



Annual report 2023

Unlocking the Power of the Network Approach



A Network of People
Building Peace



Introduction

Dear members, partners, and fellow changemakers,

Unprecedented global challenges marked every corner of the world in 2023. From Palestine to Ukraine, Sudan to Haiti, conflict and multidimensional crises continued to drive instability. Governments struggled to cope with the hottest year on record, as climate change fueled wildfires, droughts, and violent storms, disproportionately impacting people in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Yet, despite these daunting circumstances, the GPPAC network and its members beat the odds – in their communities and at the national, regional, and global levels. They continued to weave together their knowledge and experience to strengthen peacebuilding efforts. They continued to build strong partnerships with policymakers, sharing their on-the-ground experiences to influence global policies. And they stood together in solidarity.

Members leaned on the GPPAC network in so many different ways, and in doing so, they strengthened and enriched it, as well as their individual and collective impact.



Yoshioka Tatsuya
Chair of the GPPAC Board

The stories in this report bring to life the GPPAC network approach to peacebuilding, showcasing how the GPPAC network amplifies impactful peacebuilding at the local, regional, and global levels. The stories further illustrate the benefits members derive from the network. Dive into the pages of this 2023 annual report filled with inspiring stories of resilience, collaboration, and the transformative power of a network committed to building sustainable peace around the world.

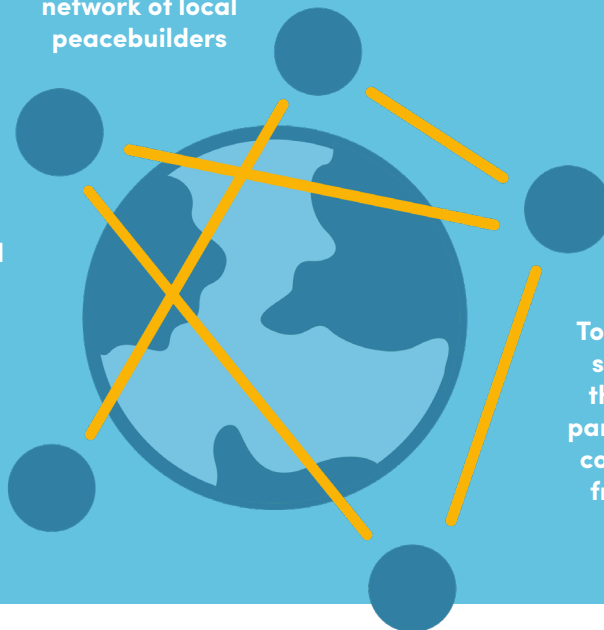
Yoshioka Tatsuya
Chair of the GPPAC Board

At a glance

We are GPPAC –
the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

We are the world's
largest global
network of local
peacebuilders

We seek a world
where violence
and armed
conflicts are
prevented



Together we are
stronger than
the sum of our
parts because we
constantly learn
from and with
each other

Our goal by 2025



Peacebuilding policies,
practices and infrastructures
are rooted in locally-led
and locally-grounded
peacebuilding

We focus on



Locally-led
peacebuilding
action



Inclusion of
Women and Youth
Peacebuilders



Climate security
and emerging
threats



Annual report 2023

Our network in stories



A Network of People
Building Peace



At the global level

Making the case for working with peacebuilding networks

Picture the power of this: people from every corner of the world, deeply committed to peacebuilding, putting their heads together to strengthen their collective action. That is precisely what happened in December 2023 in New York when local peace actors and representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes, gathered for the inaugural CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding to discuss peacebuilding strategies and policies and jointly shape global peacebuilding goals.

This Dialogue wasn't just a meeting. It was a collaborative effort to foster stronger ties between the UN and civil society, resulting from many months of GPPAC's engagement with the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. GPPAC, as part of the core group that brought the Dialogue to life, played a crucial role in shaping its agenda. GPPAC's active involvement in the CSO-UN Dialogue on Peacebuilding is a testament to the fact that global policymakers consult GPPAC as a go-to source for locally-led peacebuilding.



Read the reflections from GPPAC members, offering [thoughtful insights into advancing and broadening the CS-UN partnership for more effective peacebuilding action.](#)

These emerged from the following key activities:

- **Two online learning sessions: One with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the Partnership Pillar in the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Agenda, and another on crafting strong advocacy messages.**
- **An in-person co-creation session, held the day before the CSO-UN Dialogue, where GPPAC members worked together to finalise collective messaging.**

Because of these preparations, members were able to weave their messages together, creating a unified and powerful voice at the global level.

GPPAC members shared their recommendations not only during the CSO-UN Dialogue but also during two side meetings on the following topics:

- **[Unpacking a Network Approach: The Role of Networks, Movements and Coalitions in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#)**
- **[Towards Quality Financing for Peacebuilding: Community-Focused Accountability and Locally-Led Determination](#)**

What are the three reasons UN agencies and international partners should systematically and institutionally work with peacebuilding networks to sustain peace? [Click here to find out!](#)



At the regional level

Launching the Pacific Women Mediators Network

The story you are about to read illustrates that the impact of peacebuilding does not happen overnight. It can take decades of building and nurturing partnerships, following well-crafted engagement strategies at the local, national, regional, and global levels and implementing them to promote and establish new standards and principles.

This story is a striking example of this. Witness the remarkable journey of how decades of persistent local effort by Pacific Island women rippled across the globe, shaping international policies at the UN that ultimately returned to touch the lives of countless women in the Pacific and beyond with the official launch of the Pacific Women Mediators Network in June 2023.

[Read on!](#)

At the regional level

Connecting members from Central Asia and the Western Balkans

In the Ferghana Valley, where historical border conflicts have left deep wounds among women from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, GPPAC members recognised the crucial need for a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)-informed approach to foster genuine reconciliation and lasting peace.

As part of their project, [Women Leading Peace](#), GPPAC member, Foundation for Tolerance International, envisioned organising a training addressing this urgent need. Understanding the importance of having neutral facilitators from outside the region, members reached out to the global GPPAC network. They trusted that the network would provide them with the right individuals possessing the necessary skills and experience to facilitate these sensitive discussions.

The value of the network approach is that it is grounded in trust, and fosters a sense of unity, despite the variety within the network's composition. It creates a foundation for strategic collaboration through belonging, building on partnerships and relying on peer support and the sharing of experiences, lessons learned, best practices, and expertise.



Photo: Irene Strong, unsplash

This came through strongly in this project, with expert GPPAC members Biljana Lajovic and Tatjana Popovic from the Western Balkans expertly facilitating the training on resilience-building, trauma healing, and psychosocial support for women peace-builders from Central Asia. Thanks to their membership in the GPPAC network, the trainers and the participants felt a sense of belonging and trust right from the start, enabling forthright discussion and sensitive exchange.

[In this interview](#), Biljana Lajovic talks about how psychosocial support empowers women to participate in peace processes and the role that networks play.

This work was supported through GPPAC's partnership with the [Rapid Response Window of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#), which supports strategic initiatives to increase women's meaningful participation in peace processes.



At the national level

A transformative learning journey through Cameroon

Travel with Lawal, a passionate peace-builder from GPPAC Western Africa, as he experiences firsthand the incredible work of GPPAC members in Eastern Central Africa. From intergenerational dialogues to Youth Think Tanks for Peace, discover how these initiatives transform the lives and communities affected by the Anglophone crisis that broke out in 2016 when a protest aiming to keep the English-speaking legal and education system in the Southwest and Northwest escalated into armed rebellion.

[Click here](#) to read the full story and see how these cross-regional connections pave the way for more impactful peace-building.

GPPAC members also participated in a civil society-donor roundtable discussion in Yaoundé, Cameroon, focused on identifying best practices to champion solutions for more impactful financing for peacebuilding in Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda. [Read the summary note here.](#)



At the national level

What's the driving force behind Youth Think Tank Clubs for Peace in Cameroon?

"I look forward to living in a hate-free Cameroon, where people accept and celebrate their differences. A Cameroon, where language, culture and religion unite people instead of driving them apart."

Despite the sombre reality of the ongoing crisis in Cameroon, Bamenda resident, Mali, refuses to be defined by the turmoil in her country, choosing to rise above and embrace the power of peace. How? [Click here to read her inspiring story!](#)



At the national level

Championing women's participation in peace processes

We partner with the Rapid Response Window of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), which quickly mobilises critical financing for local organisations to advance further women's meaningful participation in formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

As part of this partnership, GPPAC supports local women-led organisations to advance women's meaningful participation in formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. In 2023, we supported local women in:

Palestine: [Empowering young Palestinian women in peace negotiations](#)

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan: [Raising women's voices in peace processes in Central Asia](#)

Uganda: [Women as Peacemakers: Transforming Peace in Yumbe District, Uganda](#)

Find out more about our partnership [here](#)!

About GPPAC

Thank you to our members and our donors

Our donors are part and parcel of our collective effort to build locally-owned and locally-led inclusive, sustainable peace.

The GPPAC network thanks them for their continued support and trust in making our work possible.

When you give to GPPAC, you give trust. You create the conditions for the peacebuilders in our network to unite. You give them training, safe spaces to meet and learn from and with each other, the knowledge that they are not alone, and a platform to tell their stories.

**You embolden
peace.**

**You enable
peace.**

**You make peace
more powerful.**



Integrity

Integrity and accountability are always at the heart of GPPAC's work, both at the network and the Global Secretariat level, as we strive to conduct all our operations with honesty and transparency.

The Global Secretariat Code of Conduct applies to our employees, interns, and contractors, as well as to GPPAC Board members. It outlines the need to protect the organisation's legality and thus behave ethically and responsibly regarding its finances, partnerships, and public image. In December 2023, we updated the Code of Conduct and developed separate Reporting and Investigation Protocols. The staff and Board members acknowledged these documents.

The GPPAC Network Integrity policy, approved by the International Steering Group in 2019, sets out how member organisations, their employees, interns, volunteers, and others associated with them should practice code of conduct principles in their involvement in GPPAC activities and when representing GPPAC in any way.

In 2023, no integrity violations were reported.



Financial report 2023



Photo: Mor Shani, unsplash

A Network of People
Building Peace

Balance sheet

as at December 31, 2023 (after appropriation of the result)

Assets

| | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible assets | 9,692 | 531 |
| Intangible assets | 0 | 8,277 |
| | 9,692 | 8,808 |
| Current assets | | |
| Receivables | 144,503 | 168,988 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 692,299 | 728,380 |
| | 836,802 | 897,368 |
| | 846,494 | 906,176 |

Liabilities

| | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Reserves | | |
| Continuity reserve | 87,281 | 82,143 |
| Intangible assets | 0 | 0 |
| | 87,281 | 82,143 |
| Short-term liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | 33,843 | 9,410 |
| Taxes and social security payments | 27,752 | 20,915 |
| Received pre-payments donors | 600,288 | 661,044 |
| Accruals, provisions and other liabilities | 97,330 | 132,664 |
| | 759,213 | 824,033 |
| | 846,494 | 906,176 |

Statement of income and expenditure

for the year 2023

| | Realisation 2023 | Realisation 2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Income | | |
| Grants from governments and others | 1,557,939 | 1,598,286 |
| Income other than grants | 5,138 | 2,809 |
| Sum of income | 1,563,077 | 1,601,095 |
| Expenses | | |
| Expenditure on behalf of the objective | | |
| Result area 1: Network and Learning | 934,183 | 956,194 |
| Result area 2: Policy change | 316,402 | 368,112 |
| | 1,250,585 | 1,324,306 |
| Expenditure fundraising | | |
| Costs obtaining government grants and others | 91,352 | 69,443 |
| Management & administration | | |
| Costs management & administration | 216,002 | 231,530 |
| Sum of expenses | 1,557,939 | 1,625,279 |
| Surplus/deficit | 5,138 | -24,184 |
| Appropriation of result | | |
| Continuity reserve | 5,138 | -5,264 |
| Earmarked reserve | 0 | -18,920 |
| Result | 5,138 | -24,184 |

GPPAC International Steering Group

Central Asia

Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)

Eastern & Central Africa

Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

Eastern Europe

Non-Violence International

Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Coordination for Economic and Social Research (CRIES)

North America

Partners Global

Northeast Asia

Peace Boat

South Asia

National Institute of Advanced Studies

South Caucasus

International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN)

Southeast Asia

Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)

Southern Africa

Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS)

The Middle East and North Africa

Permanent Peace Movement (PPM)

The Pacific

Transcend Oceania

West Africa

Building Blocks for Peace

Western Balkans

Nansen Dialogue Centre Mostar

Non-Regional ISG Members

African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)

World Federalist Movement -
Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP)

World Vision International

Organisation & Governance



Organisation and governance

The GPPAC Foundation is a Foundation (“Stichting”) under Dutch Law. The Board of the GPPAC Foundation consists of at least five members. Members of the Board are appointed upon nomination by the GPPAC International Steering Group (ISG). Each of the fourteen GPPAC regions is represented in the ISG, which determines joint global priorities and actions.

The GPPAC Board provides leadership and is accountable to the ISG. Members of the Board serve for three years, which can be renewed twice. Membership of the Board is voluntary and does not involve any form of financial compensation other than the reimbursement of expenses. The Board appoints and supervises the Executive Director of the GPPAC

Foundation. The Executive Director is compensated within the Terms and Conditions of Employment of the GPPAC Foundation at a rate commensurate with the Guidelines for compensation of Directors of Charitable Organisations, established by the Netherlands Professional Association of Charitable Organisations.

For an interim period in 2023, during which the Executive Director function was unoccupied, the Board of GPPAC provided oversight and leadership of the Secretariat in day-to-day operations. The members of the Board were not remunerated for this exceptional role.

Organisation & Governance

The GPPAC Board

Yoshioka Tatsuya

Board Chair, Founder and Director Peace Boat, Japan

Herman Kreulen

Board Treasurer, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Charlotte Divin

Programme Funding Manager at Peace Direct, United Kingdom

Nqobile Moyo

Director Voices In the Vision for Africa (VIVA), Zimbabwe

Frank van den Akker

Non-executive board member for various not-for-profit institutions and social entrepreneur, the Netherlands

Global Secretariat Staff

Amanda Huits

Planning, Monitoring Evaluation Officer (until September 2023)

Beatrice Giovannoni

Junior Communications and MEL Officer (until September 2023)

Ina Smitenberg

Chief Operations Officer ad interim (September 2023 – January 2024)

Ingrid Peroti

Operations Assistant

Johanna Hilbert

Communication and Advocacy Adviser

Kateryna Gryniuk

Regional Officer Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus

Kees Kolsteeg

Finance Officer

Maja Vitas Majstorović

Gender and Inclusivity Adviser

Marie-Laure Poiré

Manager Fundraising and Advocacy

Marina Kumskova

Senior UN Policy and Advocacy Adviser

Pupul Lama

Junior Communications and MEL Officer (as of October 2023)

Sabine Harmes

Planning, Monitoring Evaluation Officer (as of December 2023)

Sarra Messaoudi

Network Coordinator

Wieteke Overbeek

Planning, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer

Editor

GPPAC Communications

Design

GPPAC Communications

Published by

the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Alexanderveld 5, 2585 DB

The Hague, the Netherlands

T: +31 (0)70 311 0970 | E: info@gppac.net | www.gppac.net

GPPAC is ISO 9001:2015 certified

All rights reserved

Copyright © 2024 GPPAC



A Network of People
Building Peace