



**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the
Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations**

**On behalf of the African PBC Caucus
(African coordinating mechanism on the PBC¹)**

**At the Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding
Commission 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture**

**“Institution Building and System-Wide Engagement for
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”**

22 May - 2 June 2020 (Online platform)

¹ The African PBC Caucus is constituted mainly by the African Members on the Organizational Committee of the PBC the African countries engaged already \ or those African countries interested in engaging with the PBC, as well as the AU Permanent Observer to the UN. Currently it includes: Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic, Burundi, Liberia, Guinee Bissau, Gambia, Morocco in addition to the AU Mission to the UN.

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Coordinating Mechanism on the PBC (African PBC Caucus).

At the outset, I wish to thank you and the Peacebuilding Support Office for organizing this important online consultation. I also take this opportunity to thank all the briefers for their insightful remarks shared with us through recorded videos.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa attaches great importance to the topic of our consultation, since building inclusive and responsive state institutions is indeed an enhancer of national ownership and leadership of peacebuilding efforts. Research analyzing the root causes of conflict in Africa affirms that fragile and dysfunctional institutions contribute to severing the social contract between citizens and their governments, and hence, is a key conflict driver. Moreover, nationally-owned, effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions contribute to conflict prevention and help governments identify national and local priorities for building and sustaining peace, and lead implementation strategies thereof. Responsive, viable and inclusive state institutions are, additionally, a central component of efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this connection, the 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture enshrined several guidelines and principles critical to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts, moving beyond quick fixes and short-term stabilization to creating prosperous and positive peace. Strengthening national ownership through building national and local institutions and capacities stands out as a central principle around which all other peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts revolve. We are looking forward to the ongoing review to assess the extent to which a whole-of-UN system efforts achieved tangible progress at the field-level to this end. We are also keen for the review to result in concrete recommendations and commitments to enable UN cross-pillar policies and functions to impart deeper focus and more effective engagement in support of building and strengthening inclusive and capable national and local institutions.

Excellencies,

The COVID-19 outbreak tested the capacity and viability of state institutions worldwide. It revealed the need, now more than any time, to prioritize support for building resilient, inclusive and responsive institutions to deal with the pandemic's socio-economic destabilizing impacts that exacerbated existing grievances and unresolved root causes in conflict-affected and post-conflict situations.

Therefore, there is a need to prioritize building and strengthening national and local institutions and enhancing human capacities to operate these institutions in conflict-affected contexts. As the role of the state in leading sustaining peace and development efforts is increasingly affirmed, the operationalization of national ownership, however, requires strengthened and capacitated state institutions capable of ensuring the integrity of the social contract.

Such Prioritization should inform programming and resource allocation, while applying a context-specific lens tailored to the cultural and social specificities, in order to avoid superimposing exogenous and mostly inapplicable models, that may deflect attention and resources away from accurate analysis of the root causes and assessment of the imperatives to address them.

In cases where state capacity/authority are either weak or non-existent, the UN in partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations should facilitate mechanisms for program design and implementation that address the short-term needs, while identifying other partnerships aimed at addressing the medium to long-term objective of strengthening national and local ownership and capacities.

There is also the critical need to ensure a whole-of-government and inclusive approach to identifying national priorities. This requires UN and other partners' support to nationally and/or locally-led processes and mechanisms aimed at facilitating dialogue among national and local stakeholders.

It is also imperative to bridge the existing gap between identifying political and programmatic objectives and the actual design, resourcing and implementation of context-specific programmes that could effectively respond to the outcomes of conflict analyses, needs assessments and nationally/locally identified priorities and goals. The UN must continue to pursue effective remedy to this dichotomy which has been hindering coherent, impact-driven and sustained system-wide engagement in support of building national institutions. In this connection, the activities and contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund

over the past five years represent a repository of good practice that must be capitalized.

Additionally, there is a need to rethink how peacekeeping assessed budgets can better serve peacebuilding and sustaining peace objectives during the life cycle of peace operations, from the onset of deployment and towards transition and exit. There is a need for peace operations to pursue a strategy that transcends the mere boosting of UNCT capacity towards greater focus on building and strengthening state institutions and mechanisms aimed at identifying and respond residual root causes and drivers of conflict.

Excellencies,

Peace-building engagements will be significantly enhanced if the partnership between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the UN system is leveraged. Deepening the partnership between the AU-PSC and PBC through closer collaboration and coordination would be crucial to developing an interlocking global peacebuilding architecture. This would reinforce strategic convergence, promote inter-institutional cooperation, enhance regional and cross-pillar interventions as well as complement efforts at scaling up national peacebuilding systems. It would also contribute to shaping post-COVID-19 interventions. There is consensus that the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 would complicate and potentially erode peacebuilding gains in post-conflict settings. Consequently, scaling up the capacities of national and regional institutions would be critical to preventing relapse and sustaining peace in fragile countries.

Finally, and in view of the ongoing difficulty to allocate predictable and adequate financing for critical peacebuilding activities, it is imperative to prioritize and channel scarce financial resources towards efforts aimed at building and strengthening national institutions. This is a worthy investment in long-term and sustainable peace. We look forward to revisiting and operationalizing the financing-related recommendations previously presented by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Thank you,

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