

# Towards Sustainable Peace: Exploring Various Peacebuilding Methodologies Across Nations

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## ABSTRACT

Peace building refers to a comprehensive approach beyond the mere absence of violence. It encompasses activities and interventions that address the underlying causes of conflicts, promote reconciliation, and rebuild societies affected by violence (Boutros-Ghali, 1992). Peace building requires strengthening institutions and governance structures, and it involves promoting the rule of law, enhancing accountability, and supporting the development of effective and inclusive institutions. Strong institutions protect human rights, provide access to justice, and foster trust in the state (Bellamy et al., 2004). Peace building is a multidimensional and complex process that addresses the root causes of conflict and promotes sustainable peace. Scholars and practitioners have proposed numerous peacebuilding models to guide efforts in post-conflict societies. Peacebuilding interventions are crucial in conflict-affected regions around the world. They play a vital role in maintaining global peace and security. Various nations contribute resources and personnel to these operations, each employing different methodologies and approaches. This article examines the effectiveness of those various peacebuilding interventions and their impact on conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. It also explores the diverse peacekeeping methodologies followed by different countries and highlights their contributions to international peacekeeping efforts.

## Introduction

In an era marked by global disconnectedness and persistent socio-political unrest, the pursuit of peacebuilding has become an imperative for nations worldwide. Peacebuilding, defined as the process of promoting sustainable peace and preventing the resurgence of violence in post-conflict societies (Lederach, 1997), encompasses a diverse array of methodologies adopted by different countries to address conflicts within and beyond their borders. Peacebuilding is a complex and multifaceted process that involves various methodologies and approaches adopted by different countries to promote sustainable peace and stability within their borders and in conflict-affected regions. The concept of peacebuilding encompasses a wide range of activities and interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting reconciliation, and fostering social, economic, and political development. In practice, peacebuilding involves the collaboration of numerous actors, including regional, multilateral, and multinational entities, each contributing to the overall peacebuilding efforts (Charbonneau, 2014).

The significance of peacebuilding methodologies lies in their capacity to navigate complex societal, cultural, and political landscapes while addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting reconciliation among divergent factions (Bar-Tal & Bennink, 2004). While each nation faces unique challenges and contexts, there are overarching themes and approaches that emerge in the peacebuilding efforts of various countries. One notable aspect of peacebuilding methodologies is the emphasis on inclusive and participatory processes that engage diverse stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organizations, and grassroots communities (Paris, 2004). The literature on peace building reflects a growing emphasis on the "local turn" in peacebuilding, highlighting the importance of effective and emancipatory local peacebuilding initiatives. This shift towards local peacebuilding approaches underscores the need to incorporate indigenous knowledge, expertise, and methodologies in peacebuilding strategies to rectify persisting power biases in the field (Leonardsson & Rudd, 2015; Paffenholz, 2023; Ljungkvist & Jarstad, 2021). Furthermore, the role of gender in peacebuilding has gained significant attention, with scholars advocating for gendered peacebuilding processes that draw from the experiences of both men and women to address conflict issues and contribute to sustainable peace (Mbabazi et al., 2020).

Moreover, the critique of liberal peacebuilding has prompted scholars to explore postmodern post-liberal hybrid models of peacebuilding, aiming to move beyond the limitations of traditional liberal peacebuilding approaches and embrace more inclusive and context-specific methodologies (Tanabe, 2017; Owen & King, 2019). Additionally, the intersection

of peacebuilding with environmental conservation efforts has been highlighted, emphasizing the geographic overlaps between priority areas for forest carbon-storage and peacebuilding programs, thereby underscoring the implications for policy design (Castro-Nunez et al., 2017).

In this article, we aim to explore and analyze the peace building methodologies followed by different countries, drawing on empirical evidence and case studies from diverse contexts. By examining the successes, failures, and lessons learned from these experiences, we seek to contribute to a deeper understanding of effective strategies for promoting peace and stability in today's turbulent world. It aims to provide a comprehensive view of the peacebuilding methodologies adopted by various countries, drawing on a range of scholarly perspectives and empirical evidence to enrich our understanding of effective peacebuilding practices.

## **1. Peace building Interventions in various countries**

Several studies have examined the effectiveness of peacebuilding interventions in different parts of the world. According to Lederach, peacebuilding interventions can take various forms, including mediation, dialogue, reconciliation, and restorative justice. These interventions were implemented in various conflict-affected regions worldwide, including Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Northern Ireland. (Lederach,2015). One study by Galtung examined the impact of peacebuilding interventions in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. The study found that peacebuilding interventions, including dialogue and reconciliation programs, played a crucial role in promoting peace and reconciliation in the country (Galtung,2017). Similarly, another study by Hayner examined the impact of truth and reconciliation commissions in South Africa and found that these interventions effectively promoted national healing and reconciliation. However, not all peacebuilding interventions have been successful (Hayner, 2015). For example, a study by Paris examined the impact of international peacebuilding interventions in Afghanistan and found that these interventions failed to promote peace and stability in the country. The study argued that these interventions could have been more effective due to a lack of understanding of the local context and short engagement with local communities. (Paris, 2017)

Peacebuilding interventions in various countries have been a subject of extensive research and analysis. Scholars have highlighted the importance of incorporating local actors and communities in peacebuilding efforts to ensure effectiveness and sustainability (Paczyńska, 2023). Top-down approaches that neglect local priorities and interests have often been criticized for reinforcing power imbalances and being counterproductive (Paczyńska, 2023). The involvement of civil society in peacebuilding initiatives has been advocated to enhance indigenous contributions and overcome the limitations of externally driven interventions (Belloni, 2001). Resistance to peacebuilding efforts, ranging from everyday challenges to more significant forms, has been noted in critical peacebuilding research (Paffenholz, 2015).

Scholars have stressed the significance of gender-diverse leadership in peacebuilding initiatives to enhance governance and promote sustainable peace (Meagher et al., 2022). Incorporating health initiatives into peacebuilding efforts at the community level has been identified as a key factor in promoting peace and stability (AlGhatrif et al., 2022). Furthermore, the adaptation of peacebuilding strategies in response to global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic has been highlighted as essential for maintaining the continuity and efficacy of peacebuilding initiatives (Clark & Alberti, 2021).

## **2. United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping**

The United Nations is at the forefront of global peacekeeping efforts. Its peacekeeping operations are characterized by impartiality, consent, and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. The UN employs a multidimensional approach that includes military, police, and civilian components to address the root causes of conflicts and support the peace process (United Nations, 2021a). The UN's peacekeeping methodologies are aimed at conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding (United Nations, 2021b). Hultman et al. (2013) argue that UN peacekeeping significantly contributes to civilian protection in civil wars, emphasizing the importance of assessing the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions in safeguarding vulnerable populations. Schiel et al. (2020) focus on African states' involvement in peacekeeping operations, examining the occurrence of mutinies in both UN and non-UN missions. The study sheds light on the challenges faced by African sending states in peacekeeping deployments. Additionally, Brosig & Sempijja (2018) explore the comprehensive security provided by peace operations in Africa, highlighting the evolving

nature of peacekeeping practices. The gender dimension in peacekeeping has also garnered attention. Mehrl & Dworschak (2021) discuss the participation of female rebels in UN peacekeeping deployments, underscoring the importance of addressing gender issues in conflict resolution. Benson & Gizelis (2019) examine the role of sexual violence in attracting UN attention in civil wars, emphasizing the gendered imperative in peace and security efforts. Leadership within UN peacekeeping operations is another critical area of study. Oksamytna et al. (2020) focus on leadership selection, highlighting the appeal of UN peacekeeping leadership positions to member states. Jenne (2022) emphasizes the significance of understanding the individuals occupying leadership roles in peace operations, indicating broader implications for policymaking and international responsibilities.

### **3. The Holistic Approach of Canada**

Canada has always supported international peacekeeping missions. The government emphasizes a comprehensive strategy incorporating military, humanitarian, and diplomatic aspects. Canadian peacekeepers are involved in conflict prevention, civilian protection, and post-conflict stabilization. Peacekeeping efforts from the country frequently include developing local capacity building, advocating the rule of law, and promoting gender equality. (Government of Canada, 2021). Despite being a middle power with limited military capabilities, Canada has been able to exert significant global influence (Young, 2018). Canada's commitment to increasing the representation of women in UN peacekeeping missions aligns with the UN's call for a more holistic approach to peacekeeping operations (Hutabarat, 2017). Moreover, the theoretical model of private provision of public goods in peacekeeping emphasizes the public benefits generated by such missions (Bove & Elia, 2011). Canada's involvement in peacekeeping missions reflects a broader commitment to global peace and security (Hultman et al., 2013). However, a study exploring the decline in Canada's participation in UN peacekeeping operations sheds light on the political decision-making processes that have influenced this trend (Young, 2018). Despite this decline, Canada's historical legacy as a peacekeeping nation continues to resonate (Carroll, 2015). In the context of international peacekeeping, research examines the impact of UN peacekeeping on the occurrence of wartime sexual violence, highlighting the critical role of peacekeeping missions in protecting vulnerable populations (Johansson & Hultman, 2019).

Additionally, Canada's involvement in peacekeeping has been driven not only by altruism but also by practical considerations of national self-interest (Carroll, 2015). Canada's approach to peacekeeping has been characterized by a holistic perspective that encompasses various dimensions of peace operations (Biskupski-Mujanovic, 2019). Canada's peacekeeping efforts have been influenced by historical policies and initiatives, including its contributions to various conflicts and missions. These actions are often viewed within the narrative of peacekeeping as responsible actions or deviations from a continuous narrative of benevolent Canadian intervention in the world (Jefferess, 2009). Despite debates surrounding Canada's role in peacekeeping, the country has historically played a crucial role in leading peacekeeping initiatives across various dimensions (Sahajpal, 1969).

### **4. Japan's Development-Oriented Strategy**

Peacebuilding approaches in Japan are centered on development-oriented tactics. It focuses on post-conflict socioeconomic recovery, infrastructural development, and capacity building. Japan supports livelihood initiatives, educational programs, and infrastructure repair to address the fundamental causes of conflicts and promotes stability and long-term development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2021). Japan's approach to peacekeeping has evolved significantly in recent years, reflecting a shift in its security policy from a peace state to an international state (Singh, 2008). This transition has been characterized by a rearticulation of 'peace' in Japan's discourse, which has the potential to impact its relations with East Asian neighbors (Hagström & Hanssen, 2015). The country's security policy-making elite has introduced new policies that define its security policy, representing a departure from its traditional peace-state conception (Singh, 2008). Japan's evolving defense posture, particularly in its alliance with the United States, has been a subject of scholarly debate (Richardson, 2020). Some scholars argue that Japan is strengthening its alliance with the United States, while others suggest that Japan is reverting to a more autonomous and resolute posture in response to the changing security dynamics in the region (Fatton, 2018). This shift in Japan's security identity has implications for its future security policy and its role in maintaining regional stability. In the realm of international relations, Japan has been strategically engaging with Southeast Asia through a process of 'complex regional multilateralism' (Gilson, 2004). This approach

reflects Japan's changing orientation towards the region, emphasizing the importance of ad hoc engagements and loose frameworks for interaction. Additionally, Japan's arms transfer strategy has been undergoing diversification to re-center on the US-Japan alliance, reflecting efforts to generate new proactivity beyond previous limits (Hughes, 2017).

Japan's peacekeeping activities have been a subject of extensive debate and transformation, particularly in the late 1990s and early 2000s (Cantir & Kaarbo, 2011). The country has been involved in peacekeeping operations in various regions, including the Golan Heights, Sudan, and East Timor (Sawamura et al., 2008; Teo, 2019). These activities have been part of Japan's efforts to contribute to global peace and stability, aligning with its role as a "global civilian power" (Singh, 2008). Furthermore, Japan has sought to prevent the expansion of China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the importance of regional security and stability (Irsadanar, 2023). The evolution of Japan's peacekeeping strategy has been influenced by its changing security identity. While traditionally known as a "peace state," Japan has transitioned towards becoming an "international state" with an expanded security role (Miyaoaka, 2011). This shift has been accompanied by legal changes that have enabled Japan to engage in peacekeeping operations overseas, such as in Djibouti, South Sudan, and the Gulf of Aden (O'Malley, 2015). Additionally, Japan's peacekeeping efforts have been linked to its broader foreign policy objectives, including its engagement in the Middle East peace process and contributions to UN peacekeeping operations (Lesbirel, 2013). The domestic political landscape has also played a significant role in shaping Japan's peacekeeping strategy. Debates over Japan's participation in multilateral peacekeeping and its role in the United Nations Security Council have reflected competing perceptions of Japan as a "small country" versus a "normal power" (Cantir & Kaarbo, 2011). These debates have underscored the complexities of Japan's peacekeeping decisions and its aspirations for a greater regional security role, particularly in collaboration with the United States and Australia (Satake, 2016).

## **5. Humanitarian Peacekeeping in Brazil**

Brazil emphasizes humanitarian peacekeeping, including civilian protection and post-conflict support. Brazil has participated in 50 UN peacekeeping missions since 1947, totaling 57,700 military and civilian troops. From 2004 until 2017, Brazil led the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti, where over 37,000 troops were sent to restore order and deliver humanitarian help. Another notable example of Brazil's work as an UN-designated peacekeeper; from 2011 to 2021, Brazil commanded the UN Maritime Task Force to reestablish peace and security in Southern Lebanon. Around 4,000 Brazilian troops were successfully deployed in the operation. Brazil now participates in UN operations in Cyprus, the Central African Republic, Western Sahara, and Sudan. Brazilian peacekeeping operations heavily emphasize developing close relationships with local people and assisting in restoring essential services like health care and education. Brazil's engagement in peacekeeping operations has also been accompanied by a focus on providing technical and humanitarian assistance to support the establishment and development of young states, as evidenced by its contributions in East Timor (Borzova et al., 2020). This aligns with Brazil's broader foreign policy objectives, emphasizing the importance of humanitarian cooperation initiatives as a central component of its international relations strategy (Valença & Affonso, 2019). Furthermore, Brazil's role in peacekeeping has been subject to internal political discussions, with the National Congress engaging in debates regarding the acceptance and support of UN peacekeeping missions (Cardoso, 2015). These discussions reflect the complexities of Brazil's peacekeeping engagements and its commitment to upholding its foreign policy principles. Brazil's participation in peacekeeping operations has also been linked to its broader international responsibilities, particularly during the commodity boom in the 2000s, when it assumed leadership of the MINUSTAH peacekeeping mission in Haiti and expanded its role as a humanitarian donor and provider of development aid (Stuenkel, 2022).

## **6. Community-Based Approach in Rwanda**

Rwanda has taken an innovative community-based approach to peacekeeping. This method seeks to promote long-term peace by tackling the underlying social and economic causes that contribute to disputes. The idea behind the program is to combine military soldiers with civilian professionals who connect with local people, create confidence, and aid in areas such as education, infrastructure, and health development. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda, 2021). Rwanda has emerged as a significant contributor to international peacekeeping efforts, with



its involvement shaped by various factors, including the aftermath of the 1994 genocide. The country's robust posture in peacekeeping missions can be attributed to the impact of the genocide, which has influenced its approach to international peacekeeping norms (Harig & Jenne, 2022). Additionally, Rwanda's peacekeeping practices have been instrumental in promoting security in Africa, as evidenced by the reduction of violence against civilians and the overall enhancement of security in the region (Gatete & Kamande, 2021). Furthermore, Rwanda's commitment to an integrated, holistic-system approach to promoting health, as demonstrated by its policies and priorities, reflects its innovative community-based approach to peacekeeping (Nyatanyi et al., 2017).

Moreover, the role of peacekeeping in building peace from the bottom up, as evidenced by contributions to local security and economic vitality, underscores the multifaceted impact of peacekeeping deployments (Mvukiyehe, 2020). Rwanda's unique approach to peacekeeping aligns with the broader discourse on international peacekeeping, which emphasizes the importance of rule-based interventions in international politics (Dorussen, 2022). The country's contributions to peacekeeping missions have not only been driven by its historical experiences, such as the 1994 genocide, but also by its proactive engagement in promoting global health equity through innovative partnerships and shared learning (Binagwaho et al., 2013). Additionally, Rwanda's community-based health insurance initiatives have been recognized as vehicles for achieving universal health coverage, reflecting the country's comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing societal challenges (Nyandekwe et al., 2020; Zeng et al., 2014).

## **7. Peacebuilding Activities in China**

China has been active in several peacebuilding programs across the world, notably in Africa. China has offered considerable financial and technical assistance to African countries in order to foster peace and stability. China has also created the China-Africa Peace and Security Fund, which funds peacekeeping missions, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction. China has also participated in peacekeeping operations in certain places, such as the Korean Peninsula. China has played an important role in the Six-Party Talks, offering diplomatic and financial support to North Korea and other nations to foster communication and cooperation (Zhang, 2019). The peace process, however, has encountered enormous hurdles, including North Korea's nuclear weapons program and a lack of movement on critical topics such as sanctions and disarmament. (United Nations, 2021). China's peacebuilding activities are not limited to its own region, as it has also financed peacebuilding through the UN and the African Union, demonstrating a commitment to global peace efforts (Pursiainen et al., 2021). Furthermore, China's peacebuilding approach is distinct, focusing on addressing conflict through economic development while respecting the host country's sovereign rights (Wong & Li, 2021). This approach aligns with China's emphasis on non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, which it considers a cornerstone of its engagement in peacebuilding in Africa (Xu, 2017).

China's involvement in peacebuilding extends beyond financial support, as it has also engaged in military combat to protect its interests in Africa, indicating a willingness to adapt its traditional foreign policy of non-interference to meet the evolving demands of peacebuilding activities (Conteh-Morgan, 2021). Furthermore, China's engagement in peacebuilding is not limited to its own initiatives, as it has also participated in joint anti-piracy naval task forces off the coast of Africa, demonstrating a multifaceted approach to peacebuilding (Pursiainen et al., 2021).

## **8. Peacebuilding Activities in Norway**

Norway is renowned for its strong participation in global peacebuilding projects. Norway has participated in various peace efforts, including the 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and Palestine (Nygard, 2018). Norway has also played an essential role in the Sri Lankan peace process, offering mediation and facilitation services to encourage conversation and collaboration between the government and the Tamil Tigers (Nygard, 2018). Norway has been a significant contributor to peacebuilding efforts, particularly in promoting gender mainstreaming and women's rights in relation to peace and security. Norway's long-standing support for gender equality is evident in its active role in advocating for the inclusion of women in all matters related to international peace and security, as called for in UN Resolution 1325 (Larsen et al., 2021; Tryggestad, 2014). The country's commitment to promoting increased coherence, coordination, and cooperation in conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding is exemplified through its participation in the "Utstein Group," which aims to enhance collaboration on peacebuilding activities (Reinsberg & Westerwinter, 2019). Norway's efforts in peacebuilding

extend beyond its own region, as evidenced by its participation in peacebuilding initiatives in Myanmar, reflecting its innovative approaches to peacebuilding on a global scale (Alexandra & Lanteigne, 2017). Norway's unique approach to peacebuilding aligns with its feminist foreign policy, emphasizing the importance of feminist philosophy in shaping its foreign policy decisions (Aggestam et al., 2018). This approach underscores Norway's commitment to integrating feminist perspectives into its peacebuilding activities, contributing to the advancement of gender equality and nation branding in the Nordic region (Larsen et al., 2021).

## **9. Peace Building activities of India**

India has an extensive record of participation in UN peacekeeping missions. The country is well-known for large-scale deployments of troops, police, and military observers. India's peacekeepers help with a variety of duties, including conflict resolution, civilian protection, disarmament, and capacity building. India has played an important role in peacekeeping operations in a number of locations, including Africa and the Middle East. (Ministry of External Affairs, 2021.) In addition, India has actively participated in regional organizations such as SAARC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), fostering regional cooperation and stability (Rana, 2018).

India has emerged as a significant player in peacebuilding activities, both domestically and internationally. The country's commitment to peace and sustainable development has garnered support from the international community, contributing to peaceful regional cooperation Tien (2021). India's engagement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding is evident in its efforts to promote harmony and stability in the South Asian region, particularly in its relations with neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh ("Kartarpur Corridor: Re-defining Security in South Asian Region", 2022; Parven & Hasan, 2018). Furthermore, India's involvement in peacebuilding extends to its contributions to conflict-affected states, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, aligning with the UN concept of 'sustaining peace' (Choedon, 2023). India's peacebuilding initiatives are also influenced by its historical, social, and political contexts, particularly in addressing complex issues such as Hindu-Muslim relations and the Kashmir conflict (Khan & Sen, 2009; Thalpwila, 2022). The country's commitment to resolving conflicts is further underscored by its engagement in trans-boundary water conflicts with Bangladesh and its role in the Korean peace process, reflecting its efforts to broaden relations beyond South Asia (Ouellette, 2019; Murshed & Mamoon, 2010; Basnet, 2019). The country's emphasis on civil society engagement and communal harmony building reflects its multifaceted approach to peacebuilding, particularly in addressing low-intensity conflicts within its borders (Bhattacharya, 2023; Basnet, 2019).

However, India faces challenges in its peacebuilding efforts, particularly in the context of the Kashmir conflict and its relations with Pakistan. The unresolved nature of the Kashmir conflict and the historical tensions between India and Pakistan pose significant obstacles to achieving sustainable peace in the region (Thalpwila, 2022; Baba, 2014). Additionally, India's engagement in conflict resolution is influenced by its geopolitical implications, particularly in its relations with China and the broader South Asian region ("Sino-Indian Ties and the Future of South Asia: Geopolitical Implications for Pakistan", 2022; Graça & Kharé, 2020).

## **10. Pakistan's Peacebuilding Efforts**

Pakistan has participated in several regional and global peacebuilding projects. The Composite Dialogue Process (CDP), which began in 2004, is one of the major initiatives. The CDP sought to resolve ongoing issues between Pakistan and India, including the Kashmir dispute, terrorism, and economic cooperation. Despite several setbacks, the CDP has resulted in some beneficial achievements, such as the 2005 agreement on the pre-notification of ballistic missile testing (Ganguly & Kapur, 2012). Pakistan has also taken part in regional organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in order to foster regional peace and stability. Pakistan has been actively engaged in peacebuilding efforts, particularly in its bilateral relations with India. Khan (2023) discusses the application of environmental peacebuilding in the context of Pakistan-India relations, highlighting the potential for environmental initiatives to contribute to peacebuilding. Furthermore, the role of women in peacebuilding has been explored, with a focus on the local community peacebuilding initiatives of women's first Jirga in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. This demonstrates the diverse and grassroots nature of peacebuilding efforts in Pakistan.

addition, the influence of social media on positive youth development and engagement towards peacebuilding in Pakistan has been examined, shedding light on the role of technology in fostering peace. Moreover, the need for effective strategies to capitalize on Pakistan's role in regional and international peacebuilding efforts has been emphasized, underscoring the significance of Pakistan's foreign policy objectives in peacebuilding.

Furthermore, the role of local peace actors, such as the Jirga system, has been highlighted in the peacebuilding and development efforts in Pakistan's terrorism-affected Pashtun districts (Alam, 2021). This underscores the importance of indigenous peacebuilding mechanisms in addressing local conflicts and fostering sustainable peace. Moreover, the socio-economic hurdles to peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas of Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have been investigated, shedding light on the complex challenges that impede peacebuilding efforts in the region (Hussain, 2021). Understanding these hurdles is crucial for developing targeted interventions to address the root causes of conflict and promote peace in Pakistan. In the context of regional dynamics, the potential for peacebuilding with Chinese characteristics in Afghanistan/Pakistan has been examined, highlighting the prospects for collaboration and peacebuilding initiatives with China (Wong & Li, 2021). This underscores the interconnectedness of peacebuilding efforts across borders and the need for regional cooperation in fostering sustainable peace.

## **11. India and Pakistan's Peacebuilding Efforts**

The peacebuilding efforts between Pakistan and India have been a subject of extensive research and analysis. The conflict between these two nations has deep historical roots, stemming from the partition of British India in 1947. The Hindu-Muslim conflict in Gujarat, India, has been a focal point of peacebuilding initiatives, with preliminary recommendations being made for peacebuilding between the two communities (Shankar & Gerstein, 2007). Additionally, the role of emotions in interstate relations has been explored to reconceptualize Pakistan's obsession vis-a-vis India, shedding light on the psychological aspects of the conflict (Kadir & Jawad, 2020). Furthermore, the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor has been highlighted as a unique collaborative initiative between Pakistan and India, with potential implications for peacebuilding (Shahzad et al., 2022). The role of the Kartarpur Corridor in redefining security in the South Asian region has been emphasized, signifying its potential contribution to peacebuilding efforts ("Kartarpur Corridor: Re-defining Security in South Asian Region", 2022). Moreover, the challenges of nuclear deterrence stability in South Asia have been discussed, indicating the complexities and fragility of the relationship between India and Pakistan (Sadiq & Ali, 2022).

In the context of water security, conflicts over large-scale water development projects in the Indian and Pakistani parts of the Indus Basin have been reviewed, underscoring the significance of water resources in the region and their potential impact on peacebuilding efforts (Mustafa, 2007). Additionally, the theoretical perspective on India-Pakistan water relations has been examined, highlighting the rising cooperative water security in the region as a potential avenue for peacebuilding (Mehsud et al., 2021). Furthermore, the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the context of the post-Pulwama Indo-Pak conflict has been reconnoitered, emphasizing the impact of terrorism on the relations between the two nations and its implications for peacebuilding (Singh et al., 2022).

The Indo-Pak media approach towards peace and war journalism during policy crises has been analyzed, shedding light on the role of media in shaping perceptions and influencing peacebuilding efforts (Din et al., 2021). Moreover, the emerging China, Pakistan, and Russia strategic triangle has been identified as a factor influencing India's strategic dynamics, which in turn has implications for peacebuilding efforts in the region (Thoker & Singh, 2017). The role of the US factor in Sino-Indian relations has been explored, indicating the complex geopolitical landscape and its impact on peacebuilding initiatives ("US Factor in Sino-Indian Relations: An Analysis", 2023).

Over the years, India and Pakistan have participated in various peacebuilding programs to enhance their bilateral relationship and lower tensions between the two countries. Among these activities are:

**11.1. Track-II Diplomacy:** This entails informal conversations and meetings among different groups of people from both nations to foster trust and dialogue. The India-Pakistan Neemrana Dialogue, for example, is a Track-II program that brings together scholars, former diplomats, and military leaders from both nations to address shared concerns (Ganguly & Kapur, 2010).

**11.2. Cultural Collaborations:** To enhance people-to-people interaction and build understanding between the two countries, India and Pakistan have also engaged in cultural exchanges such as music and sports. For example, cricket matches between India and Pakistan are popular events that draw followers from both nations (Kumar, 2018).

**11.3. Economic Partnership:** To strengthen their bilateral relationship, India and Pakistan have looked at prospects for economic cooperation such as trade and investment. However, the efforts have been slow because of political difficulties and security concerns (Siddiqui, 2019).

These peacebuilding efforts have had different degrees of success, but they are essential to fostering discussion and lowering tensions between India and Pakistan.

#### 11.4. Analysis and comparison

Pakistan and India have both proved their dedication to peacebuilding via different efforts. While the CDP has had its issues, it has also resulted in some positive outcomes, suggesting the potential for discussion in addressing disputes. Participation in regional organizations and UN peacekeeping deployments underlines nations' shared commitment to regional and global peacebuilding efforts. However, Pakistan and India's peacebuilding efforts have also encountered severe hurdles. The continued tensions over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism have hampered the success of bilateral projects (Ganguly & Kapur, 2012). Furthermore, regional rivalry and distrust have hampered the efficacy of organizations such as SAARC in supporting regional stability (Rana, 2018).

#### 11.5 Identifying and Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict

To establish long-term peace, Pakistan and India must address the underlying causes of their disputes, such as the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism. This can be accomplished by prolonged communication, third-party mediation, and civil society engagement in the peace process. By tackling the core causes of conflict, both nations may set the road for a more peaceful and stable area. For example, student exchange programs, joint cultural festivals, and sporting activities can help break down prejudices and foster a feeling of shared identity (Pande, 2018). Cooperation on counter terrorism and security matters is critical for Pakistan and India to establish confidence and ensure regional stability. Both nations can benefit from intelligence sharing, joint counter terrorism exercises, and border security collaboration. (Rais, 2008). Pakistan and India may demonstrate their commitment to regional peace and stability by cooperating to solve mutual security issues. Collaboration in education and research may be essential in creating mutual comprehension and encouraging peace between Pakistan and India. Joint research initiatives, academic conferences, and faculty exchange programs can contribute to developing a network of academics and professionals committed to discovering new answers to regional concerns. By investing in educational and scientific partnerships, both nations may contribute to a more informed and productive discussion on peacebuilding (Nayak, 2016).

#### 11.6 Future Peacebuilding Obstacles and Opportunities

The relationship between Pakistan and India has been marred by historical conflicts and disputes, presenting significant obstacles to peacebuilding in the region. Shankar & Gerstein (2007) highlight the Hindu-Muslim conflict in India and provide preliminary recommendations for peacebuilding, shedding light on the complexities of interreligious tensions. Additionally, Bainiwal (2020) discusses the religious and political dimensions of the Kartarpur Corridor, emphasizing the strategic imperatives of India and Pakistan in managing access to sacred shrines, which significantly impacts peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, Munir et al. (2021) delve into the water conflict between Pakistan and India, underlining how uncertainties over the interpretation of treaties have become a major source of friction. This conflict adds another layer of complexity to the peacebuilding process. Moreover, Khan (2022) discusses the implementation of Kashmir as an independent state, asserting that as long as both countries maintain historically defensive positions, long-term peace in Kashmir remains elusive. Trade and economic relations also play a crucial role in peace promotion between the two nations. Gul et al. (2018) emphasize the potential of trade to mollify strained relations and foster peace and



harmony. Similarly, Naqvi (2009) recommends strengthening trade processes and reducing impediments to trade logistics, potentially considering a free trade agreement with India. These economic perspectives provide insights into alternative avenues for peacebuilding.

## CONCLUSION

Different nations use various peacekeeping approaches that reflect their aims, experiences, and regional dynamics. The United Nations provides a global norm for peacekeeping, although individual countries have created their techniques to participate in peacekeeping missions successfully. Understanding and analysing these varied techniques may help the international community improve and refine peacekeeping practices, improving global peace and security. In conclusion, the diverse methodologies followed by different countries in peacebuilding reflect a dynamic and evolving landscape, encompassing local, gendered, post-liberal, and innovative approaches that seek to address the complexities of conflict and contribute to sustainable peace. The concept of everyday peace has been highlighted as an important building block of peace formation, especially in the context of deficient formal approaches to peacebuilding and statebuilding Ginty (2014). However, the local turn in peacebuilding has been critiqued for its binary and essentialist understanding of the local and international, which may limit its potential for achieving sustainable peace (Paffenholz, 2015). The spatial associations between forest carbon-storage efforts and peacebuilding programs have underscored the potential interactions between environmental conservation and peacebuilding initiatives (Castro-Nunez et al., 2017). Moreover, the need for a third local turn in peacebuilding has been emphasized, focusing on achieving localization in everyday peacebuilding and avoiding the neutralizing effects of incumbent, technocratic approaches (Paffenholz, 2023). The insights from studies on blockchain technology for environmental peacebuilding have the potential to guide policymakers in resolving issues such as lack of governance and low state agency in conflict-affected regions (Huseynov, 2023). The perpetual peacebuilding paradigm has been proposed as a new approach to move beyond the linearity of liberal peacebuilding, abandoning notions of success and failure and embracing a utopian and subjective view of peace (Paffenholz, 2021). Additionally, the wide applications of peacebuilding strategies, such as art therapy, have been identified to parallel storytelling, psychological restoration, justice orientation, and community building (Potash, 2023). In summary, the comprehensive analysis of peacebuilding methodologies adopted by various countries provides valuable insights into the evolving landscape of peacebuilding, emphasizing the need for context-specific, inclusive, and sustainable approaches to address the complexities of conflict and contribute to lasting peace.

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