversee eight regional divisions (Africa; Europe, Central Asia and the Americas; and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific) shared by DPPA and DPO.

DPPA provides staff support to the UN Security Council, advises the UN Special Committee on Decolonization, services the Secretariat of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and coordinates UN electoral assistance activities. The relevant divisions report directly to the Under Secretary-General of DPPA.

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), established in 2005, was integrated in DPPA with the 2019 reform. The Office fosters international support for nationally-owned and led peacebuilding efforts. The Office assists the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), manages the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) on behalf of the Secretary-General, and works to enhance system-wide coherence and partnerships with UN and non-UN actors. The Head of PBSO, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, is responsible for the overall management of the Peacebuilding Fund. Requests for support are made by the Resident Coordinator in consultation with the government. All projects are reviewed by the inter-agency Peacebuilding Project Review Group and the PBSO Project Appraisal Committee who recommends projects for approval,

approval subject to conditions, or rejection. All projects are approved by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support on behalf of the Secretary-General.

The UN General Assembly guides the operations of the Peacebuilding Fund. The Peacebuilding Commission may also offer policy guidance on how the PBF is to be used. Appointed by the Secretary-General, an Advisory Group for the Peacebuilding Fund provides oversight on the Fund's strategic direction and the effective use of its resources. Members are appointed for a two-year period and up to two consecutive terms. There is an annual strategic donor meeting of the Fund and a Group of Friends for the Peacebuilding Fund.

The General Assembly also reviews overall DPPA's programme plan under the United Nations programme (regular) budget, including through the Committee on Programme Coordination (CPC) and the Fifth Committee, which is responsible for review of the financial resources for DPPA under the regular programme budget.

In addition to its more than 500 personnel at the UN headquarters in New York, DPPA also draws from the work of missions under its supervision, which employ about 4,000 national and international staff in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

**Financial situation:** DPPA's primary source of financing is the regular programme budget of the United Nations. The budget of DPPA (regular budget and voluntary contributions) amounts to about \$85 million in 2023, excluding the budget for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

The **Multi-Year Appeal (MYA)** is DPPA's primary extra-budgetary instrument to fund its work to strengthen peace and security worldwide. These voluntary contributions are essential for enabling the operational work of DPPA in areas including mediation, electoral support, women, peace and security, innovation and climate security. The multi-year appeal finances 1/3 of DPPA's staffing capacities and the majority of its travel needs, e.g. from the capacity to support political analysis and crisis management planning in context of the war in Ukraine to develop guidance material on integrating climate considerations into UN mediation. It allows the DPPA to be more field-oriented and operational. The multi-year appeal is flexible (2/3 unearmarked), fast (can be deployed within 72 hours) and global (funds political work worldwide). The DPPA Trust Fund in Support of Political Affairs is the modality through which DPPA received extra-budgetary funds, and it is administered by the UN Controller's Office.

The request for funding of the multi-year appeal is \$170 million between 2023 and 2026. In 2022, the DPPA multi-year appeal received \$36.4 million out of the \$40 million funding target. It received \$28.5 million in 2021. It had an implementation rate of 85 per cent in 2022, which was a slight increase from 83 per cent in 2021. The Department relies on contributions from numerous donors. Although Denmark is a considerable donor to DPPA, the Fund has maintained operations since 2010 and is not solely relying on the Danish contribution.

The UN Secretary-General's **Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)** was created in 2005 through joint resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and acts as a fast, flexible and risk-

tolerant mechanism to respond to urgent and strategic peacebuilding and prevention opportunities. It funds joint programmes implemented by UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as civil society organizations, aimed at supporting national peacebuilding priorities. Fiduciary management of the Fund is assumed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office with primary responsibility for maintaining the Fund's accounts.

The Secretary-General seeks to expand its role and size through a call for a quantum leap in funding and prioritizing prevention. Yet, the Peacebuilding Fund received \$152,673,549 in contributions from donors in 2022, which is a decline compared to the \$192,499,902 in 2021, and not near the ambitious target in the Strategic Plan of \$295 million for 2022. The Peacebuilding Fund approved \$231,455,573 for 109 projects in 37 countries in 2022, which is a record high level of approvals and indicates continued and increased demand. The fund balance has reached a better level (\$58,571,904 in 2022 compared to \$91,746,222 in 2021). The fund has introduced a tranche-based system, where project budgets are paid in tranches pending the project progress. At the same time, the Fund's cash balance has reached record low levels in 2023.

#### **Prior Danish contributions to DPPA and the Peacebuilding Fund**

In 2022, Denmark renewed two agreements with DPPA and provided a total \$1,701,999 to support the Department. This makes Denmark DPPA's eight largest donor, out of 31 donors. The first agreement covers \$1,430,000 in 2022 and represents Denmark's unearmarked core contribution to fund DPPA's conflict prevention and peacemaking efforts through the multi-year appeal. An additional multi-year agreement of \$271,998 annually is earmarked for DPPA's political efforts in Syria (multi-year agreement 2022-2025). The Danish support for DPPA's Syria work is part of Denmark's Syria - Iraq Peace and Stabilisation Programme for 2022-2025. Denmark also sponsored two Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) in DPPA. Since 2011, Denmark has provided over \$12.8 million to DPPA's Multi-Year Appeal, with an annual average of \$1,073,230.

Denmark is among the top donors to the Peacebuilding Fund. The contributions to the current multi-year agreement amount to DKK 150 million (approximately \$22.3 million) for 2021-23. A new multi-year agreement is being planned for 2024-2026. Denmark had the presidency of the Security Council when the resolutions that established the peacebuilding architecture, including the Fund, were adopted in 2005. Since 2006, Denmark has contributed \$52,380,828 to the Peacebuilding Fund.

These current contributions are financed through Denmark's Peace and Stabilisation Fund, which is a catalytic and flexible instrument, enabling Denmark to contribute to stability and peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and respond to emerging crises in line with Danish foreign and security policy priorities. The Danish authorities involved in the management of the Fund are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

### III. Lessons learnt, key strategic challenges and opportunities:

The forthcoming review of the **UN peacebuilding architecture** in 2025 provides an opportunity to further strengthen the UN's efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Since 2016<sup>1</sup>, the UN's understanding of peacebuilding has broadened to include activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, continuation, escalation and recurrence of violent conflict, which are relevant across all the pillars of the UN (development, human rights and peace and security) and requires a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach. Another key opportunity is the 2024 Summit of the Future and the deliberations on the UN Secretary-General's policy brief on a **New Agenda for Peace**, which was launched in July 2023.

DPPA is performing well in terms of its objectives<sup>2</sup>. The 2021 Board of Audit report notes efforts taken by the UN to implement the **2019 reform of the peace and security pillar** to allow for an integrated response to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding at the global, regional and country levels. Such efforts include change management, performance management, and regional strategies. The report also identifies challenges of advancing a whole-of-pillar approach through reform, fostering a new organizational culture with increased staff satisfaction and improved administrative processes. It also notes the need for better engagement of the sanctions monitoring expert roster and mediation roster members<sup>3</sup>. Among the goals of the DPPA strategic plan 2023-2026 is to foster a stronger, more diverse and more effective Department, including by addressing some of these challenges.

The **Peacebuilding Fund** remains essential for the Secretary-General's prevention agenda and for joint programming at the country level. The priorities of the Peacebuilding Fund continue to be relevant<sup>4</sup>, and the report of the UN Board of Audits for 2021 found that the Fund "has proven to be an important tool providing for a flexible, responsive and focused resource at the disposal of the United Nations system" but noted a significant gap between the level of funding available and the level of funding required to meet peacebuilding requirements. It also notes underachievement of the strategic objectives of the fund. The audit therefore recommended a revision of performance targets based on experience in the initial three years of its strategy.

In regard to supporting systemic coherence, the Peacebuilding Fund's performance was on track in 2022<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, there is an opportunity to further strengthen the contribution to systemic coherence through diversifying of the Fund's partnerships, cohesive UN strategies, and joint analysis and strategic planning at the country-level. In 2019, the **Resident Coordinator**

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. DPPA 2022 results framework.

<sup>3</sup> These findings are also supported by the 2021 joint lessons learned study commissioned by DPPA and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) on maximizing complementarity between peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

<sup>4</sup> Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Peacebuilding Fund's Strategy 2020-2024; 2022 annual review of the PBF by the United Kingdom under its Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Programme (C3P).

<sup>5</sup> Cf. the 2022 PBF results framework

**System** was introduced in the UN Development System as part of UN reform to strengthen coordination. Projects financed through the Peacebuilding Fund provide an opportunity for joint programming across UN entities and civil society partners, and the Resident Coordinators manage the planning and requests for support through the Fund at country level, in consultation with the government. Since 2019, there has been progress in coordination between development and peacebuilding efforts and a growing number of Resident Coordinators are mobilizing financing through the Peacebuilding Fund for prevention<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, there is an opportunity for improvement in the collaboration between members of the UN Country Team and the Resident Coordinator, including in relation to reporting on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

### **DPPA and PBF in relation to Denmark's priorities in development cooperation and foreign policy**

In accordance with the Denmark's Foreign and Security Policy Strategy (2023), Denmark works to strengthen the rules-based world order and effective multilateralism and prioritises equal partnerships. Denmark also works towards a more holistic and thus long-term approach to the prevention and stabilisation of crises and conflicts. As set out in the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation (2021-2025). Denmark actively supports the UN's strategic and political work with conflict resolution, implementation of conventions, and protection of human rights. Objective four of the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation is to deliver safety and security through peacebuilding and stabilisation.

Denmark's contributions to the DPPA multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund are consistent with these Danish foreign policy and development priorities with a focus on conflict prevention, multilateralism, political processes, women and youth participation, and coherent and integrated approaches to peace and stabilization. Both contributions are complementary to other Danish contributions to the UN's peace and security pillar and the membership of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2023-2024, and it positions Denmark as a top donor to the UN's peacebuilding architecture as well as underpinning the Danish candidacy to the Security Council 2025-2026.

**Partnership engagement:** Denmark actively engages in discussions on the strategic directions of DPPA and the Peacebuilding Fund. Denmark participates in the annual donor meeting of DPPA as well as other meetings of the donor group and field visits, as relevant. Denmark is also a member of the Group of Friends for the Peacebuilding Fund and participate in field visits, as relevant. Denmark will contribute to debates in the UN General Assembly on the annual report on the Peacebuilding Fund.

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<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly and ECOSOC (A/78/72-E/2023/59). Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; 2023 QCPR Monitoring Framework.

Furthermore, Denmark will support priorities through engagement in the broader peace and security processes, platforms and initiatives. Denmark is a member of the Group of Friends for respectively sustaining peace; mediation; and women, peace and security as well as the Group of Champions for youth, peace and security. Denmark will contribute to annual debates in the UN General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as the annual open debate of the Security Council on women, peace and security.

In addition, Denmark is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2023-2024. In 2022, 10 out of 11 country-specific meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission were focused on Peacebuilding Fund eligible countries, many of which are in Africa. Denmark will contribute to the General Assembly debate on the annual report on the Peacebuilding Commission.

Denmark will also explore additional avenues for informing the future of the UN peace and security pillar. At the country-level, embassies liaise with DPPA, PBF and mission personnel, as relevant. In New York, the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN engages in relevant policy processes. For instance, in 2023, Denmark has actively participated in consultations on the New Agenda for Peace in the lead up to the Summit of the Future in 2024.

A contact group for the follow-up on this organisation strategy will be established in accordance with Denmark's guidelines on multilateral organisation strategies.

#### IV. Priority areas and results to be achieved:

While Denmark stays fully committed to DPPA's strategic plan as a whole (cf. figure of the three goals and seven objectives), the following priority areas have been selected for Denmark's partnership and dialogue with DPPA based on the linkages between Denmark's and DPPA's priorities.

##### Priority: Analysis

DPPA works to provide timely, integrated, multidimensional, gender-responsive, data-driven and climate-informed analysis of country and regional situations to make UN responses better informed and targeted.

As part of the Strategy for Development Cooperation, Denmark aims to ensure that conflict management, peacebuilding, and



social and economic recovery are part of humanitarian activities from the outset and to promote a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, including in UN activities. Among other aims of the Danish strategy is to fight the causes of fragility, instability, crises and conflict by supporting prevention, peace and stabilization and by incorporating marginalised groups, women, children, young people, climate and human rights in all actions. Analysis is key in fostering such integrated approaches.

Denmark will follow DPPA's work to integrate political analysis with human rights, socio-economic, conflict-sensitive and humanitarian lenses. Denmark will also encourage age-sensitive and gender-responsive analysis that can strengthen design, monitoring and evaluation of DPPA activities and Peacebuilding Fund projects<sup>7</sup>.

Denmark expects DPPA, including the Peacebuilding Support Office, to promote conflict-sensitivity in the development system at country level through analysis and strategic planning, e.g. Common Country Analyses and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. DPPA is also well-positioned to integrate climate considerations, being among the UN entities of the Climate Security Mechanism, which seeks to strengthen the UN capacity to better identify gaps and opportunities for addressing climate-related security risks.

Denmark will advocate to strengthen innovation and evidence-based peacebuilding through the Impact Hub being initiated by the Peacebuilding Support Office to make the Impact Hub complementary to other initiatives, in support of inclusive, locally-driven and participatory approaches to peacebuilding<sup>8</sup> and influencing policy development and institutional learning.

### **Priority: Crisis response and support to 'good offices'**

When a crisis hits or a conflict escalates, it is key that the international system has the capacities and tools to respond and adapt to the specific situation. DPPA has a leading role within the UN system to promote the peaceful resolution of disputes, including under Chapter VI of the Charter.

The priorities in the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation relating to peacebuilding and stabilisation include support to UN efforts through a focus on political dialogue and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people in conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250. It also relates to fostering cooperation with local, regional and international actors in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

Denmark will support DPPA's work in crisis response. The DPPA multi-year appeal has a funding window for rapid response. In addition, in Syria, Denmark supports that political settlement efforts are sustained through UN leadership and civil society engagement. This

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<sup>7</sup> Cf. recommendations in DPPA self-evaluation "A Systematic Review of DPPA Analyses With a Gender Lens" (2021); 2021 review of the Peacebuilding Fund's support to gender-responsive peacebuilding.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. recommendations in the 2022 thematic review of the Peacebuilding Fund on local peacebuilding.

includes a strengthening of the rapid response mechanism to support the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria in their efforts to bring a sustainable solution to the Syrian conflict.

Denmark will encourage DPPA's continued support to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda through its activities. In 2022, 100 per cent of all UN led and co-led peace processes received gender support; all UN mediation support teams had women members; and all UN mission transition strategies included a gender perspective.

Denmark will also encourage that financing through the DPPA multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund contributes towards the promotion of young people's participation in peacebuilding.

Eight out of 15 of the most climate exposed countries in the world host a UN special political mission or peacekeeping operation. Denmark will encourage DPPA to continue supporting the strengthening of capacities of the UN to address climate-related security risks.

The Peacebuilding Fund has the Immediate Response Facility (IRF) through which it allocated 42 per cent in 2022. The risk-tolerant approach of the Peacebuilding Fund and its flexibility and agility are important for initiatives carried out in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Denmark will continue to support this role of the projects financed through the Fund and, at the same time, encourage the Fund to strengthen the catalytic effect of projects, including through synergies with International Financial Institutions.

### **Priority: Longer-term prevention and peacebuilding support**

To sustain peace, it is critical to strengthen national capacities for inclusive dialogue, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. DPPA supports national actors through the work of special political missions to deliver local capacity-building initiatives, electoral assistance and support to national dialogue initiatives. In addition, projects financed through the Peacebuilding Fund promote civil society engagement and women and youth participation in peacebuilding.

This priority relates to Danish priorities for development cooperation in relation to rebuilding societies, supporting prevention, peace and stabilisation and incorporation marginalised groups, women, children, young people, climate and human rights in all actions as well as fostering integrated approaches across humanitarian action, stabilization efforts and long-term development.

Denmark will support DPPA in continuing the support to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda through its activities. Denmark will also support DPPA in promoting the meaningful engagement of young people in all matters relating to peace and security. In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund exceeded its target of 30 per cent to gender equality with 47 per cent of gender-responsive investments, including and beyond gender-specific projects. In 2022, 19 per cent of the investment through the DPPA multi-year appeal was programmed through the women, peace and security window.

Denmark expects DPPA, including the Peacebuilding Support Office, to work towards increasing the degree of civil society participation, as partners in setting peace and security priorities and as recipients of funding. Denmark will also seek to include a focus on the role of and support to local peacebuilding actors<sup>9</sup>. In 2022, 91 per cent of political processes supported by DPPA had direct representation, formal observation or official consultation of civil society. In addition, the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) remains popular by partners and stakeholders<sup>10</sup> and 37 per cent of the share of the portfolio supports gender and youth empowerment.

DPPA is well positioned to further strengthen long-term prevention and the operationalization of the development-peacebuilding nexus through support to activities of special political missions and programmes of UN Country Teams, including in relation to national mechanisms for prevention and peacebuilding. The Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) deployed under the UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention provides important support for strategic planning and analysis in Resident Coordinator Offices. Denmark will encourage DPPA to support enhanced coordination within the UN and with partners.

Denmark will encourage a human rights-based approach to the UN's efforts in promoting effective, democratic and responsible states and the participation of women, girls and young people in peacebuilding and political processes. Through the Peacebuilding Fund, 174 projects contributed towards reconciliation, democratic governance and conflict prevention/management in 2022. In 2022, DPPA provided electoral support to 19 specific electoral events.

Denmark will support the Peacebuilding Fund in implementing the recommendations from the 2023 thematic review on climate, peace and security, which finds that the Fund is well positioned to address this area. Denmark will also explore the possibility of establishing a new funding window within the Peacebuilding Fund for more risk-tolerant climate finance investments. Since 2016, \$167.2 million has been expended in or approved for 74 projects through the Peacebuilding Fund with a climate-security or environmental peacebuilding component.

### **Priority: Support to UN bodies**

DPPA's contribution to effective multilateralism includes the support DPPA provides to UN bodies (including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, and other subsidiary organs).

In accordance with the Danish Foreign and Security Policy Strategy, Denmark's candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council in 2025-2026 is a high priority. It is an opportunity for Denmark to play a role as a bridge builder, support the functioning of the Security Council under difficult conditions, and promote a more holistic and thus long-term approach to

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<sup>9</sup> Cf. recommendations in the 2022 thematic review of the Peacebuilding Fund on local peacebuilding.

<sup>10</sup> Mid-term review of the Peacebuilding Fund (2020-2024).

the prevention and stabilisation of crises and conflicts. As set out in the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation, Denmark will support multilateral cooperation in relation to fragility, conflict and violence and foster cooperation with local, regional and international actors.

As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2023 and 2024, Denmark seeks to strengthen the nexus between peace and development efforts and serves as the informal coordinator between the Commission and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2023.

Denmark will encourage a whole-of-system approach and the inclusion of perspectives in decision-making processes from the UN, civil society, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), regional organisations, women's groups and youth organisations, and other stakeholders.

Denmark will seek to constructively engage in the process relating to the 2025 review of Peacebuilding Architecture and the Summit of the Future in 2024 to strengthen a holistic approach to the UN efforts to sustain peace and prevent conflict and violence.

### **Priority: Organisational effectiveness**

This section has a focus on efforts to enhance organisational effectiveness. The Danish requirements relating to reporting, audit, monitoring and evaluation and fraud will be outlined in grant agreements.

DPPA strives to be an inclusive, collaborative, creative, diverse, innovative and learning work environment that supports staff in continuous improvement, innovation, and enhances cross-pillar cohesion, to strengthen internal effectiveness, coherence, and efficiency.

Denmark expects DPPA to continue to implement the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, the UN Values and Behaviours Framework and the Strategic Action Plan on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All. The IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is a reference for grant agreements.

Denmark will follow DPPA's efforts to strengthened operational, administrative and cultural practices supporting staff empowerment as a critical part of enhancing the implementation of the 2019 reform process of the UN peace and security pillar and the development system. Denmark will also encourage the multi-year appeal of DPPA and the Peacebuilding Fund to use innovative approaches and promote an organisation that adapts to new challenges and fosters partnerships.

### **V. Budget:**

Denmark is a long-term and committed partner of DPPA and will continue to provide flexible funding through unearmarked core support to DPPA's multi-year appeal and the Peacebuilding Fund. Denmark is planning multi-year grants for the period of this strategy. This flexibility enables DPPA to respond when a crisis hits and plan ahead to address risks of reverse in peacebuilding gains.

[The budget will be added – it is awaiting final confirmation]

## **VI. Risks and assumptions Analysis of major risks, risk responses, and assumptions.**

DPPA has developed a risk register jointly with DPO, within the framework of the Secretariat-wide risk register and the application of Enterprise Risk Management practices. All projects of the multi-year appeal conduct a mandatory assessment to identify risk areas and mitigation measures.

DPPA strategic plan 2023-2026 identifies five key assumptions that can be summarised as,

1. Because risk of conflict is complex, multidimensional and involves varying timescales, DPPA's responses must involve a flexible combination of interventions.
2. DPPA is often one among multiple actors. DPPA must seek out and maximize its added value of direct political engagement and comparative advantage in each situation.
3. The theory of change assumes that, within the UN system, DPPA will continue play a leadership role in analysing, advising on and taking action when faced with risks of violent conflict. This will require clarity of intention and direction on DPPA's role.
4. Perceptions of the UN in general and DPPA in particular; levels of national and regional comfort with international involvement; and the breadth and depth of pre-existing relationships will affect the Department's impact. Effective strategic communications, multilingualism and strong anticipatory relationships are important.
5. With the regular programme budget of the UN under strain and growth in demand for DPPA activities, the Department has come to rely increasingly on voluntary contributions.

For the Peacebuilding Fund in particular, the risk management matrix from February 2021, which is updated annually, describes three risk factors: 1) performance, monitoring and accountability (lack of adequate information and credible evaluation), where new initiatives have been taken, including the Strategic Results Frameworks (SRFs), the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) 2.0 and the ongoing work to develop a Peacebuilding Impact Hub; 2) partnerships (lack of inclusiveness in partner selection or inability of partner to spend funds in a timely manner), where the Fund performs well in enabling partnerships, complementing other efforts and integrating regional organizations, while there is room for improvement in regard to the catalytic effects of projects and degree of CSO participation; and 3) resource mobilization (unpredictability and reliance on a small group of donor), where the demand is outpacing the availability of resources, and the record-level approvals of projects while the UN fifth committee has negotiated assessed contributions to the Fund since 2022.