



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Human security and common security to build peace

**A toolkit for  
parliamentarians**

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# Foreword

With every passing month, our world becomes more violent and dangerous. After a decline in the 1990s and early 2000s, the number of conflicts around the world has been growing – and no region has been left untouched. These conflicts often involve multiple parties and are increasingly fuelled by transnational criminal activity. Some have been going on for decades and some remain unaddressed by the international community. Their cost is immense, however, and it is usually civilians who pay the heaviest price.

The future hardly looks encouraging. Disinformation, social media and artificial intelligence (AI) are spreading hate, division and mistrust. AI-powered weapons are making it easier than ever to kill, while cyberattacks on critical infrastructure are also taking their toll. Meanwhile, nuclear disarmament has come to a grinding halt and global tensions are distracting our leaders from the urgent – and sometimes existential – challenges that face us: climate change, pandemics, hunger and much, much more. We need multilateral collaboration to address and fix these challenges. But conflicts take us in the opposite direction.

Two alternative approaches offer new possibilities to get us all back on track. The first is human security, which is about engaging with and representing people, and implies contextualized and tailored legislation rooted in several dimensions relating to the well-being of the individual. The second is common security, which takes the principles of human security to a larger scale and enshrines the idea that dialogue, multilateralism and collaboration are key to any attempt to solve a problem.

Both approaches are based on basic ideas: first, that security is more complex and wide-ranging than freedom from conflict, and second, that a nation is more secure when its neighbours also feel safe. These concepts have been enhanced and honed over the past 30 or so years and, with examples in countries ranging from Costa Rica to Mongolia and from Nigeria to Vanuatu, we now have enough experience to show that the application of human security and common security approaches delivers demonstratable benefits for peace and security.

These two approaches represent a paradigm shift, but they are both based on hard-headed realities as well as compassion for the human condition.

But what do human security and common security have to do with parliamentarians? And how can they be applied?

For parliamentarians who are ambitious to deliver for their constituents, there can be no greater goal than peace and security – vital ingredients for sustainable development and human rights.

This toolkit, designed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), explains the mechanisms parliamentarians can use to advocate for and implement human security and common security approaches. It provides essential guidance for parliamentarians looking to shape their country's approach to security.

None of this is new, of course. This toolkit pulls together and distills decades of work by others, including key partners such as the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS). I thank these partners for their insights and wisdom, and I hope that our readers – and their constituents – will benefit from the approaches described on the following pages.



Martin Chungong,  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

### **Box 1: Human security and common security at the IPU**

The IPU has taken a human security approach since at least March 2018, when the resolution *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development* was unanimously adopted at the 138th IPU Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland. The resolution underlined the link between peace and security, development, and human rights. It also emphasized that the achievement of peace and security is defined not just by the absence of war but also by freedom from fear and want. The struggle for peace is therefore complex and multifaceted.

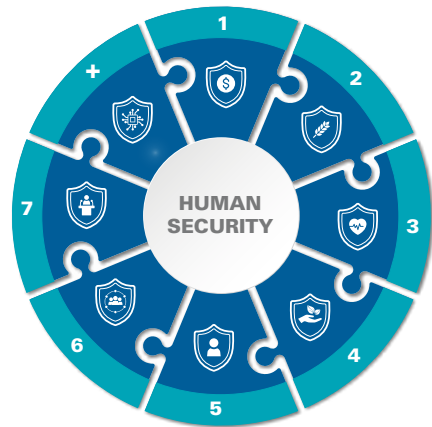
Four years later, in March 2022, another resolution, *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*, was adopted at the 144th IPU Assembly held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. This resolution emphasized that successful efforts to achieve peace and security tend to include the people most impacted by conflict, and empower them as agents of peace. It also widened the traditional understanding of conflict, recognizing that insecurity can come from many directions and that communities are always the first to feel it. Early warning mechanisms are key to registering grievances and kickstarting mediation, while inclusivity, human rights and the protection of marginalized communities are vital for sustainable peace. The resolution also tasked the IPU to develop this toolkit in order to assist members of parliament (MPs) with conflict prevention.

# Human security

## Box 2: The seven (plus) dimensions of human security

When the concept of human security was first developed, it comprised seven dimensions. Technological security has since been added to the list, highlighting the adaptability of this approach. In 2022 and 2024, for instance, the IPU adopted resolutions about cybercrimes and autonomous weapons, both relating to human security and common security.

1. **Economic security:** Ensures access to income, employment opportunities and resources while reducing income disparities and promoting equitable wealth distribution.
  2. **Food security:** Guarantees the availability, accessibility and utilization of nutritious food from diverse sources, fostering sustainable agricultural practices.
  3. **Health security:** Provides access to essential health-care services, promotes public health awareness, and anticipates disease prevalence and pandemics.
  4. **Environmental security:** Safeguards natural resources, promotes sustainable development, and mitigates environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change.
  5. **Personal security:** Protects individuals against violence, crime and mistreatment, fosters a culture of respect for human rights, and promotes social cohesion.
  6. **Community security:** Strengthens social bonds, supports local institutions, and nurtures a sense of belonging and identity within diverse communities.
  7. **Political security:** Upholds democratic principles, ensures effective governance, and promotes transparency, accountability, and participation in decision-making processes.
- + **Technological security:** Ensures the safe and ethical use of technology by protecting against cyber threats, promoting equitable access to technology, and fostering sustainable innovation through robust regulation and international cooperation.



For many people, the word “security” brings to mind images of high fences, guns, law and order, and soldiers. It implies the State-led defence of a nation’s sovereignty and borders against external military threats. Internally, it suggests surveillance and, sometimes, the use of force against a nation’s citizens.

The human security approach goes beyond this definition, recognizing that many threats to civilian lives and livelihoods – such as hunger, disease, poverty and pollution – lie outside the scope of military intervention. It takes a wider, more multidimensional approach to human survival, addressing the root causes of insecurity. The human security approach seeks to prevent conflict by addressing core problems before they escalate. Because when people can thrive in their environment, there is less conflict to resolve.

The *Human Development Report 1994*, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is often seen as the point at which the human security approach became more commonly understood. The concept has had widespread recognition since then, including through:

- the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* (2000), which underscored the importance of human security for sustainable development and international peace
- *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), the core principle of which – “leave no one behind” – seeks to ensure that development efforts reach those most at risk of insecurity
- *Human Security*, a report by the UN Secretary-General (January 2024), which offers new insights into how best to respond to today’s complex crises, including efforts to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The COVID-19 pandemic, which killed almost 15 million people over two years, also reversed several development gains, showing how development can be both complex and fragile, and underscoring how security – and insecurity – can come in multiple forms. Climate change also highlights the need to consider different forms of security, posing an existential threat to individuals and nations alike.



The human security approach recognizes that, while the State remains the key provider of security, traditional approaches are not sufficient for human welfare. Security can mean different things to different people at different points in time. It is highly context-specific, and tailored approaches are required to achieve it. The UN Trust Fund for Human Security suggests the following methodology:

- 1. Analyse the situation:** Identify multidimensional risks and their impacts on people and institutions. Uncover root issues and develop appropriate strategies.
- 2. Map needs, vulnerabilities and capacities:** Prioritize needs to ensure efficient and targeted interventions.
- 3. Build strategies for human security:** Develop cohesive plans to protect and empower vulnerable populations.
- 4. Involve stakeholders:** Include diverse partners in the decision-making process in order to ensure that solutions are comprehensive and effective.
- 5. Assess impact on human security:** Evaluate the effectiveness of policies and interventions by examining tangible improvements in people's lives.

The human security approach aligns with parliamentarians' mandate to represent the people who elect them to office. It enables members of parliament (MPs) to recognize that their constituents face a range of challenges and to respond more effectively with integrated, context-specific solutions. When MPs listen to – and understand – the people they represent, they are better able to identify insecurity before it escalates into conflict.

# Common security

## Box 3: The six principles of common security

The 2022 report *Common Security 2022: For our shared future*, published by the Olof Palme International Center, IPB, and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), outlined the following six principles of common security:

1. All people have the right to human security: freedom from fear and freedom from want.
2. Building trust between nations and peoples is fundamental to peaceful and sustainable human existence.
3. There can be no common security without nuclear disarmament, strong limitations on conventional weapons and reduced military expenditure.
4. Global and regional cooperation, multilateralism and the rule of law are crucial to tackling many of the world's challenges.
5. Dialogue, conflict prevention and confidence-building measures must replace aggression and military force as a means of resolving disputes.
6. Better regulation, international law and responsible governance also need to be extended to cover new military technologies, such as in the realms of cyberspace, outer space and "artificial intelligence".



The second approach – common security – highlights the areas where decision makers can reduce tensions within and between States. As such, it tends to relate more to diplomacy and to have a more international flavour than human security. It stems from the idea that our national securities are connected, and that we all win when we work together to maximize our collective security. In other words, national security and common security are not mutually exclusive.

When nations view security as a confrontational matter – building bigger armies and accelerating their destructive technologies faster than their competitors – then their security becomes unstable and precarious. Mistrust can provoke miscalculations. Suspicion can prompt pre-emptive action.

Instead, States maximize their own safety when they can agree to take a common security approach. In doing so, they reduce the size of their militaries, shift spending to human security, and engage in dialogue with a view to building trust and transparency.

The term “common security” was first coined in 1982 – at the height of the cold war – by the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, which was chaired by Olof Palme, the former Prime Minister of Sweden, and was commonly known as the Palme Commission. It introduced the idea that nations and populations can only be truly safe when their counterparts also feel secure. Prominent papers on common security include:

- the Palme Commission’s 1982 report *Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival*, which introduced and outlined the concept of common security
- the 2022 report *Common Security 2022: For our shared future*, which built on the work of the Palme Commission and made recommendations for the future, outlining six pillars for common security and stating “our world is in danger, but together we can build our common security”

The ability of parliaments to influence security-related issues varies greatly from one country to the next. However, they can take a few concrete steps to build momentum for the application of common security. Some examples are given below:

- **Support human security at home:**
  - Prioritize funding to public services over military spending.
  - Support legislation that restricts the production of, trade in, and use of weapons.
  - Provide adequate health care, education and housing in order to ensure that citizens have their basic human needs met and can live free from want.
- **Respect and develop international law:**
  - Ensure respect for human rights, the environment and humanitarian protection through legislative action and oversight.
  - Support legislation on emerging military technologies such as cyberwarfare, space weapons and autonomous weapon systems.

- **Hold governments to account** for their respect for international norms, including non-aggression, respect for sovereignty, rules of engagement, civilian protection and the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.
- **Build common security and trust, and reduce tensions:**
  - Engage in multilateral forums and participate in regional diplomatic bodies.
  - Promote diplomacy, constructive engagement and any treaties that build trust with other countries.
  - Recognize that disarmament treaties help to ease international tensions.
- **Promote conflict resolution and prevention** by establishing dedicated parliamentary committees and commissions, and conduct early warning assessments and analyses.

#### **Box 4: Lake Chad through the lenses of human security and common security**

A common security approach can also enable human security. International cooperation will be necessary – if not sufficient – to address complex and transboundary threats such as terrorism, pandemics, transnational crime and climate change.

Lake Chad offers an immediate and very real example of the connections between human security and common security. Millions of people once depended on the lake for fishing, farming and water. However, the lake has shrunk in recent times, partly under the effect of agriculture and reduced rainfall, leading to a regional crisis. The resulting economic hardship has intensified competition between communities, forced many people to migrate and contributed to the breakdown of traditional values. Conflict in the region has become more widespread, while violent non-State actors such as Boko Haram have exploited vulnerabilities within local populations.

The four countries bordering Lake Chad – Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria – are now looking for ways to better manage the lake, including by collaborating on water resources, environmental conservation and sustainable development more generally. Since a lack of human security in one area impacts peace and security in other parts of the region, the four countries are also working together on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force.

# How parliamentarians can build peace

Parliamentarians can deliberately and purposefully use their parliamentary functions to promote human security and common security and, therefore, to advance the cause of peace. Although every parliament is unique, most have four distinct and recognizable functions: the legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions. Increasingly, parliaments also exercise a fifth function: parliamentary diplomacy.

Below are some ways in which parliamentarians can use each of these five functions to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

## 1. Legislate



Parliaments develop and adopt national laws. For MPs, this function is an opportunity to debate and amend legislation in such a way that it promotes human security and common security. In doing so, they can build a legal framework that fosters a culture of peace, through laws that, for instance, prohibit the use of landmines, regulate the arms trade, establish protocols for peaceful conflict resolution and, more generally, promote human rights and social justice. MPs also ratify international treaties promoting non-aggression and disarmament.

In their legislative function, MPs can use the following tools to promote human security and common security:

- **Adopting human security and common security approaches in the drafting and amending of legislation:** Fostering a culture of human security requires deliberate and purposeful implementation. MPs can ensure that legislation explicitly aims to advance the lives of ordinary citizens and prioritizes their well-being and protection. This focus on human security and common security can also be a means of building coalitions beyond the traditional right-left divisions. While MPs can introduce private members' bills, they mostly contribute by amending bills and existing laws.

- **Conducting ex-ante impact assessments:** Impact assessments consider the probable consequences of a given law and identify how it might impact the seven (plus) dimensions of human security (economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, political and technological). Effective steps can then be taken to maximize the positive outcomes of the law in question while minimizing the negatives. These assessments help to produce policies that are evidence-based, transparent and impactful.
- **Domesticating international agreements:** Treaties and other international agreements can have a major impact on the day-to-day lives of citizens. MPs are involved in these texts at three key stages: ratifying them, introducing supporting legislation, and implementing them. At each stage, MPs have an opportunity to shape their country's application of the treaty or agreement, moulding it so that it best fits the human security and common security needs of the people they represent.

## 2. Hold governments to account



MPs hold governments to account, scrutinizing executive actions and policies to ensure accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law. They question ministers, debate policies, and examine public accounts or audit reports. This function, which extends to defence and foreign affairs, offers a further opportunity for MPs to keep governments accountable for the implementation of the human security and common security approaches.

In their oversight function, MPs can use the following tools to promote human security and common security:

- **Asking questions of the government:** MPs question their governments in the plenary, either orally or in writing. These questions require the government to clarify or discuss policies. Unsatisfactory answers can lead to further discussions or even a motion of no confidence. Proper scrutiny requires MPs to be well informed about government policies and their implementation.

- **Conducting ex-post evaluations:** These evaluations, which involve reviewing progress reports, engaging with stakeholders and conducting field visits, allow MPs to understand the impact of policies and programmes on human security and common security, and to check that government decisions lead to tangible improvements.
- **Supporting United Nations processes:** The UN often provides vital leadership on promoting human security and common security through processes such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the universal periodic review. MPs can support these processes by urging their governments to get involved – for instance by signing a declaration, implementing a treaty or even taking the floor in UN proceedings. Such actions help to build trust within international forums, thereby also contributing to peace.

### 3. Allocate funds to human security and common security



Human security and common security both require some level of government funding. Since MPs review, amend and approve the government's budget, they can influence spending and ensure that funds are allocated to human security and common security.

In their budgetary function, MPs can use the following tools to promote human security and common security:

- **Shaping the defence budget:** MPs help to promote common security when they reallocate defence spending towards diplomacy, peacebuilding and development aid. This helps to address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty and inequality.
- **Scrutinizing the national budget:** In most countries, parliamentarians question, oppose and endorse elements of the national budget before it is adopted. They can use this power to ensure that the budget protects and advances human security.

- **Commissioning national audits:** MPs can commission audits to determine whether government departments have used public funds appropriately and delivered the best value for money in line with the original intentions, thereby helping to build transparency and trust.

## 4. Understand and represent constituents' needs



MPs advocate for the interests and needs of their constituents. They represent everybody within their constituencies – not just those who voted for them. They understand the hopes and fears of their citizens, using this knowledge to advocate for policies that benefit their constituency. They facilitate dialogue, seek consensus and engage with multiple stakeholders. In doing so, they build social cohesion and community resilience.

In their representative function, MPs can use the following tools to promote human security and common security:

- **Engaging with the public:** MPs work to understand their constituents and interact with them on a regular basis. At public forums, they also hear from civil society and experts. This engagement provides MPs with the breadth and depth of information and ideas they need to fulfil their legislative and oversight functions, and to shape public policy. It is a fundamental tenet of democracy that helps to maintain the connection between elected representatives and the people they serve. Engagement also helps the government to deliver freedom from fear, want and indignity.
- **Representing constituents in the chamber:** MPs present the information and insights gleaned from their engagement work in the parliamentary chamber, reporting on what they have heard and understood from their constituency. By representing their constituents' priorities, they help to shape laws that are responsive to the needs of the people they serve.



- **Mediating conflict in the community:** As elected representatives, MPs carry a certain amount of influence and authority that enables them to mediate conflict – or even prevent it – within local communities. They act as respected intermediaries, facilitating discussions or bringing different parties to the negotiating table. Their understanding of local issues allows them to advocate, allocate resources, or even support legislation to resolve the grievances of their community members. In recent years, interfaith and intercultural dialogue have emerged as important themes.

## 5. Engage in parliamentary diplomacy and foster dialogue



Parliamentarians improve international relations through inter-parliamentary institutions, bilateral relationships and international conferences. They use meetings to promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation. MPs also help to mediate conflicts, share good practices and advocate for peace.

In their parliamentary diplomacy function, MPs can use the following tools to promote human security and common security:

- **Representing parliament and constituents on the global stage:** MPs represent their national parliaments and constituents within international forums, committees and working groups, often related to UN process and facilitated, among others, by the IPU. When they participate in these forums, MPs promote human security, ensuring that global commitments are grounded in local realities such as poverty and climate change.
- **Engaging with multiple stakeholders:** Parliamentarians can work at the international level with a range of stakeholders such as the private sector, academia and global civil society coalitions. When they collaborate with these groups, MPs promote a comprehensive and collaborative approach to human security and common security. For example, they can insist that business practices align with the principles of human security and ensure that multilateralism includes community voices.

- **Participating in parliamentary networks:** MPs can collaborate with their peers from different parties and regions in order to promote human security and common security, such as by establishing networks to share information, experiences and good practices, and by developing joint initiatives. Building visibility and legitimacy for human security and common security in this way helps to address global and local challenges.

### **Box 5: Questions for assessing the integration of human security and common security into parliamentary processes**

1. Do MPs regularly review their political work, legislation, agreements or other projects through the lenses of human security and common security?
2. Does the legislative process include public participation and community engagement, including for vulnerable and marginalized groups?
3. Does legislation contain provisions for continuous monitoring, evaluation and improvement, thereby promoting transparent and accountable implementation?
4. Does the budget allocation process reflect constituents' priorities in such a way that it promotes human security and common security?
5. Does the budget process allow for a reduction of military spending? Does it enable the peace dividend to be reallocated towards social programmes that address inequalities and encourage social justice?
6. Does the budget process ensure that the country's natural-resource wealth benefits society at large?
7. Does parliamentary oversight promote social inclusion and address the grievances of marginalized groups?
8. Does parliamentary oversight ensure that the voices of the public are heard and thoroughly considered in decision-making processes related to security?
9. Do MPs actively discuss the ratification, implementation and strengthening of existing arms control and non-proliferation treaties? Do they work to prevent their country being considered the "weakest link" in the region's arms control infrastructure?
10. Do MPs encourage and participate in dialogue and reconciliation, thereby building trust and understanding between conflicting parties, both domestically and internationally?
11. Do discussions about peace and security, both in parliament and with citizens, treat those themes as interconnected?
12. Do MPs advocate for the inclusion of local knowledge and traditional practices in the development of human security policies and programmes?
13. Does the legislative framework anticipate and regulate the impacts of emerging and future technologies on national and international security?
14. Does the legislative framework incorporate principles of multilateralism and international cooperation to effectively address global security challenges?
15. Does parliamentary work regularly mention the targets and indicators set out in the SDGs?

# Ten success stories

1. In 2016, the Parliament of **South Africa** took an important step towards promoting human security when it launched a cross-party initiative to address hunger. The initiative was part of a wider commitment to the SDGs aimed at achieving zero hunger by 2030. Parliamentarians played a crucial role in this process by debating critical issues and working out the details, and their cross-party approach allowed a diverse range of perspectives to be heard. This approach also underscored the importance of unity. By addressing an issue that was key to so many people, the initiative helped to build trust and promote peace and security throughout the country.
2. The **International Space Station (ISS)**, is a \$100 billion orbiting research laboratory roughly the size of a football field. Launched in 1998, it is arguably one of the most well-known examples of global collaboration, involving 5 space agencies and 15 countries including Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States. This collaboration promotes common security in an otherwise dangerous new frontier. In January 2024, NASA and the Russian Federation agreed to continue launching American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts on each other's spacecraft.
3. The Pacific nation of **Vanuatu** faces a range of existential threats linked to rising sea levels, ocean acidification and natural disasters. It is truly on the front line of the global climate crisis, which represents a more immediate threat to the country's security than any other issue. In 2020, Vanuatu adopted a national security strategy built on 10 pillars such as climate- and disaster-risk resilience, human security, and good governance. This broad approach to security recognizes the reality of threats to the country, which go beyond traditional concepts.
4. Human security became a key part of the foreign policy of **Japan** soon after the publication of the 1994 UNDP report in which the concept was first proposed. Since then, Japan has used its official development assistance to further this cause, including through the Trust Fund for Human Security, which links human security with peace and stability. By promoting inclusive development and resilience, Japan aims to create a safer, more equitable global environment. Since 1947, Japan has had a pacifist constitution, reflecting a commitment to peace and international cooperation.

5. In 2014, **Nigeria** adopted a new National Security Strategy that reflected a major paradigm shift. The strategy notes that while many countries once equated regime security with national security, the focus has since shifted to more everyday issues such as shelter, transport, food security, poverty alleviation, employment and the environment. Specifically, the strategy states that “without adequately taking care of the needs of the ordinary citizens, it would be difficult to rely on state power or military force, as the people, in all instances, form the core of any security strategy.”
6. In the early 1990s, many observers thought **Mongolia** unlikely to make the transition to democracy after seven decades of domination by the Soviet Union. However, the country’s focus on human security – captured in the 1992 Constitution – set a new direction and helped to secure peaceful change. The National Security Concept of Mongolia recognizes that “national security shall be attained when the interrelationship between state, society and civilian security is assured”. This approach set the scene for Mongolia to triple its gross domestic product per capita and protect the security of its more than 3 million people.
7. In the late 1980s, growing concerns about the humanitarian consequences of blinding laser weapons caught the attention of the international community. In response, in 1995, the nations of the world adopted **Protocol IV to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**. This protocol pre-emptively banned the use and transfer of laser weapons specifically designed to cause permanent blindness to unenhanced vision. The adoption of Protocol IV halted the development of blinding laser weapons in China and the United States and ensured that such weapons would not be used in any conflict setting.
8. **Costa Rica** abolished its military in 1948 after a brief but intense civil war. This move was helped by the country’s desire for stability, its development of a new constitution, and visionary leadership. The new president, José Figueres Ferrer, announced the decision in December at the Bellavista barracks, which later became the National Museum of Costa Rica. Since then, the central American country has maintained a stable and peaceful democracy for more than seven decades. It is recognized for its high levels of health and education, as well as its rich environment.

9. The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty** (CTBT) now has 187 signatories and has been ratified by 178 States. It is an important pillar of the world's common security architecture. It prohibits all nuclear explosions and includes an effective verification regime. For instance, Member States receive detailed information about declared nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea within just two hours, which helps to build vital trust. The accompanying verification system – including seismic sensors – also supports faster public tsunami warnings and can help to identify nuclear accidents. The CTBT is a powerful example of international collaboration that benefits everybody around the world.
  
10. As the birthplace of microcredit, **Bangladesh** has underscored its commitment to human security. These small loans – as little as a few dollars – provide an opportunity for low-income people (mostly women) to escape vicious cycles of poverty. They support income-generating activities and help recipients accumulate assets such as livestock, equipment and housing. In turn, these assets and savings help build resilience to shocks. According to the country's Microcredit Regulatory Authority, there were some 30 million active microcredit borrowers in Bangladesh in 2020.

# Recommended action points for conflict prevention, security and peace

## 1. Parliamentary cooperation and joint initiatives

Use parliamentary diplomacy as a way to engage in dialogue with conflicting parties, advocate for peaceful solutions and support conflict resolution initiatives:

- ➔ Foster informal discussions, and facilitate dialogue and joint peace efforts. Build trust by keeping communication channels open and maintaining cross-border collaboration.
- ➔ Legislate in support of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, emphasizing dialogue, mediation, peaceful solutions and conflict prevention.
- ➔ Use parliamentary platforms to mediate peace talks, build awareness of conflict-affected populations, and ensure accountability in ceasefires and peace agreements.

## 2. International cooperation and multilateralism

Promote peace and security through stronger multilateralism, global and regional cooperation, and reforms:

- ➔ Advocate for reforms in international organizations, such as the UN, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to ensure that they are more representative, transparent and effective in addressing security issues and conflict prevention.
- ➔ Push for stronger multilateralism through international law, and encourage the development and strengthening of regional and global frameworks for cooperation on the major security challenges of our time.
- ➔ Allocate funding for multilateral initiatives and organizations that work towards peace, conflict resolution, trust-building and development.

### **3. Transparency, good governance and the rule of law**

Strengthen governance in order to build trust, prevent corruption, and ensure equitable justice for long-term peace and conflict prevention:

- Implement rigorous oversight of government budgets and spending. Ensure transparency and prevent the misuse of public funds.
- Advocate for and enact laws requiring government transparency, especially on matters concerning the arms trade and defence spending. Foster accountability and public trust.
- Develop and implement robust legal frameworks that uphold justice and human rights. Include extensive anti-corruption mechanisms to ensure good governance and the rule of law.

### **4. Disarmament and regulation of weapons**

Adopt a comprehensive approach to disarmament, and link this to development and international cooperation:

- Promote disarmament and arms control. Advocate for a special UN General Assembly on disarmament. Support existing treaties while pursuing new ones.
- Strengthen nuclear control frameworks, support the CTBT and nuclear non-proliferation, encourage the adoption of a “no first use” policy, and promote the creation of nuclear-free zones.
- Advocate for treaties that regulate and ban new weapon technologies or techniques, including autonomous weapons, hypersonic missiles and cyberattacks on nuclear systems.

### **5. Cyberspace and the digital world**

Champion international technology cooperation and national action to address cyber threats, and promote peaceful and responsible digital citizenship:

- Allocate resources for comprehensive policies that protect critical infrastructure from cyberattacks, address evolving threats and vulnerabilities, and establish mechanisms for rapid response.
- Champion legislation that integrates comprehensive digital literacy into educational curricula. Support public awareness campaigns on safe and responsible internet use.

- ➔ Advocate for international norms promoting responsible behaviour in cyberspace. Spearhead initiatives for international cooperation on cybercrime and foster collaboration between law enforcement agencies.

## **6. Social development**

Use resources freed up by disarmament – the “peace dividend” – to tackle poverty and inequality, which are the root causes of conflict:

- ➔ Advocate for “just conversion” initiatives that shift resources from military to civilian uses. Develop strategies to link disarmament with social issues.
- ➔ Allocate the “peace dividend” to social programmes, renewable energy, green jobs and other actions that promote human security and common security.
- ➔ Promote social justice and invest in social programmes to strengthen workers’ rights, fair tax systems and social safety nets.

## **7. Climate change and food security**

Mitigate conflict risks caused by environmental issues and food insecurity by managing resources sustainably and adopting innovative approaches:

- ➔ Integrate climate risks into national security strategies. Address environmental factors in order to prevent competition over scarce resources. Promote international agreements on climate change.
- ➔ Advocate for policies that focus on sustainable natural-resource management and promote sustainable farming practices.
- ➔ Invest in research and development to address climate change resilience and resource management. Improve agricultural productivity and sustainability.

## **8. Grass-roots social cohesion and trust**

Foster peaceful and resilient communities by investing in local economies, public health and infrastructure:

- ➔ Advocate for fair trade, reduce economic disparities, and allocate resources to support small and medium-sized enterprises and job creation. Promote sustainable business practices for long-term economic stability.



- Invest in health infrastructure and ensure access to basic health-care services for all citizens. Promote preventive health measures and lifestyles.
- Upgrade essential infrastructure systems (transportation, water, sanitation and energy). Implement sustainable urban planning by prioritizing green spaces and affordable housing.

## **9. Inclusive engagement and justice**

Create an inclusive environment, and enable peacebuilding that is just and sustainable:

- Support policies and programmes that meaningfully involve women and youth in peace and security decision-making processes at all levels.
- Push for mechanisms to investigate, address and prevent human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence. Hold perpetrators to account and provide victims with legal, psychological and financial support.
- Advocate for policies to address the grievances of marginalized groups. Promote social inclusion and protect the rights of minorities. Ensure equal access to opportunities and resources.

## **10. Education and a culture of peace**

Empower citizens to shape peaceful societies through education, understanding and proactive conflict prevention:

- Develop national curricula that include peace education, conflict resolution skills, and the importance of tolerance and diversity. Support civil society to engage in building peace.
- Invest in quality education for all, particularly in conflict zones. Promote vocational training programmes that equip individuals with marketable skills for sustainable livelihoods.
- Support national conflict prevention strategies including early warning systems, parliamentary involvement in high-risk areas, interfaith and intercultural dialogue initiatives, and readily available tools for mediation.



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