

**Global Futures Forum 2023 Consultations on a People's Pact for the Future:  
Civil Society Perspectives for the UN We Need**

**Submission by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights**

**Peace and Security Theme**

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The People's Pact for the Future should call on States to reaffirm their intention to ensure that the United Nations consistently identifies and responds to threats to international peace and security in ways that are fully consistent with human rights, recognizing that only rights-respecting solutions are truly sustainable. States should also make the following specific commitments:

**Ensure that all actions undertaken by and outcomes of collaborative arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations reflect respect for human rights.** In the Pact for the Future, Member States are likely to express their support for increasing the use of collaborative arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations to challenges to international peace and security. It is essential that Member States also affirm that where the UN system participates in collaborative arrangements with regional organizations, the actions and outcomes of these arrangements must adhere to established UN normative frameworks, particularly human rights law. It should be clear that the outcomes of political negotiations and other responses to crises in which UN system actors participate or encourage must be consistent with these frameworks. This will ensure that the UN only contributes to efforts to realize and sustain peace that are genuinely in the interests of rights-holders.

**Commit to providing the necessary resources to apply the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to all areas of the organization's work with non-UN security forces and external partners.** In the Pact for the Future, Member States should recognize the value of the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)<sup>1</sup> and should commit to allocate sufficient resources to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that in the future it will be effectively applied to all situations in which UN actors are engaged in providing support to non-United Nations security forces. Member States should also mainstream the HRDDP throughout the work of the UN's agencies, funds, and programmes, to ensure that all UN system actors active in crisis situations are required to ensure that their actions in no way contribute to or facilitate the commission of atrocity crimes or associate the UN with the perpetrators of such acts.

**Strengthen the UN's capacity to recognize and address warning signs of insecurity and conflict using a rights-based approach.** The UN will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention in 2023. In the 2005 World Summit outcome document, States expressed their support for preventive efforts to address risks of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and they

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to Non-United Nations Security Forces (2015), <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Inter-Agency-HRDDP-Guidance-Note-2015.pdf>.

expressed their “full support for the mission of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide.”<sup>2</sup> In the Pact for the Future, States should reaffirm the value of preventive efforts to identify and produce guidance on addressing risk factors for atrocity crimes using a rights-based approach, and they should express their intention to ensure the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide receives additional support to undertake this work.

**Ensure regular human rights risk assessments to facilitate early warning and conflict prevention.** The Pact for the Future should support and enable all UN country teams to undertake regular human rights risk assessments, including gender-specific analysis, and identify this as one critical component of effective early warning and response to atrocity crimes. The Secretary-General stated in a 2022 report to the Human Rights Council that all UN Country Teams are expected to periodically undertake such risk assessments.<sup>3</sup> Member States should commit to providing the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the necessary resources to assist UNCTs in carrying out such assessments, with the active participation of and guidance from women and girls as well as members of minority and other vulnerable communities. The Pact for the Future should also identify **independent UN human rights mechanisms** as important preventive mechanisms, the statements, reports, and advice of which should be an essential reference point in the carrying out of risk assessments and in the design and delivery of all UN technical cooperation programs, development assistance, and crisis prevention initiatives.

**Encourage UN actors to respond to conflicts and humanitarian crises in ways that ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable, without discrimination, and do no harm.** In the Pact for the Future, Member States should also express their commitment to the principle that it is appropriate for UN system actors to undertake to deliver humanitarian aid and development assistance in ways that reach the most vulnerable affected by crises, without discrimination, and in ways that do not perpetuate or provide support for the commission of human rights violations.

**Contact: Christen Broecker, Deputy Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, [broeckerc@ajc.org](mailto:broeckerc@ajc.org).**

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<sup>2</sup> World Summit Outcome, UN Doc. A/RES/60/1 (2005)

<sup>3</sup> Progress made in the implementation of follow-up action to the recommendations of the ‘A brief and independent inquiry into the involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar from 2010 to 2018’ to strengthen the prevention capacity of the United Nations system – Report of the Secretary-General, UN Doc. A/HRC/49/73 (15 March 2022) 25-26, [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/A\\_HRC\\_49\\_73\\_Advance\\_unedited\\_version.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/A_HRC_49_73_Advance_unedited_version.docx).