

The Advisory Role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to the Security Council (SC)

Thursday, 02 August (10:00am-1:00pm)

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN

Coordinator's Summary

Background

1. On 2 August 2018, Sweden, in its capacity as coordinator of the periodic stock-taking exercises on the PBC's advisory function to the Security Council, convened an informal meeting to reflect on the outcome of the Informal Interactive Dialogue (IID) convened by the Security Council with the PBC on 30 June, and take stock on how the PBC exercised its advisory function and complementary role to the Council in connection with the situations in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, and the Sahel. The members of the PBC that are members of the Security Council, the representatives of the three countries under consideration, the PBC Chairs and Council's penholders were invited to participate in the meeting.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator opened the meeting recalling the Security Council Informal Interactive Dialogue of 30 June and noted that this follow-up meeting was an opportunity to explore concrete ideas to take forward the recommendations emanating from the IID. The IID highlighted the past year's significant development in the cooperation between the Commission and the Council and in this regard, The Coordinator noted that, as also highlighted in the IID, the Security Council has increasingly demonstrated interest in drawing upon a more active advisory role of the PBC in regional and country-specific situations.
3. On the **Central African Republic**, delegations reflected on the complexity of the situation in the country, linked to the worsened security and limited national capacity, as well as the continued challenges facing the Commission to be more engaged. It was noted that the PBC would also visit the CAR in early September 2018. Based on the findings of the visit, meetings at both the Ambassadorial and Expert-levels would be organized to discuss the recommendations to be submitted to the Council. In this regard, looking at practical ways for the PBC to enhance its advisory role, going beyond the case of CAR, delegations supported the recommendation made at the IID that the PBC should complement the information contained in country-specific reports of the Secretary-General. They stressed that the advice of the PBC should go beyond the peace and security dimension usually contained in reports of the Secretary General and focus instead on conveying national perspectives and priorities, and on providing a broader and more "frank" analysis of the country situation, touching upon socio-economic priorities.
4. On **the Sahel** region, the Coordinator recalled how the Security Council decision (S/PRST/2017/2) tasking the PBC through its convening role to provide support to the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) in the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) presented a significant opportunity to move forward with more meetings to further discuss the situation of the region the past year. The Sahel region continued to face multidimensional risks while receiving little international attention or investment, despite its urgent

need of integrated analysis and support. In this regard, the joint meeting in July between the PBC and the African Union-Peace and Security Council (PSC) to discuss further collaboration on the region was considered a positive step forward. Several implementation challenges were noted, however, including the difficulty of mobilizing various stakeholders under one strategy. In this regard, delegations stressed the importance for the PBC, including through its annual session, to focus on specific priorities identified in the UNISS Support Plan for the Sahel. Delegations suggested that the PBC could task relevant parts of the UN system to conduct a mapping of the cost amount currently secured to each key area and current gaps. The need to engage more with the field and to support coordination among different UN agencies on the ground was also highlighted. Participants also recognized the bridging role of the PBC as a way to enhance coherence in the UN. In this regard, it was noted that stronger synergies between the Commission, the General Assembly and ECOSOC could also enhance the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council.

5. On **Guinea-Bissau**, the recent PBC visit in July was positively received as very helpful and encouraging to start preparations for the national elections on 18 November. The increased number of women mediators and the Parliament's recent discussions on setting a quota for female politicians was underlined as positive developments. Nevertheless, financial challenges and limited resources and capacity to prepare for the national elections were highlighted as continued hardships requiring immediate assistance. Delegations noted that the country's challenges required a comprehensive response and that the Council would benefit from the support of the PBC, including through its capacity to share lessons learned in its country-specific work. Delegations noted that, in order to enhance the advisory role of the PBC, the timing of PBC meetings should be aligned to the calendar of the Security Council and ensure that meetings of the Commission are scheduled at least a few days before briefings of the Council.

Next Steps

6. Participants welcomed the meeting as a platform for frank discussions on the diverse nature and scope of the PBC's advisory function and complementary role to the Council. The coordinator noted that discussions would continue throughout the rest of the year to further explore how to implement the recommendations made at the meeting, including ways to better align the calendar of work of the PBC to that of the Council, enhance the bridging role of the PBC, and include in the Commission's advice elements that go beyond the peace and security dimension.