

# Sophie Rutenbar

Non-Resident Fellow, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology  
Foreign Policy Program, Brookings Institution

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## Areas of specialization

International Peace & Security • Peace Operations and Peacekeeping • Peacebuilding • United Nations • Multilateralism • US-Global South Relations

## Regional expertise

Haiti • South Sudan • Sudan • DR Congo • Central Africa

## Experience

- Non-Resident Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution, 2024-present
- Visiting Scholar, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, 2023-present
- Visiting Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, Brookings Institution, in Washington, DC, 2023-2024
- Planning Officer, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, in Port-au-Prince, 2019-24
- Political Affairs Officer, Policy Planning Team, United Nations Department of Peace Operations, in New York, 2017-19
- Programme Officer, High-Level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises, United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General, in New York, 2015-16
- Best Practices Officer, United Nations Mission in South Sudan, in Juba, 2013, 2014
- Associate Expert in Policy Planning, United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, in New York, 2013-15
- Program Analyst, Sudan/South Sudan Transition & Conflict Mitigation Program, USAID, in South Sudan, 2012-13
- Referendum Observer for Southern Sudan, The Carter Center, in South Sudan, 2011-12
- Research Assistant, Southern Sudan Conflict Assessment, London School of Economics, in Southern Sudan/London, UK, 2010-11

## Education

2010 M.Sc. Human Rights (with merit), London School of Economics & Political Science  
2009 M.A. Conflict, Security & Development, King's College, London  
2006 B.A. Government & Politics (*magna cum laude*, with high honors), University of Texas at Dallas

## Select press

Quoted or featured in the *New York Times*, Deutsche Welle, *The New Republic*, The Cipher Brief, and The Burn Bag, among others.

## Select policy research

- Monnier, Celine; Rutenbar, Sophie; Wainaina, Betty N.; Forcada, Marta Bautista; and Briggs, Natalie; "What Can the Peacebuilding Commission Do to Support National Prevention Strategies?," policy brief, Center on International Cooperation at New York University, 22 November 2024, <https://cic.nyu.edu/resources/what-can-the-peacebuilding-commission-do-to-support-national-prevention-strategies/>
- Rutenbar, Sophie, "Adapting BINUH to Meet Haiti's Evolving Challenges," policy brief, New York University Center on International Cooperation, 5 July 2024, <https://cic.nyu.edu/resources/adapting-binuh-to-meet-haitis-evolving-challenges/>

- Rutenbar, Sophie; Bonnefont, Annabelle; and Praxl-Tabuchi, Franziska, “The UN Counter-Terrorism Agenda and its Linkages to Broader Prevention, Peacebuilding, and Peace Enforcement Efforts,” Policy brief, New York University Center on International Cooperation, April 2024, <https://cic.nyu.edu/resources/the-un-counter-terrorism-agenda-and-its-linkages/>

## Select commentary

- “A notable shift in Global South policy,” contribution to Brookings Around the Halls commentary on “How is Trump’s reelection likely to affect US foreign policy?”, 14 November 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-is-trumps-reelection-likely-to-affect-us-foreign-policy/>
- “Why Kenya’s deployment won’t solve all of Haiti’s problems,” Brookings Institution, 12 July 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-kenyas-deployment-wont-solve-all-of-haitis-problems/>
- “Interview: Crisis in Haiti,” The Hundred, 1 May 2024, <https://thehundred.substack.com/p/interview-crisis-in-haiti>
- “In Brief: Gang Uprising in Haiti,” Issue Brief series, War on the Rocks, 19 March 2024, <https://warontherocks.com/2024/03/in-brief-gang-uprising-in-haiti/>
- “A way forward for Haitian politics amid continued insecurity,” Brookings Institution, 6 February 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/a-way-forward-for-haitian-politics-amid-continued-insecurity/>
- “Haiti’s struggle for safety and security will intensify in 2024,” Brookings Institution, 24 January 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/haitis-struggle-for-safety-and-security-will-intensify-in-2024/>

## Select talks and panels

- “Violence and conflict in the post-post-Cold War era: The changing role of United Nations peace operations,” lecture to the Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, Boise, Idaho, 18 September 2024
- Panelist, “Haiti on the Brink,” virtual event, Brookings Institution, 24 May 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/events/haiti-on-the-brink-the-prospects-and-challenges-of-the-kenyan-led-mss-initiative/>
- Presenter on Haiti, “Expert Workshop on Multilateral Responses to Transnational Organized Crime,” United Nations University Center for Policy Research, 30 April 2024
- Chair, “Challenging Norms: Democracy, Human Rights, and Internet Governance” session, “Russia, China, and International Organizations: Illiberal Norms and the Impact on Democracy,” 15 March 2024
- Convener and closing remarks for “Insights for the Negotiations for the Pact for the Future: The Counter-Terrorism Agenda and its Linkages with Prevention, Peacebuilding, and Peace Enforcement,” discussion for UN member states at the expert level co-hosted by NYU Center on International Cooperation and the Global Center for Cooperative Security, 20 March 2024
- Presenter on BINUH, “Assessing Options for a Multinational Force and Ongoing UN Support in Haiti,” Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping Roundtable, 23 September 2023

## Skills

Foreign languages: French, professional fluency; Haitian Creole, basic

Select technical training:

- Political Economy Analysis, UN Department of Political Affairs, 2018
- Decentralized Governance and Peacebuilding, UN System Staff College, 2014
- Applied Conflict Analysis for Prevention and Peacebuilding, UN System Staff College 2014
- Proactive Presence: Field Strategies for Civilian Protection, Folke Bernadotte Academy, 2014
- Monitoring & Evaluation of Conflict Mitigation Initiatives, Channel Research, 2011