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PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION NETWORK

*FROM PREVENTION TO DURABLE PEACE THROUGH EQUITY-CENTRED
SYSTEMS*

CREATED BY

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Care to Change the World



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Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Network

Introduction

The Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Network is constituted as a long-horizon institutional architecture designed to address structural drivers of conflict—poverty, exclusion, and institutional fragility—through coordinated social equity investments and codified conflict resolution capacities. Its mandate is declaratory and enforceable under the Agenda for Social Equity 2074 framework, ensuring that peace is not treated as an episodic intervention but as a systemic condition embedded in governance, service delivery, and equitable access to opportunity. PCRN operationalizes a continuum that spans prevention, mediation, and recovery, linking humanitarian relief to institution-building and livelihood restoration across Regional Economic Communities (RECs). By integrating normative safeguards with operational instruments under DESA and DSEP, the Network institutionalizes peace as a legal and developmental obligation, harmonized with Agenda 2063 aspirations for good governance, security, and inclusive growth.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of PCRN are aligned with DESA policy instruments and the operational chassis of SDEP, ensuring that peacebuilding is evidence-based, technology-enabled, and locally owned. They are framed as binding commitments under GSIA governance protocols and subject to independent verification:

1. **To institutionalize a prevention-first model** that reduces conflict incidence through inclusive social services, accountable governance, and equitable access to economic opportunity, thereby converting structural vulnerabilities into resilience assets.
2. **To embed mediation and restorative justice mechanisms** within community governance systems, ensuring that short-term de-escalation translates into durable social cohesion and development dividends.
3. **To integrate conflict risk mapping and early-warning systems** with digital platforms and trained local facilitators, enabling proactive response and continuous monitoring under DSEP technology standards.
4. **To harmonize peacebuilding with major SLUC programmes**—including SDEP, HIRC, EVHEI, EEN, ESA, TFT, ETI, SAP, EESG, and CPIP—so that health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, and cultural systems operate as stabilizing forces within fragile contexts.
5. **To align all interventions with Agenda 2063 and Agenda for Social Equity 2074**, embedding peacebuilding into continental governance compacts and intergenerational equity frameworks, and ensuring compliance with REC security protocols and international human rights standards.

Implementation Framework

The implementation framework for PCRN is structured as a sequenced, legally codified process that transforms peacebuilding from ad hoc interventions into a systemic, enforceable architecture.

Deployment is phased to ensure compliance, interoperability, and sustainability under GSIA governance and DESA policy instruments, with operational execution anchored in the DSEP chassis.

Phase I: Conflict Risk Diagnostics and Mapping

This phase institutionalizes evidence-based targeting through comprehensive conflict risk assessments, socio-economic vulnerability mapping, and institutional capacity audits. Diagnostics are conducted under standardized protocols aligned with REC security frameworks and Agenda 2063's aspiration for a peaceful and secure Africa. Outputs include geo-referenced risk dashboards and baseline indicators for prevention planning.

Phase II: Activation of Social Equity Services

Following diagnostics, the framework mandates activation of essential social services—healthcare, education, food systems—under HIRC, EEN, and SAP major programmes. These services are deployed as stabilizing instruments to address structural inequities that fuel conflict. Integration with SDEP ensures technology-enabled monitoring and accredited workforce development for service delivery.

Phase III: Mediation and Dialogue Platforms

Community-based mediation platforms are established under legally recognized protocols, supported by trained facilitators, youth councils, and women mediators. Digital early-warning systems and conflict-resolution toolkits are embedded to enable proactive engagement and rapid de-escalation. These mechanisms operate under codes of conduct and grievance redress standards harmonized with REC and AU peace frameworks.

Phase IV: Recovery and Institutional Consolidation

The final phase institutionalizes reconciliation and livelihood restoration through ETI (infrastructure), EESG (economic empowerment), and CPIP (cultural preservation) programmes. Recovery compacts are formalized between state actors, civil society, and private sector partners, ensuring that peace dividends translate into durable governance and economic resilience.

Institutional Structure and Governance

The governance architecture of PCRN is declaratory and enforceable, designed to guarantee neutrality, accountability, and multi-stakeholder legitimacy. At the apex, GSIA provides custodial oversight, ensuring compliance with continental standards and Agenda for Social Equity 2074 mandates.

Regional Level:

Peace Coordination Units (PCUs) are constituted at REC level as statutory bodies under regional treaties. These units interface with continental peace and security organs, harmonizing protocols and ensuring cross-border coherence. PCUs convene periodic joint reviews with development partners and maintain open-data dashboards for transparency.

National Level:

National Implementation Units (NIUs) operate under ministerial mandates—Interior, Justice, Social Affairs—with codified reporting lines to PCUs. NIUs are responsible for executing prevention, mediation, and recovery measures, supported by independent ombuds services and grievance redress mechanisms to safeguard neutrality and rights compliance.

Local Level:

Local Peace Councils institutionalize community participation, embedding civil society, faith networks, and traditional authorities as co-implementers under formal governance compacts. These councils are

legally bound to codes of conduct, safeguarding protocols, and performance audits, ensuring that grassroots engagement is structured and accountable.

Oversight and Compliance:

Independent verification bodies, accredited under GSIA, conduct periodic audits and compliance reviews. Governance instruments include conflict-of-interest declarations, public reporting obligations, and sanction regimes for non-compliance. This layered structure ensures that peacebuilding is not aspirational but operationalized as a binding legal and developmental obligation.

Theory of Change and Programme Integration

The Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Network rests on a legally articulated theory of change that converts prevention norms into operational duties and measurable dividends. The central hypothesis is that conflict incidence declines, and peace durability increases, when structural drivers—inequitable access to services, weak institutions, exclusion from markets and decision-making—are addressed through codified governance reforms, lawful advocacy, and integrated social-economic delivery. Under this theory, prevention is not solely an anticipatory alert but a binding obligation to deploy services, adjudicative mechanisms, and livelihoods at pace, sequenced through DSEP diagnostics, technology enablement, accredited skills, and publicly verifiable reporting. The continental guardrails are defined by Agenda 2063's aspirations for good governance, peace, and integration, and the SDG16 canon for just, peaceful and inclusive institutions. These alignments convert PCRN's interventions into enforceable milestones with independent verification.

In practical terms, the change pathway begins with early-warning and risk mapping joined to community mediation protocols consistent with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and it proceeds to institutional consolidation through rule-of-law, service activation, and market participation. APSA's five pillars—Peace and Security Council, Panel of the Wise, Continental Early Warning System, African Standby Force, and the Peace Fund—provide the normative and operational scaffolding to integrate REC peace units, national ministries, and local councils under a subsidiarity principle. PCRN adopts these instruments to structure prevention, mediation, peace support, and post-conflict reconstruction, thereby harmonizing its mandates with continental practice and REC-level mechanisms.

Mechanics of change: from diagnostics to durable peace. DSEP baselines and geo-referenced dashboards establish the factual ground for targeting; DESA instruments translate findings into binding legal and fiduciary reforms; Major Programmes activate services and livelihoods; and MEC protocols ensure outcomes are verified, disclosed, and corrected when off-track. This chain is explicitly supported by open-government and integrity standards that require co-creation, disclosure, conflict-of-interest management, and public scorecards, creating sanctionable consequences for non-performance.

Interlocking with Major Programmes (activation logic). PCRN's results are delivered through an integrated portfolio of SLUC Major Programmes; each is assigned a peace function, standards, and indicators:

- **SDEP** provides the operational chassis: conflict diagnostics, technology stacks (e-early warning, open-data portals), accredited skills, and QA/QC. This ensures that all PCRN deployments are evidence-based, interoperable, and measurable under SDG16's accountability ethos.



- **HIRC** secures health access and resilience in fragile localities, reducing grievance drivers and strengthening state–society trust consistent with Agenda 2063’s governance aspiration and APSA’s prevention track.
- **EEN** restores education continuity and civic formation, reinforcing social cohesion and lawful participation, a precondition for inclusive institutions under SDG16 targets 16.6 and 16.7.
- **EVHEI** builds human capital pipelines, with youth and women mediators certified under DSEP. This addresses intergenerational justice and succession, reducing the relapse risk after cessation of hostilities.
- **ESA** embeds environmental stewardship and climate adaptation into post-conflict recovery, countering resource stress that fuels fragility; this aligns with Agenda 2063 sustainability commitments and SDG16’s rule-of-law for environmental protection.
- **TFT** installs digital connectivity, civic-tech tools, and secure data pipelines for early warning, grievance redress, and transparent reporting, meeting open-government participation and disclosure standards.
- **ETI** delivers essential infrastructure (water, energy, transport) to reduce conflict drivers; procurement and PPP governance are standardized under DESA and OECD PPP principles to ensure value for money and integrity.
- **SAP** rehabilitates staple-food systems and local value chains, closing scarcity gaps and stabilizing prices through lawful market activation, with debt and public-finance integrity aligned to AfDB governance strategies.
- **EESG** enables SMEs and inclusive market participation in post-conflict zones, anchored in beneficial-ownership and anti-corruption transparency; this reduces illicit flows and criminal rents identified under SDG16 targets 16.4 and 16.5.
- **CPIP** protects cultural assets and sponsors restorative dialogue, memorialization, and local identity projects that consolidate reconciliation and reduce the potency of divisive narratives; outputs feed public reporting cycles and mediation curricula.

REC integration (COMESA, SADC, EAC). PCRN’s regional operating picture is built on the RECs’ peace and security mandates and structures. In COMESA, the Peace and Security Programme (including the Committee of Elders and COMWARN early-warning system) provides the interface for conflict prevention, management, and post-conflict reconstruction, and is expressly coordinated with APSA to avoid duplication. PCRN routes diagnostics and mediation plans through COMESA PCUs and aligns borderland “Trading for Peace” measures with EESG and SAP activations. In SADC, the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs and its Protocol guide political, defence, and security cooperation, including post-conflict frameworks; PCRN adopts these instruments to anchor mediation mandates and consolidate recovery under RISDP and SIPO trajectories. In EAC, the Peace and Security Strategy and the Protocol on Peace and Security formalize cooperation in terrorism prevention, disaster response, early warning, and peace support operations; PCRN’s prevention and mediation platforms are harmonized with these regional mechanisms and Article 124 treaty obligations on peace and security.

Alignment with Agenda 2063 and SDG16 (normative anchors). Agenda 2063’s governance and peace aspirations and its financing and M&E arrangements are mapped to PCRN’s prevention-mediation-recovery continuum; this includes ten-year planning cycles, continental progress

reporting, and partnership modalities. SDG16 targets—on reducing violence, strengthening institutions, combating illicit flows, and ensuring participatory decision-making—are applied as the KPI canon for PCRN scorecards and public dashboards. This construct ensures that peacebuilding is not discretionary but audited against global standards, with iterative course correction.

Finance and resilience integration. AfDB’s Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience (2022–2026) and its Transition Support Facility are adopted as preferred instruments in African contexts to co-finance prevention, livelihood restoration, and institution-building. PCRN also exploits recent multilateral partnerships on fragility and climate security to compound resources across humanitarian-development-peace actors. This approach allows tailored terms, earlier engagement, and joint risk management in transition states, strengthening the durability of peace dividends.

Verification and public reporting. Open-government participation and co-creation standards, combined with OECD integrity benchmarks, are embedded in PCRN’s MEC. Public scorecards disclose conflict incidence, displacement trends, service accessibility, mediation resolution rates, and social cohesion indices, with independent audits and sanction regimes for non-compliance. This transparency lens ensures confidence restoration and a lawful feedback loop between citizens, councils, and state actors.

Integration matrix (summary).

| PCRN function | Major Programme lever | REC/APSA instrument | Agenda 2063 / SDG16 anchor |
|--|--|---|--|
| Prevention diagnostics & alerts | SDEP (diagnostics, dashboards) | CEWS; COMWARN; EAC early-warning; SADC Organ procedures | Agenda 2063 peace aspiration; SDG16.1 violence reduction |
| Service activation (health, education, food) | HIRC, EEN, SAP | REC service protocols aligned with APSA | SDG16.6 accountable institutions; Agenda 2063 governance aspiration |
| Mediation & restorative justice | Community platforms with EVHEI/DSEP training | Panel of the Wise; REC elders mechanisms | SDG16.7 participatory decision-making; Agenda 2063 governance aspiration |
| Recovery & livelihoods | ETI, EESG, CPIP, ESA | REC recovery compacts; SADC PCRD frameworks | SDG16.4/16.5 illicit flows & corruption; Agenda 2063 financing & implementation |
| Governance & compliance | DESA (DLRP, DPFIP, DGMP), DSEP MEC | PSC Protocol; REC treaties & protocols | SDG16.3 rule of law; SDG16.a access to information; Agenda 2063 M&E arrangements |

Outcome logic. If diagnostics and alerts are institutionalized under APSA/REC frameworks; if social services and livelihoods are activated through Major Programmes with lawful governance and integrity standards; if mediation and restorative justice are embedded with accredited skills and open reporting; and if financing is aligned to fragility strategies with independent verification and sanctions, then conflict incidence and displacement decline, cohesion increases, and institutions become more

accountable and inclusive. This is the durable pathway by which humanitarian relief transitions to lawful development, fulfilling Agenda 2063 aspirations and SDG16 targets over the fifty-year horizon

Financial and Resource Model

The financial architecture of PCRN is structured to guarantee predictability, transparency, and resilience across the prevention–mediation–recovery continuum. Financing is blended and codified under GSIA governance and DESA fiduciary standards, ensuring that resource flows are lawful, performance-anchored, and subject to independent verification.

Public Allocations and Regional Instruments:

Baseline funding is secured through national budget lines institutionalized for peacebuilding and prevention, complemented by REC-level allocations under peace and security protocols. These allocations are harmonized with Agenda 2063 financing frameworks and integrated into medium-term expenditure plans to prevent volatility and political interference.

Development Finance Windows:

African Development Bank instruments—including the Fragility and Resilience Strategy and Transition Support Facility—are adopted as primary co-financing channels for prevention and recovery measures. These facilities provide concessional terms and risk-sharing arrangements tailored to fragile contexts, ensuring liquidity during critical phases of mediation and reconstruction.

Impact Investment and PPP Structures:

Private capital is mobilized through structured public-private partnerships for community infrastructure—water systems, energy grids, connectivity platforms—that reduce conflict drivers. PPP governance adheres to OECD principles and DESA's DPFIP standards, embedding integrity clauses, disclosure obligations, and performance-based remuneration. Impact investors are incentivized through social-outcome bonds and blended finance vehicles linked to measurable reductions in conflict indicators.

Revenue and Sustainability Models:

Local revenue streams are institutionalized to reinforce sustainability. These include service contracts for infrastructure maintenance, cooperative market fees under EESG activations, and incubation equity for enterprises supported in recovery zones. Affordability safeguards are codified to prevent exclusion and ensure equitable access to services, consistent with Agenda for Social Equity 2074 principles.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Compliance (MEC)

The MEC framework for PCRN is declaratory and enforceable, designed to guarantee transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. It operates under GSIA oversight and DSEP technology standards, ensuring that all performance data is captured, verified, and disclosed through open-data dashboards.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

Indicators are structured across the prevention–mediation–recovery spectrum and aligned with SDG16 and Agenda 2063 governance aspirations. Core KPIs include:

- Conflict incidence and displacement trends (measured quarterly and geo-referenced).
- Service accessibility metrics for health, education, and food systems in high-risk zones.
- Mediation case resolution rates and compliance with restorative justice protocols.

- Social cohesion indices derived from community dialogue participation and grievance redress outcomes.
- Livelihood restoration metrics, including job placement, enterprise survival, and income changes in post-conflict areas.

Compliance Architecture:

Compliance is enforced through independent audits, ombuds services, and public reporting cycles. Verification bodies accredited under GSIA conduct annual scorecards and quinquennial evaluations, applying sanction regimes for non-performance or breach of neutrality. All MEC instruments are harmonized with REC security and human rights standards, Agenda 2063 monitoring frameworks, and SDG16 accountability targets. Beneficiary feedback loops are institutionalized through digital grievance platforms and community scorecards, ensuring participatory oversight and lawful recourse.

Risk Management and Sustainability Strategy

The risk management framework for PCRN is codified to anticipate, mitigate, and neutralize threats that could compromise peace durability or institutional integrity. Risks are categorized into structural, operational, and governance domains, and each is addressed through enforceable protocols under GSIA oversight and DESA compliance instruments.

Structural Risks:

Relapse into conflict due to unresolved grievances, resource scarcity, or exclusionary practices is mitigated through balanced investment in livelihoods, institutional capacity, and reconciliation mechanisms. Major Programmes—SAP for food security, ETI for infrastructure, and EESG for inclusive markets—are deployed as stabilizing levers to reduce economic stressors that fuel fragility.

Operational Risks:

Implementation delays, capacity gaps, and technology failures are countered through phased deployment under DSEP, vendor-neutral technology standards, and accredited skills pipelines. Contingency protocols mandate redundancy in early-warning systems and mediation platforms, ensuring continuity even under adverse conditions.

Governance Risks:

Political interference, corruption, and breach of neutrality are mitigated through multi-stakeholder governance compacts, independent ombuds services, and sanction regimes embedded in compliance architecture. Conflict-of-interest declarations, public reporting obligations, and open-data dashboards reinforce transparency and public trust.

Sustainability Strategy:

Sustainability is advanced through institutionalization of local peace capacities, statutory budget lines for prevention, and continuous skills transfer to community actors. Revenue models—service contracts, cooperative fees, and incubation equity—are codified to ensure financial resilience. Integration with Agenda 2063 and Agenda for Social Equity 2074 guarantees that peacebuilding remains a structural condition of governance and development, not an episodic intervention.

Alignment with Agenda for Social Equity 2074

PCRN is explicitly aligned with the fifty-year trajectory of Agenda for Social Equity 2074, which frames peace as a foundational condition for inclusive growth, institutional integrity, and intergenerational justice. This alignment is operationalized through:



- **Governance Integration:** PCRN embeds rule-of-law, transparency, and participatory decision-making into its institutional architecture, fulfilling Agenda 2074's mandate for accountable governance and lawful advocacy.
- **Equity Outcomes:** All interventions—service activation, mediation, recovery—are calibrated to reduce structural inequities in access to health, education, livelihoods, and justice, consistent with Agenda 2074's social equity canon.
- **Intergenerational Justice:** Youth and women are institutionalized as mediators and decision-makers under EVHEI and WYEH programmes, ensuring succession and continuity of peace capacities across generations.
- **Compliance and Reporting:** PCRN adopts Agenda 2074's performance compacts and public scorecard methodology, guaranteeing transparency and iterative course correction over the fifty-year horizon.

By harmonizing its objectives with Agenda 2063 aspirations for peace and security and SDG16 targets for just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, PCRN operates as a catalytic instrument within a global governance ecosystem, ensuring that peacebuilding is not aspirational but enforceable and measurable.

Alignment with GSIA and DESA

PCRN is embedded within the governance and policy architecture of the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA) and the DESA portfolio to ensure legitimacy, compliance, and interoperability across all SLUC programmes.

GSIA Governance Integration:

GSIA functions as the custodial oversight body for PCRN, providing a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform for governance, compliance, and performance verification. Under GSIA protocols, PCRN adopts enforceable standards for transparency, procurement integrity, and fiduciary accountability. Independent verification bodies accredited by GSIA conduct audits, publish public scorecards, and apply sanction regimes for non-compliance, ensuring that peacebuilding commitments are not aspirational but legally binding.

DESA Policy Instruments:

PCRN operationalizes peacebuilding through DESA's structured policy portfolio:

- **DLRP (Legal Reform and Policy Harmonisation):** Aligns national and REC-level peace frameworks with continental and international norms, embedding rule-of-law and rights protections.
- **DPFIP (Public Finance and Procurement Integrity):** Ensures that all financial flows for prevention and recovery adhere to integrity standards, with open contracting and beneficial ownership disclosure.
- **DGMP (Governance Modernisation):** Institutionalizes performance compacts and digital governance tools for mediation and recovery processes.
- **DMAP (Market Activation):** Facilitates lawful market participation in post-conflict zones, reducing illicit flows and economic exclusion.



- **DGEI (Gender Equity and Inclusion):** Guarantees gender-responsive peacebuilding, embedding women and youth as mediators and decision-makers.
- **DBIP and DIHAP:** Provide broadband connectivity and innovation hubs for early-warning systems and civic-tech platforms.
- **DTVET:** Certifies mediators, peace facilitators, and recovery specialists under accredited training regimes.

Through GSIA and DESA integration, PCRN achieves normative coherence, operational efficiency, and enforceable compliance across all governance tiers.

Final Word

The Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Network is not conceived as a discretionary programme but as a structural obligation within the SLUC architecture, binding peacebuilding to governance, equity, and lawful development over a fifty-year horizon. By institutionalizing prevention, mediation, and recovery under enforceable standards, PCRN transforms peace from a fragile aspiration into a measurable, durable condition of governance and social equity. Its alignment with Agenda for Social Equity 2074, Agenda 2063, and SDG16 ensures that every intervention—whether a community dialogue, a livelihood restoration compact, or a regional mediation platform—contributes to a continental and global trajectory of justice, inclusion, and resilience. Under GSIA custodianship and DESA policy instruments, PCRN stands as a guarantor of lawful peacebuilding, intergenerational justice, and transparent accountability, ensuring that the dividends of stability are equitably distributed and institutionally sustained across generations.

References

Global and Continental Frameworks

- [African Union – Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want](#)
- [Agenda 2063 Framework Document \(African Union Commission\)](#)
- [United Nations – Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)

Peace and Security Architecture

- [African Peace and Security Architecture \(APSA\) – AU Overview](#)
- [SADC – Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation](#)
- [EAC – Peace and Security Department](#)