On behalf of the following countries and the Prevention Project hosted by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice of the School of Law at NYU, we make the following submission for the
2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review

A Framework Approach to Prevention

A Brief on Possible Elements of National Prevention Policies

- Evidence also shows that prevention measures work better when they are not reduced to isolated initiatives. Scattershot, project-based approaches to prevention should be replaced by comprehensive policies, the various dimensions of which mutually support one another and produce sustainable impact over time.[6]

- Finally, but very importantly, the Prevention Project rests on an understanding of human rights that tries to recover the more pragmatic, problem-solving function of rights embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which member states adopted 75 years ago understanding that human rights are *ex ante* anti-grievance, and hence *preventive*, mechanisms, not only *ex post* accountability measures, as important as accountability certainly is.

Some possible elements of a national prevention plan

1. *Legal Identity.* This is a right so basic that it is hardly worth mentioning were it not for the fact that on the one hand   and that on the other, the number of people lacking this right is still staggering: in 2022, worldwide, twenty-three percent of children under five had not been   -   [7] SDG 16.9 appropriately focuses on this issue. Considering that legal identity is a precondition for the exercise of other rights including health, education, political participation, etc., and therefore an important element of protection, an upstreamed prevention policy should ensure legal identity for everyone. Attention should be paid to the fact that legal identity   , but that it affects adults in post-conflict settings where documents are often lost and registries destroyed, as well as in contexts in which discrimination is rife and authorities simply refuse to legally register members of certain groups. In addition, during a period in which there is

also in statelessness.[9] Given the enormous deficits in this area, to say that we already know how to establish legal identity is clearly no reason not to prioritize the topic.

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b. In the area of <u>constitutional reform</u>, checking for discriminatory provisions, and for an effective bill of rights with proper adjudicatory bodies and procedures (e.g., a constitutional court), are important ways of preventing grievances, especially of the sort that lead to *Pathways for Peace* report argues, may involve violations of rights in themselves and are crucial drivers of conflict.

c. <u>Access to Justice</u>. Even impeccably designed and operated judicial systems would fail both in their redress and in their preventive functions if they are largely inaccessible to the public. The justice deficit is immense and affects all regions in the world, even if for

7. *Environment.* Environmental disturbances increase the likelihood of violations of human rights and of conflict through different mechanisms, including displacement, rapid migration and urbanization, labor market instability, disruptions of supply chains, changes in food prices, logistical constraints, damages to infrastructure and housing, inequality, psychological responses, and natural disasters, all of which overstretch health services and other government systems designed to secure important human rights such as the rights to food, housing, and even security. A comprehensive prevention strategy should include considerations regarding mitigation and adaptation, and the latter, in particular, should make specific provisions for the sudden strains that environmental crises might provoke. In immediate terms, and depending on context, plans for (i) the protection of environmental defenders, (ii) the protection of those that are displaced because of environmental events, and (iii) assuring that the transition to a greener economy that respects the rights of all will be necessary (not happening at present for those involved in the mining of elements used in electric vehicles, nor, as manifested in the absence of provisions for the retraining of those that would lose jobs, for example, in the shift to decarbonized energy production).

8. *Health.* In the post-Covid-19 world, the reasons why public health policies should be part of a comprehensive prevention framework are perhaps more obvious than ever; health is a condition of the enjoyment of other rights and common goods, and its absence spares no important social area, from the economy to politics, education, and culture. Moreover, the maldistribution of what is clearly a public good, both globally and nationally, undermines trust in both multilateral and national institutions. Indeed, health-related institutions and regulations can become the targets of capture, and therefore a tool of social control, leading to well-justified grievances. The Prevention Project produced a report on public health and prevention, which highlights the preventive potential of health systems that secure primary care and universal access.[15] The project also produced a report focusing specifically on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). Although MHPSS is often considered a redress measure, it also has preventive potential, for, as is well known, human rights violations and conflict have significant mental health impacts, and these harms are not limited to the direct victims but can also be a collective experience. Furthermore, such impacts are transmitted intergenerational