

# Executive Summary

**Alert 2023! Report on conflicts, human rights and peacebuilding** is an annual report analyzing the state of the world in terms of conflict and peacebuilding based on three main axes: armed conflict, tensions, gender and peace and security. The analysis of the most relevant events in 2022 and the nature, causes, dynamics, actors and consequences of the main scenarios of armed conflict and social and political tension around the world allows for a regional comparative vision and also allows identifying global trends and elements of risk and preventive warnings for the future. Furthermore, the report also identifies peacebuilding opportunities or opportunities to scale down, prevent or resolve conflicts. In both cases, one of the main objectives in this report is to make available all the information, analyses and identification of warning factors and peace opportunities for decision-makers, those intervening for the peaceful resolution to conflicts, or those giving a greater political, media or academic visibility to the many situations of political and social violence in the world.

As for the methodology, the contents of this report mainly draw on a qualitative analysis of studies and information made available by many sources –the United Nations, international organizations, research centres, communication media or NGOs, among others– as well as on field research in conflict-affected countries.

Some of the most relevant conclusions and information in the *Alert 2023!* report are listed below:

- Thirty-three armed conflicts were reported in 2022, a slightly higher figure than the previous year. Most of the armed conflicts were concentrated in Africa (16) and Asia (nine), followed by the Middle East (five), Europe (two) and the Americas (one).
- For the first time in a decade, high-intensity armed conflicts accounted for more than half (52%) of all cases worldwide.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine increased the number of international conflicts (9% of the total) in 2022, although most armed conflicts were internationalised internal ones (79%).
- 30% of the armed conflicts in 2022 reported higher levels of violence than the previous year.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered one of the two international armed conflicts in the world in 2022, setting off high-intensity violence, a serious humanitarian crisis and global repercussions in several different areas, such as the global rise in fuel and food prices and food insecurity.
- Following the trend reported in previous periods, Africa was home to the largest number of armed conflicts globally. The continent registered 16 cases, representing 49% of the total, although the percentage of high-intensity cases was slightly reduced.
- Asia continued to be the only region in the world with internal armed conflicts, except the conflict in Ethiopia (Oromia) in Africa. The three armed conflicts of this type, in the Philippines (NPA), India (CPI-M) and Thailand (south) accounted for one third of the cases in the region.
- OCHA warned of the development of the largest global food crisis in modern history caused by conflicts, climate shocks, the threat of global recession and escalating global insecurity.
- During 2022, the use of sexual and gender-based violence against civilians by state and non-state armed actors, and especially against women and girls, continued to be reported.
- During 2022, there were 108 socio-political crises reported around the world. The crises were mainly concentrated in Africa (36) and Asia and the Pacific (33), while the rest took place in the Americas (16), Europe (12) and the Middle East (11).
- Half the cases identified in 2022 got worse compared to the previous year.
- Not only did the number of crises clearly increase in 2022, but their average intensity also grew compared to the previous year.
- 23 of the 33 armed conflicts that took place in 2022 occurred in countries with a low level of gender equality, while three occurred in countries with a medium-low level of gender equality.
- 24 of the 33 ongoing armed conflicts occurred in countries where ILGA had documented the implementation of legislation or policies criminalising the LGBTQ+ population.
- The use of sexual violence was reported in Haiti, the Ethiopian region of Tigray, South Sudan, and in Ukraine in the context of the Russian invasion.
- Two peacekeeping missions, MONUSCO and MINUSCA, accounted for 90% of the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- In 2021, 45,000 women were murdered by their partners or family members, which represents 56% of the total number of female homicides worldwide.
- *Alert 2023!* identifies five opportunities for peace in Ethiopia; Venezuela; Colombia; Yemen; and in relation to the promotion of prevention and dialogue.

- The report highlights six risk scenarios regarding including the tension between DRC and Rwanda the instability of the transitional processes of Sudan and South Sudan; extreme gender discrimination in Iran and Afghanistan; Moldova; and North Korea and South Korea.

## Structure

The report has five chapters. The first two look at conflicts globally –causes, types, dynamics, evolution and actors in situations of armed conflict or tension. The third chapter looks at the gender impacts in conflicts and tensions, as well as the initiatives being carried out within the United Nations and other local and international organizations and movements with regards to peacebuilding from a gender perspective. Chapter four identifies peace opportunities, scenarios where there is a context that is favourable to resolution of conflicts or to progress towards or consolidate peace initiatives. The final chapter studies risk scenarios in the future. Besides these five chapters, the report also includes a foldable map identifying the scenarios of armed conflict and social-political crises.

## Armed conflicts

The first chapter (Armed conflicts)<sup>1</sup> describes the evolution, type, causes and dynamics in active conflicts during the year; global and regional trends in armed conflicts in 2022 are analyzed, as well as the impacts of such conflicts on the civilian population.

In 2022, there was a slight increase in the number of armed conflicts compared to the previous year. In total, 33 cases were reported, compared to 32 conflicts in 2021 and 34 in 2020, 2019 and 2018. The escalation of violence in the Oromia region (Ethiopia) led that case to be reclassified as an armed conflict, which pitted the Ethiopian federal security forces supported by the Amharic Fano militia against the Oromo armed group OLA. Another significant change in 2022 was the transformation of the violence in Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 expanded the previous armed conflict in the eastern part of the country, giving way to an international conflict with serious multidimensional consequences.

The trend of previous periods was upheld in the geographical distribution of the armed conflicts. The

vast majority continued to be concentrated in Africa (16) and Asia (nine), followed by the Middle East (five), Europe (two) and the Americas (one). Therefore, almost half the cases (49%) took place in Africa.

Regarding the relationship of the actors involved in the conflicts and the scene of the hostilities, armed conflicts were identified as internal, international and, for the most part, internationalised internal. In keeping with the trend of previous years, four of the 33 cases in 2022 (12%, 9% in 2021) were internal armed conflicts and three of these four cases took place in Asia. These are the conflicts in the Philippines (NPA), India (CPI-M) and Thailand (south). The other internal armed conflict was in Ethiopia (Oromia), in Africa. Three other cases, which account for 9% of the total (6% in 2021), were international in nature: the conflict in the western African region of the Sahel, the Palestinian-Israeli dispute in the Middle East and the war between Russia and Ukraine. Thus, Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to an increase in the number of international conflicts. Although interstate wars remained a minority, some analysts said that the invasion had put an end to assumptions about the post-Cold War international order, such as the exceptionality of war between states. The remaining 26 cases, which account for 79% (85% in 2021), were internationalised internal. These cases are characterised by the fact that one of the disputing parties is foreign, the armed actors in the conflict have bases or launch attacks from abroad and/or the dispute spills over into neighbouring countries. In many conflicts this factor of internationalisation took the form of the involvement of third-party actors as disputing parties, including international missions, ad-hoc regional and international military coalitions, states and armed groups operating across borders –such as ISIS, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram or others.

Armed conflicts continued to be caused by multiple factors in 2022. 67% of the armed conflicts were primarily caused by questioning of the political, economic, social or ideological system of the state and/or disputes around the domestic or international policies of the respective governments, among other main factors. Questioning of the system was more significant and was seen together with other causes in 17 conflicts (52% of the cases), largely linked to the high presence of jihadist armed actors with particular interpretations of Islamic precepts. This was the case in conflicts in the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, Mali, the DRC (east-ADF), Somalia, Mozambique (north), Libya, Afghanistan, the

**33 armed conflicts  
were reported in  
2022**

1. In this report, an armed conflict is understood as any confrontation between regular or irregular armed groups with objectives that are perceived as incompatible, in which the continuous and organised use of violence: a) causes a minimum of 100 fatalities in a year and/or has a serious impact on the territory (destruction of infrastructure or of natural resources) and on human safety (e.g., injured or displaced people, sexual violence, food insecurity, impact on mental health and on the social fabric or the disruption of basic services); and b) aims to achieve objectives different from those of common crime normally related to:

- demands for self-determination and self-government or identity-related aspirations;
- opposition to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a state or the internal or international policy of a government, which in both triggers a struggle to seize or undermine power;
- the control of resources or land.

## Armed conflicts in 2022\*

AFRICA (16)	ASIA (9)	MIDDLE EAST (5)
Burundi -2015- Cameroon (Ambazonia/ Northwest and Southwest) -2018- DRC (east) -1998- DRC (east – ADF) -2014- Ethiopia (Oromiya) -2022- Ethiopia (Tiger) -2020- Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram) - 2011- Libya -2011- Mali -2012- Mozambique (North) -2019- RCA -2006- Somalia -1988- Sudan (Darfur) -2003- Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile) -2011- South Sudan -2009- Western Sahel Region -2018-	Afghanistan -2001- India (Jammu and Kashmir) -1989- India (CPI-M) -1967- Myanmar -1948- Pakistan -2001- Pakistan (Baluchistan) -2005- Philippines (NPA) -1969- Philippines (Mindanao) -1991- Thailand (South) -2004-	Egypt (Sinai) -2014- Iraq -2003- Israel-Palestine -2000- Syria -2011- Yemen -2004-
		EUROPE (2)
		Turkey (south-east) -1984- Russia – Ukraine -2022-
		AMERICAS (1)
		Colombia -1964-

\*The start date of the armed conflict is shown between hyphens

Philippines (Mindanao), Pakistan, Egypt (Sinai), Iraq, Syria and Yemen. In three other cases, Colombia, the Philippines (NPA) and India (CPI-M), disputes about the system were associated with other types of insurgencies, with another type of ideological line.

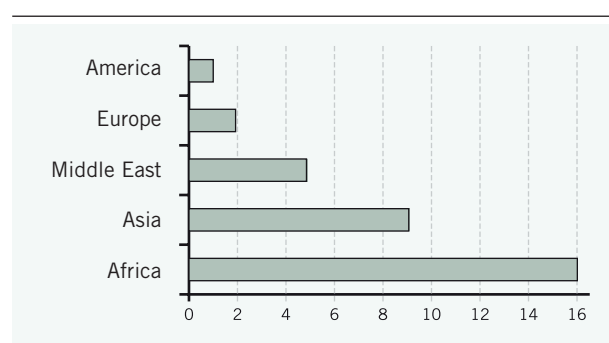
Other notable motivations behind the armed conflicts were disputes around demands for identity and self-government, as one or both were seen in 20 or the 33 cases (61%). Of these, identity-related demands were more significant (61%). Demands for self-government were behind 42% of the cases. Here the conflict in Ethiopia (Oromia) stood out due to the escalation of fighting that pitted the Ethiopian security forces and Amharic Fano militia against the Oromo armed group OLP. Lastly, there were also many armed conflicts mainly caused by struggles to control territory and/or resources, alongside other main causes. These amounted to 39% of the total number of conflicts (13 of 33). Of the two, disputes over resources was more common (present in 33% of all conflicts), whereas control over territory was one of the main causes in fewer cases (6% of all armed conflicts). The armed conflicts that involved disputes over resources were mainly concentrated in Africa, though they were also indirectly present conflicts in other regions, perpetuating violence through economies of war.

In terms of their **trend**, levels of violence rose in 30% of the armed conflicts in 2022 compared to the previous year. This was true of the conflicts in Ethiopia (Oromia), Mali, the Western Sahel Region, the DRC (east), Somalia, Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile), Myanmar, Pakistan, Pakistan (Balochistan) and Russia-Ukraine. Some of these conflicts seriously escalated. In the Western Sahel, rising violence against

### *Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to an increase in the number of international conflicts*

civilians caused 49% more deaths than was reported in 2021 and in the conflict in Mali, attacks by the two main jihadist groups against civilians increased fourfold. Somalia witnessed an escalation of violence unprecedented in previous years. In the Oromia region, the increase in clashes between security forces and the armed group OLA led to its reclassification as an armed conflict in 2022. Russia's invasion of Ukraine set off a high-intensity interstate international armed conflict that caused a serious humanitarian crisis. Another 15 armed conflicts (accounting for 46% of all cases) observed levels of violence and fighting similar to those reported in 2021. In eight armed conflicts (24% of all worldwide) did the levels of armed violence and its impacts decrease: Ethiopia (Tigray), CAR, Colombia, Afghanistan, Philippines (Mindanao), India (CPI-M), Thailand (south) and Yemen. In some of these cases the reduction in violent incidents was related to ceasefire agreements as part of negotiating processes -Ethiopia (Tigray), Yemen- or to their development or positive prospects, like in Thailand (south) and Colombia.

### Regional distribution of the number of armed conflicts in 2022

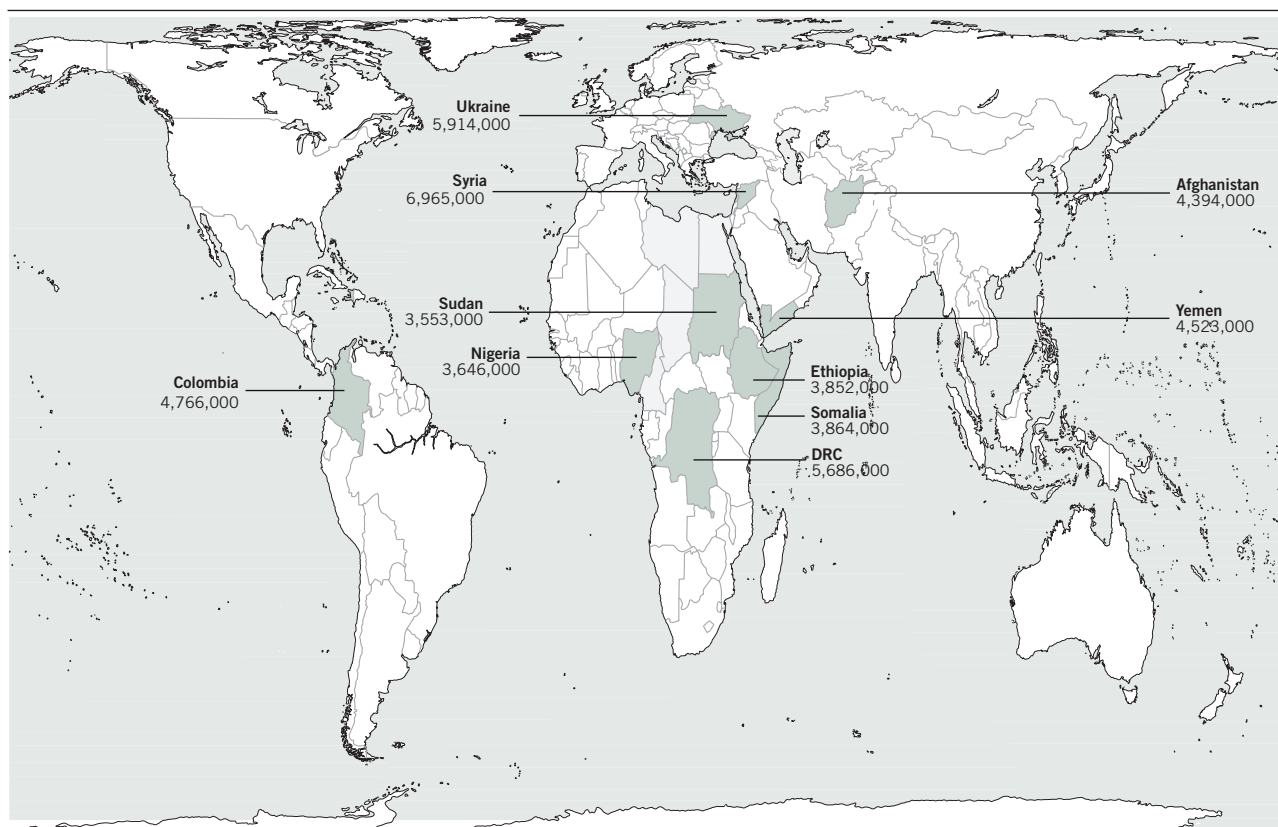


The intensity of the armed conflicts in 2022 accentuated the trend of an increase in serious cases over the last 10 years. In other words, contexts characterised by levels of lethality of over a thousand victims per year, in addition to serious impacts on the population, massive forced displacements and severe consequences in the territory. If high-intensity conflicts accounted for around a quarter of all cases a decade ago, in recent years this proportion has been growing to represent practically half the conflicts (see Graph 1.4). During the last five years, high-intensity armed conflicts accounted for 40% of all armed conflicts in 2016 and 2017. They fell to between 27% and 32% between 2018 and 2019, respectively, and increased significantly in 2020, when they reached 47%. In 2021, high-intensity conflicts were even more prevalent, reaching 53% and exceeding half of all cases for the first time in the last decade. In 2022, this trend continued and there were 17 high-intensity armed conflicts (52% of all cases). In line with what was observed in 2021, the largest proportion of high-intensity conflicts in 2022 took place in Africa. The continent registered 12 of the 17 high-intensity armed conflicts identified around the world, or 70% of all high-intensity cases.

Civilians continued to suffer very serious consequences stemming from armed conflicts in 2022, as the United Nations and international and local organisations have regularly denounced. In addition, the impacts of armed conflicts continued to intertwine with other

crises, aggravating the human security situation and violations of rights in conflict areas. The development of the various armed conflicts in 2022 confirms the persistence of the pattern of systematic abuse against civilians. Cases such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine stood out, which caused thousands of civilian fatalities and in which Russian military forces violated human rights with extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, forced deportations (including of minors), forced disappearances, torture and mistreatment and other impacts. In March 2022, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Prosecutor's Office began to gather evidence for an investigation into past and present allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity and genocide in Ukraine since 2013. In 2022, the Human Rights Council established a commission of inquiry into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Ukraine. Local and international human rights organisations denounced and documented serious human rights violations by Russian forces, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity. Many other armed conflicts in 2022 involved serious attacks against civilians. Among other cases, the Western Sahel experienced a rise in attacks against civilians by the security forces, the Wagner Group and the two main jihadist groups, and several massacres were reported. In the escalating conflict in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Armed Forces, the pro-government Amharic Fano militia and the armed group OLA were all accused of deliberate attacks

### The 10 countries reporting the highest figures of internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence in 2022



Source: Map prepared by the authors on the basis of the data provided in Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023. Internal displacement and food security*, IDMC, 2023



against civilians, caught in the crossfire and subjected to extrajudicial and mass executions, arbitrary arrests and kidnappings, among other forms of violence based on ethnic identity or political opinions. Massacres and killings of civilians also took place in the DRC (east), Colombia, Myanmar and elsewhere.

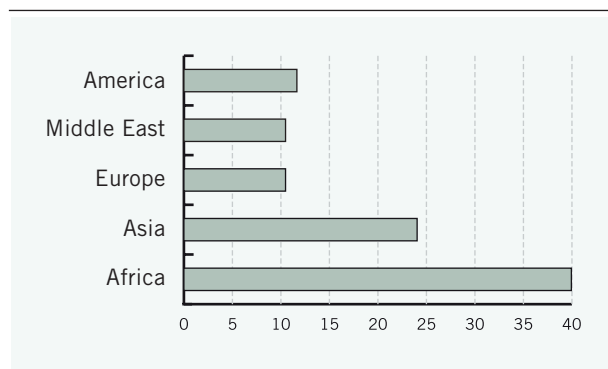
Armed conflicts continued to cause and/or worsen humanitarian crisis situations, which were aggravated by other conditions such as the pandemic, the effects of the war in Ukraine, the economic crisis and the climate emergency. Global humanitarian needs continued to grow, reaching a record threshold. According to the annual report *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023*, issued by the UN humanitarian agency, OCHA, one of every 23 people in the world is in need of humanitarian assistance, in contrast to the 274 million people in early 2022. As part of the worrying humanitarian outlook, OCHA warned that the biggest global food crisis in modern history was unfolding, caused by conflicts, climate shocks and the threat of global recession.

Armed conflicts also continued to have specific impacts on some population groups. Published in mid-2022, the UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict documented almost 23,982 serious violations against children (of which around 22,645 took place in 2021 and another 1,337 had been previously committed, but could only be documented in 2021).

Sexual violence occurred in many armed conflicts. The 2022 annual report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence identified 49 armed actors who were reasonably suspected of having committed or of being responsible for rape or other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict situations on the UN Security Council's agenda. In a total of 10 conflicts (CAR, DRC, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Nigeria), most of the actors indicated by the United Nations in its annex were non-state armed actors (39) and another 12 were government armed actors. According to the United Nations, 70% of identified actors in conflict were persistent perpetrators.

The repercussions of the armed conflicts also include forced displacement. According to UNHCR data, this continued to intensify and break record figures. The UNHCR report for the first half of 2022 estimated the refugee population at 32.5 million and internally displaced persons at 53.1 million (IDMC data on internal displacement referring to the end of 2021). Just over three quarters (76%) of the refugee population and the population in need of international protection came from six countries: Syria (6.8 million people),

## Regional distribution of the number of socio-political crises in 2021



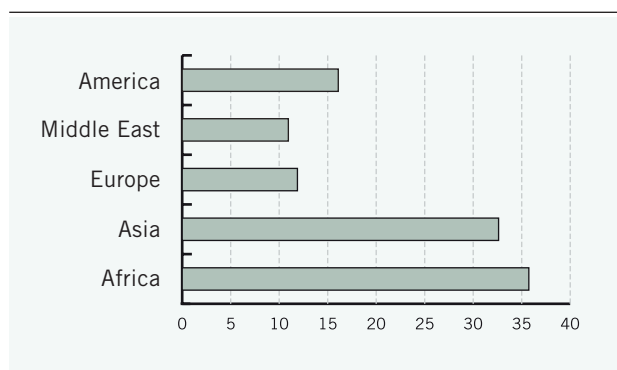
Venezuela (5.6), Ukraine (5.4), Afghanistan (2.8), South Sudan (2.4) and Myanmar (1.2). Furthermore, 69% lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin, according to UNHCR data. There were 1.1 million new asylum applications in the first half of 2022. In any case, the final calculation of 2022 will show even more internal and external forced displacement. Thus, during the year many conflicts were the scene of serious situations of forced displacement. In the crisis in Ukraine, it was estimated that there were 5.9 million internally displaced people, 7.9 million people registered as refugees in Europe and 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine registered to receive temporary protection in Europe or other similar national protection mechanisms at the end of 2022.

## Socio-political crises

The second chapter (**Socio-political crises**)<sup>2</sup> looks at the most relevant events regarding social and political tensions recorded during the year and compares global and regional trends. **One hundred and eight socio-political crises were identified in 2022, 10 more than in 2021**, in line with the upward trend in the number of socio-political crises that has been reported in recent years (25 more since 2018). Africa and Asia were the regions with the highest number of socio-political crises (36 and 33, respectively), followed by the Americas (16), Europe (12) and the Middle East (11). Regarding the variation compared to the previous year, 15 new crises were identified and another five were no longer classified as socio-political crises, most of them in Africa: The Gambia, Ethiopia (Oromia), which transitioned to an armed conflict, the DRC-Uganda, Rwanda-Uganda and Spain (Catalonia). The socio-political crises that were added to the list, for whatever reason, were mainly concentrated in Asia and the Americas: Brazil; China – USA; Korea, DPR; Ecuador; USA; Fiji; Jamaica; Japan – Russia (Kuril Islands); Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan; Moldova;

2. A socio-political crisis is defined as that in which the pursuit of certain objectives or the failure to satisfy certain demands made by different actors leads to high levels of political, social or military mobilisation and/or the use of violence with a level of intensity that does not reach that of an armed conflict and that may include clashes, repression, coups d'état and bombings or attacks of other kinds, and whose escalation may degenerate into an armed conflict under certain circumstances. Socio-political crises are normally related to: a) demands for self-determination and self-government, or identity issues; b) opposition to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a state, or the internal or international policies of a government, which in both cases produces a struggle to take or erode power; or c) control of resources or territory.

## Regional distribution of the number of socio-political crises in 2022



Papua New Guinea; Russia; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan (Gorno-Badakhshan) and Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan).

One of the most outstanding aspects in analysing the socio-political crises in 2022 is that although no significant changes were observed in 32% of them and the tension fell in 18% of them compared to 2021, half the cases identified in 2022 got worse compared to the previous year. This was reflected in part by a substantial rise in the number of high-intensity crises, from 19 in 2021 to 28 in 2022: Burkina Faso; Chad; Ethiopia; Kenya; Mali; Nigeria; Nigeria (Biafra); DRC-Rwanda; Somalia (Somaliland-Puntland); Sudan; Ecuador; Haiti; Mexico; Peru; Venezuela; North Korea-USA, Japan, South Korea; North Korea-South Korea; India-China; India-Pakistan; Indonesia (West Papua); Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan; Papua New Guinea; Sri Lanka; Armenia-Azerbaijan (Nagorno Karabakh); Iran-USA, Israel; Iran; and Israel-Syria-Lebanon. In addition to the 28 high-intensity cases, which accounted for over a quarter of the total, 42% of the 108 socio-political crises were of low intensity (50% in 2021) and 32% were of medium intensity (31% in 2021). Therefore, not only did the number of crises clearly increase in 2022, but their average intensity also grew compared to the previous year. This growing intensity was especially concentrated in Europe (where 92% of the cases escalated) and in Asia (where 56% did).

The main causal factors of the crises analysed included opposition to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a government, at 71%; demands of self-determination and self-government and identity-based aspirations, at 38%; and control of resources or territory at 31%. These figures are roughly continuous with respect to those of the previous year, though crises associated with control of territory or resources increased

from 21% to 31%. In a disaggregated analysis of factors, opposition to internal or international government policies was the most common cause, found in 64% of the 108 socio-political crises, which was exactly the same percentage as the previous year. The second most prevalent factor was identity-based aspirations (36%), which was especially important in regions such as Europe (67%) and the Middle East (46%). Next, at very similar percentages, came demands for self-determination and self-government (24%), control of resources (23%), opposition to the political, social or ideological system of the state as a whole (22%) and control of territory (19%).

## Gender, peace and security

Chapter three (Gender, peace and security) studies the gender-based impacts in conflicts and tensions, as well as the different initiatives launched by the United Nations and other local and international organizations and movements with regards to peacebuilding from a gender perspective.<sup>3</sup> This perspective brings to light the differential impacts that armed conflicts have on women and men, but also to what extent and how one and other participate in peacebuilding and what are the contributions made by women in this process. The chapter is structured into three main parts: the first looks at the global situation with regards to gender inequalities by taking a look at the Gender Development Index; the second part studies the gender dimension in terms of the impact of armed conflicts and social-political crises; and the last part is on peacebuilding from a gender perspective. At the start of the chapter there is a map showing the countries with severe gender inequalities based on the Gender Development Index. The chapter monitors the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which was established following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in the year 2000.

23 out of the 33 armed conflicts that took place in 2022 occurred in countries with a low level of gender equality – Cameroon (Ambazonia/Northwest and Southwest), Mali, Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), Western Sahel Region, CAR, DRC (east), DRC (east-ADF), Sudan (Darfur), Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile), South Sudan, Afghanistan, India (Jammu and Kashmir), India (CPI-M), Pakistan, Pakistan (Balochistan), Egypt (Sinai), Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Syria, Yemen – or a medium-low level of gender equality – Ethiopia (Oromia), Ethiopia (Tigray), and Mozambique (north). There was no data available on Somalia, a country currently experiencing an

3. As an analytical category, gender makes it clear that inequalities between men and women are the product of social norms rather than a result of nature, and sets out to underline this social and cultural construction to distinguish it from the biological differences of the sexes. The gender perspective aims to highlight the social construction of sexual difference and the sexual division of work and power. It also attempts to show that the differences between men and women are a social construction resulting from unequal power relations that have historically been established in the patriarchal system. The goal of gender as an analytical category is to demonstrate the historical and situated nature of sexual differences. This approach must be accompanied by an intersectional analysis that relates gender to other factors that structure power in a society, such as social class, race, ethnicity, age, or sexuality, among other aspects that generate inequalities, discrimination and privileges.

## Countries affected by armed conflict with a medium-low or low level of gender equality

Low level of equality		
<b>Afghanistan</b>  <b>Cameroon (2)</b> Cameroon (Ambazonia/Northwest and Southwest) Lake Chad Region  <b>CAR</b>  <b>Chad</b> Lake Chad Region  <b>DRC (2)</b> DRC (east) DRC (east-ADF)  <b>Egypt</b> Egypt (Sinai)	<b>Iraq</b>  <b>India (2)</b> India (Jammu and Kashmir) India (CPI-M)  <b>Mali (2)</b> Mali Western Sahel Region  <b>Niger (2)</b> Lake Chad Region Western Sahel Region  <b>Nigeria</b> Lake Chad Region	<b>Palestine</b> Israel-Palestine  <b>Pakistan (2)</b> Pakistan Pakistan (Balochistan)  <b>South Sudan</b>  <b>Syria</b>  <b>Sudan (2)</b> Sudan (Darfur) Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile)  <b>Yemen</b>
Medium-low level of equality		
<b>Burkina Faso</b> Sahel Region	<b>Ethiopia (2)</b> Ethiopia (Oromia) Ethiopia (Tigray)	<b>Mozambique</b> Mozambique (north)

\*The country is indicated in bold and under each country the armed conflict or conflicts in that country in 2022 are specified. In parentheses the number of armed conflicts in that country is indicated when there is more than one.

## Countries affected by socio-political crises with a medium-low or low level of gender equality

Low level of equality		
<b>Algeria</b>  <b>Bangladesh</b>  <b>Benin</b>  <b>CAR (2)</b> CAR Central Africa (LRA)  <b>Chad</b>  <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>  <b>DRC (3)</b> DRC DRC – Rwanda Central Africa (LRA)  <b>Egypt (2)</b> Egypt Ethiopia – Egypt –Sudan  <b>Guinea</b>  <b>Haiti</b>	<b>India (6)</b> India India (Assam) India (Manipur) India (Nagaland) India – China India – Pakistan  <b>Iran (4)</b> Iran Iran (northeast) Iran (Sistan and Baluchestan) Iran – USA, Israel  <b>Iraq</b> Iraq (Kurdistan)  <b>Lebanon</b> Lebanon Israel – Syria –Lebanon  <b>Mali</b>  <b>Morocco</b> Morocco – Western Sahara  <b>Niger</b>	<b>Nigeria (3)</b> Nigeria Nigeria (Biafra) Nigeria (Niger Delta)  <b>Palestine</b>  <b>Pakistan (2)</b> Pakistan India – Pakistan  <b>Senegal</b> Senegal (Casamance)  <b>South Sudan (2)</b> Sudan – South Sudan Central Africa (LRA)  <b>Sudan (5)</b> Sudan Sudan – South Sudan Central Africa (LRA) Ethiopia – Egypt –Sudan Ethiopia – Sudan  <b>Syria</b> Israel – Syria –Lebanon
Medium-low level of equality		
<b>Burkina Faso</b>  <b>Ethiopia (3)</b> Ethiopia – Egypt –Sudan Ethiopia – Sudan Eritrea – Ethiopia	<b>Guatemala</b>  <b>Mozambique</b>  <b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Tajikistan (3)</b> Tajikistan Tajikistan (Gorno- Badakhshan) Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan

armed conflict. Regarding the intensity of conflicts, 12 of the 17 high-intensity armed conflicts in 2022 (70% of cases) took place in countries with low or medium-low levels of gender equality (in the case of Somalia, there was no data from the GDI). Furthermore, in eight other countries in which one or more armed conflicts were taking place, the level of discrimination was lower: according to the GDI, the level of equality in Libya, Colombia, Philippines, Thailand, Russia, Ukraine and Israel was high, while Myanmar showed a medium level of equality. Meanwhile, 47 of the 108 socio-political crises that were active in 2022 occurred in countries with a low or medium-low level of gender equality.

**23 out of the 33 armed conflicts that took place in 2022 occurred in countries with a low level of gender equality**

As in previous years, during 2022 sexual violence was present in a large number of active armed conflicts. Its use, which in some cases was part of the deliberate war strategies of the armed actors, was documented in different reports, as well as by local and international media. The annual report submitted in 2022 by the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence identified 49 armed groups which were strongly suspected of having committed or having been responsible for rapes or other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict settings on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Most of the actors identified by the United Nations in its annex were non-state armed actors (37), with an additional 12 being government-sponsored armed actors, across a total of 10 settings (CAR, DRC, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Nigeria). According to the United Nations, 70% of the identified actors in conflict were considered persistent perpetrators, since they had been included in the UN annex for five or more years. Beyond the list of perpetrators of sexual violence, the Secretary-General's report addressed the developments in 18 settings. Twelve of the 18 armed conflicts that were analysed in the UN Secretary-General's report experienced high levels of intensity in 2022 –Ethiopia (Tigray), Ethiopia (Oromia), Mali, the Lake Chad region (Boko Haram), Western Sahel region, DRC, DRC (East-ADF), Somalia, Sudan (Darfur), South Sudan, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria and Yemen–, topping 1,000 fatalities during the year and producing serious impacts on people and the territory, including conflict-related sexual violence. Six of these also saw an escalation of violence during 2022 compared to the previous year – Ethiopia (Oromia), Mali, Western Sahel region, DRC (east), Somalia and Myanmar. Most of the armed actors identified by the Secretary-General as responsible for sexual violence in armed conflict were non-state actors, some of whom had been included on UN terrorist lists.

In 2022, 21 countries involved in peace negotiations had a National Action Plan in place to promote the participation of women in these processes. Nine of these countries were in Africa (Cameroon, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, CAR, DRC, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan); two in Asia (South Korea and the Philippines); eight in Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia,

Moldova, Serbia, Kosovo, and Ukraine); and two in the Middle East (Palestine and Yemen). Neither of the two countries in the Americas with ongoing negotiations had a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Thus, in 21 of the 39 active negotiations during 2022, at least one of the negotiating government actors had a plan of action that was supposed to guide its activity in terms of inclusion of the gender perspective and women's participation. The 21 negotiations and peace processes took place in Cameroon (Ambazonia/Northwest and Southwest), Mali, Morocco–Western Sahara, Mozambique, the CAR, the DRC, Senegal, Sudan, South Sudan, Sudan-South Sudan, Korea (Republic of Korea - DPRK, the Philippines (MILF), the Philippines (NDF), Armenia-Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh), Cyprus, Georgia (Abkhazia, South Ossetia), Moldova (Transdniestria), Serbia-Kosovo, Russia-Ukraine, Palestine and Yemen. However, even if they had this tool, most peace negotiations continued to exclude women and did not include the gender perspective into their dynamics, calling into question the effectiveness of action plans as inclusive peacebuilding tools.

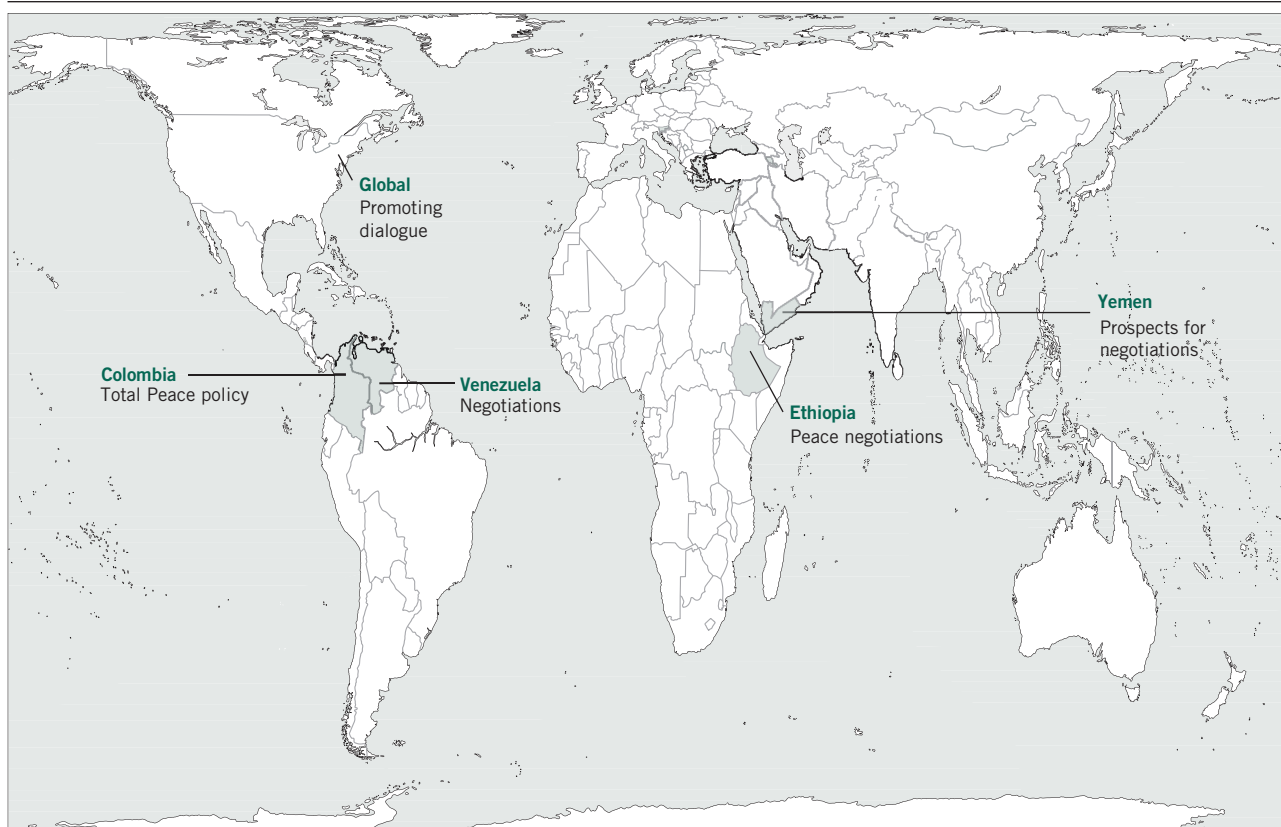
## Peace Opportunities and Risk Scenarios

Chapter four of the report (Peace Opportunities) identifies and analyzes five scenarios that are favourable for positive steps to be taken in terms of peacebuilding for the future. The opportunities identified refer to different regions and topics:

- **Ethiopia:** Ethiopia is immersed in a complex range of challenges, profound changes and instability aggravated in recent years. Added to this instability was the outbreak of the armed conflict in the Tigray region in November 2020 and the serious escalation of violence in the Oromia region in 2022, which seemed to push the country to the brink of the abyss. The permanent cessation of hostilities reached between the Ethiopian federal government and the political and military authorities of Tigray, as well as the start of peace talks with the armed group Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), could give the country a new opportunity to start moving down a new political path, albeit beset with risks and fragility.
- **Colombia:** The government of Colombia is promoting a public peacebuilding policy known as “Total Peace” through dialogue with all active armed actors in the country. It is an ambitious project, as it seeks to resolve a multifaceted and entrenched conflict led by many different armed actors. The Colombian government must be able to conduct different negotiating processes simultaneously to establish peace in the country, which is beset with risks and obstacles.



## Opportunities for peace



- **Venezuela:** The coming to power of new governments in Latin America and a certain regional depolarisation regarding the crisis in Venezuela; rapprochement between the governments of the US and Venezuela after Russia's invasion of Ukraine; the adoption of more conciliatory, pragmatic and possible positions by the Venezuelan government and opposition; the signing of an agreement between both parties in November 2022; and the holding of an international conference on Venezuela in Bogotá all seem to indicate the parties' greater predisposition to overcome the country's crisis through dialogue.

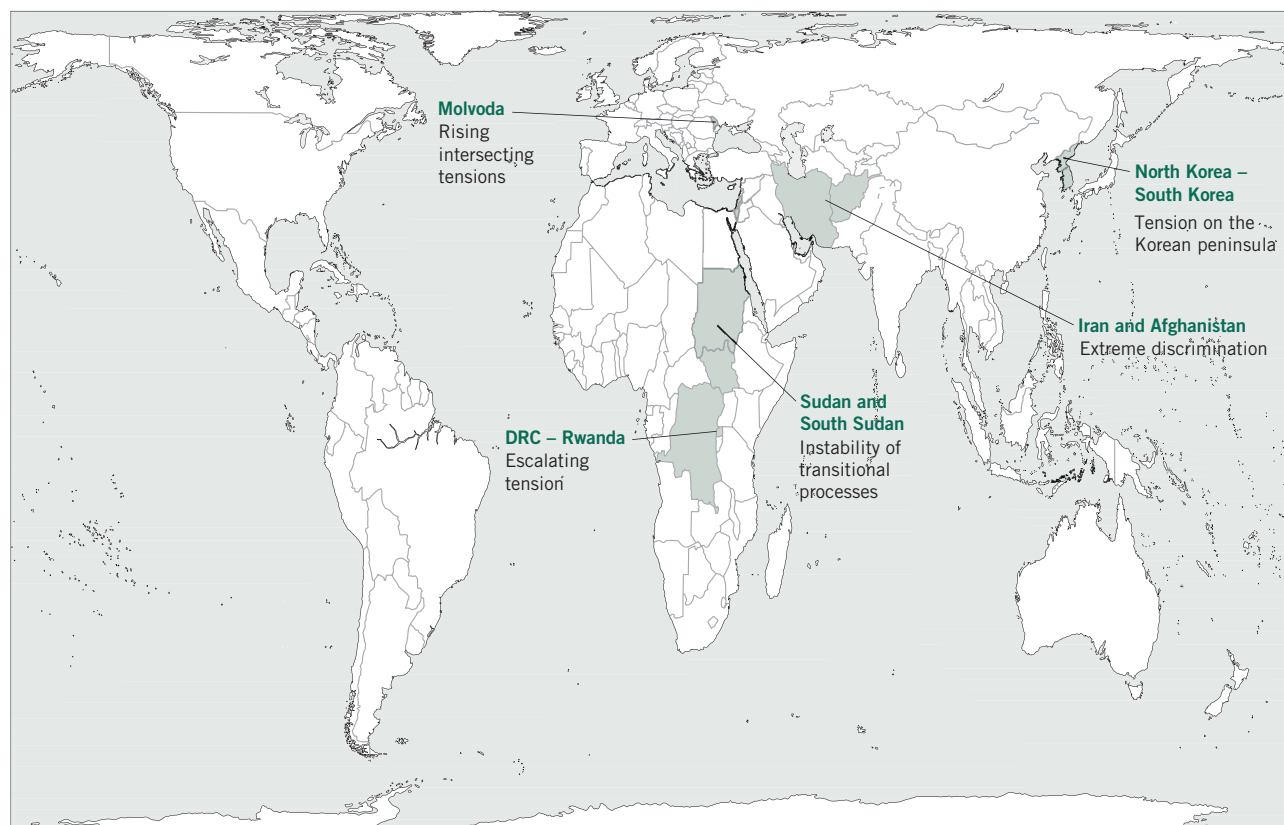
- **Yemen:** After eight years of high-intensity conflict, Yemen faces a decisive opportunity to try to end the hostilities. This expectation reflects several intertwining dynamics: a truce that has significantly reduced the violence and that in practice has been upheld, despite not being formally renewed; the establishment of a negotiating channel between Riyadh and the Houthis under the mediation of Oman; and the rapprochement and restoration of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran with the possibility of repercussions in Yemen given the role of both countries in the conflict, among other factors. However, there are still important challenges ahead before we see firm prospects for a sustainable and inclusive peace in Yemen.

- **Promotion of conflict prevention and dialogue:** There is a serious deterioration in the human security of many populations around the world

due to conflicts, hand-in-hand with climate change, armed conflicts of increasing intensity and geostrategic rivalry. At the same time, armed conflict prevention and the promotion of negotiated solutions to conflicts are still relevant and needed and have been accompanied by an expansion of actors, mechanisms and architectures in recent decades. The UN-backed New Agenda for Peace and the scenario of conflicts across the world increase the urgent need and opportunity to reinvigorate conflict prevention and support for dialogue.

Chapter five of the report (Risk Scenarios), identifies and analyzes five scenarios of armed conflict and tension that, given their condition, may worsen and become sources of more severe instability and violence.

- **Sudan-South Sudan:** Both countries face major crises in their transitional processes, marked by the power struggle between their main leaders, the problems in building a unified army and the timing and forms of devolving power to the people. The latest episode in the crisis in Sudan, in April 2023, which has resulted in fighting between the Sudanese Army and paramilitary forces, threatens to end the fragile transition in the country, aggravate the humanitarian crisis in the region and create a ripple effect of instability in neighbouring countries and particularly in neighbouring South Sudan.
- **DRC – Rwanda:** The relationship between the DRC



and Rwanda seriously deteriorated in 2022 as a result of sporadic clashes between both countries' security forces in the border area and accusations of Rwanda's military and logistical support for the offensive of the armed group M23 in North Kivu. Different regional diplomatic initiatives have so far failed to reverse the situation. A more detailed analysis is essential to understanding the local, regional and international dynamics at the origins of this conflict in order to try to resolve it.

deterioration of the situation has been reflected in risks of the conflict spreading to Moldova, reports of covert coup plans, risks of greater polarisation with territorial expression and the socio-economic crisis. In the short and medium term, Moldova risks rising or chronically intertwined tensions that require strengthened international support to help to prevent the increase of tension resulting from the conflict in Ukraine and to promote democratic cohesion and human security.

- **Korean Peninsula:** After a brief period of rapprochement in inter-Korean relations and dialogue between North Korea and the US about the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula (2018-19), the political and military tension on the Korean peninsula has escalated dramatically in recent years, and very clearly since 2022. This escalation has included rising military tension and belligerent episodes between North and South Korea on the land and sea border, an unparalleled increase in the number of North Korean missile launches, South Korea's growing assertiveness in responding to those weapons tests, Pyongyang's resumption of its nuclear programme and manufacture of new weapons, heightening tension between North Korea and Japan and increasing cooperation between the US and South Korea on nuclear matters.
- **Iran and Afghanistan:** The worsening of discriminatory policies against women and intensified attempts to control their lives and bodies in Iran and Afghanistan have been in the media spotlight, in part due to protests and demonstrations led by women against misogyny and systematic violations of their rights and freedoms. Given the extreme, systematic and structural discrimination against women in both countries, a proposal has even been articulated to recognise the situation as a crime of gender apartheid. Many different actors have criticised this trend against women and expressed their alarm at the regimes' repressive response. Despite the international outcry, there is a risk that both Tehran and Kabul will persist in their policies and that the situation of women in both countries will drag on or get worse, that media coverage will fade and that some actors in the international community take for a utilitarian approach to the defence of women's rights, promoting or ignoring them based on conjunctural interests.
- **Moldova:** The country is the scene of rising multidimensional and intersecting tensions influenced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The

# Conflict overview 2022

Continent	Armed conflict			Socio-political crises			TOTAL
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	
Africa	Cameroon (Ambazonia/ North West South West) DRC (east) DRC (east-ADF) Ethiopia (Oromia) Ethiopia (Tigray) Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram) Mali Mozambique (north) Somalia Sudan (Darfur) South Sudan West Sahel Region	CAR Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile)	Burundi Libya	Burkina Faso Chad DRC – Rwanda Ethiopia Kenya Mali Nigeria Nigeria (Biafra) Somalia (Somaliland- Puntland) Sudan	Algeria Benin Côte d'Ivoire Djibouti DRC Ethiopia – Egypt – Sudan Ethiopia – Sudan Guinea Guinea-Bissau Morocco – Western Sahara Tunisia Uganda	Central Africa (LRA) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Eritrea – Ethiopia Eswatini Mozambique Niger Nigeria (Delta Niger) Rwanda Rwanda - Burundi Senegal (Casamance) Sudan – South Sudan Tanzania Zimbabwe	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>
America		Colombia		Ecuador Haiti Mexico Peru Venezuela	Brazil Chile El Salvador	Bolivia Colombia Cuba Guatemala Honduras Jamaica Nicaragua USA	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>
Asia and Pacific	Myanmar	Afghanistan Pakistan Pakistan (Baluchistan)	India (CPI-M) India (Jammu and Kashmir) Philippines (Mindanao) Philippines (NPA) Thailand (south)	India – China India – Pakistan Indonesia (West Papua) Kazakhstan Kirgizstan – Tajikistan Korea, DPR – USA, Japan, Rep. of Korea Korea, DPR – Rep. of Korea Papua New Guinea Sri Lanka	Bangladesh China – Japan China – Taiwan Pakistan South China Sea Tajikistan Tajikistan (Gorno- Badakhshan) Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan)	China (Hong Kong) China (Tibet) China (Xinjiang) China – USA Fiji India India (Assam) India (Manipur) India (Nagaland) Indonesia (Sulawesi) Japan – Russia (Kuril Islands) Kirgizstan Korea, DPR Lao, RPD Thailand Uzbekistan	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>
Europe	Russia - Ukraine	Turkey (southeast)		Armenia - Azerbaijan (Nagorno- Karabakh)	Belarus Bosnia and Herzegovina Moldova Moldova, Rep. de (Transnistria) Russia Serbia – Kosovo Turkey Turkey - Greece, Cyprus	Georgia (Abkhazia) Georgia (South Ossetia) Russia (North Caucasus)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
Middle East	Iraq Syria Yemen		Egypt (Sinai) Israel – Palestine	Iran Iran – USA, Israel Israel – Syria – Lebanon	Egypt Iran (northwest) Iran (Sistan Balochistan) Lebanon	Saudi Arabia Bahrein Iraq (Kurdistan) Palestine	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>141</b>

Armed conflicts and socio-political crises with ongoing peace negotiations, whether exploratory or formal, are identified in italics.