

## General Assembly debate on the PBC and PBF annual reports

24 May 2018

### Statement of the current Chair of the PBC

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Republic of Korea, and Ambassador Cho in particular, for the excellent work done as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2017. Under the leadership of the Republic of Korea, the Commission made good progress in the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, to include the revision of working methods that have improved the Commission's flexibility and responsiveness.

It is the intention of Romania to continue on the same track. With the support of the Republic of Korea and Germany as Vice-Chairs of the PBC, and with the engagement of all members of the Commission, I am confident that 2018 will be another significant year of advancement. Building on the work accomplished during previous sessions, the Commission is supporting efforts to build and sustain peace at the country-specific and regional level, including by convening relevant key partners from within and outside the United Nations to foster coherence within the UN system and with other international, multilateral, bilateral and national partners.

A clear priority for our work is the Sahel region. As just mentioned by my predecessor, last year the Security Council emphasized the importance of convening role of the PBC in peacebuilding efforts and in mobilizing in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) deeper commitment and partnership between the UN, the countries of Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. In March, I attended the 6th meeting of the “Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel” in Chad. The meeting stressed the need for a holistic approach to address the multidimensional threats facing the countries of the Sahel region and their people, calling on regional and international partners to act with greater synergy and unity of purpose. To further this objective, the Commission's Annual Session on 26 June will focus exclusively on the Sahel. The PBC will bring together Member States, representatives of countries from the Sahel, senior officials of the UN (including the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General), representatives of regional organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations. The purpose of this important event will be to discuss ways of mobilizing deeper and shared commitments and partnerships in support of efforts to build and sustain peace in the Sahel, with a focus on the importance of national ownership, and the eventual contribution of women and youth in the search for longer term solutions to root causes of conflict. I look

forward to having you, Mr President, together with the Presidents of the Security Council and ECOSOC to open the meeting.

Partnerships have always been a priority for the PBC and, as I mentioned during my inaugural address in the Commission, we can further explore the opportunity of partnerships, including, where relevant, with the private sector. That is why, one day after the Annual Session, the PBC will convene a joint event with the Economic and Social Council dedicated to the issue of partnerships in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. At that meeting, we will bring together the role of the PBC in supporting conflict-affected countries on the agenda of the Commission with the expertise of ECOSOC in building partnerships with the private sector. We plan to discuss ways in which the private sector could contribute to peacebuilding efforts.

Another important area of work for the Commission is its engagement with the Gambia. Upon request of the Government of the Gambia, the PBC is continuing to provide a forum for the country to engage with the international community. A few weeks ago, we convened a High-level meeting, chaired by the State Secretary of Romania, as Chair of the PBC, attended by the President and the Minister of Finance of the Gambia, the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the Permanent Observer of the African Union as well as senior officials of DPA, UNDP and PBSO. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Gambia to present its peacebuilding priorities ahead of the International Conference for the Gambia which took place two days ago in Brussels and demonstrated once again the convening role of the PBC.

Besides that, the existing Country-configurations of Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue to do their important work this year.

Mr. President,

Today's debate is also about the work of the Peacebuilding Fund, an instrument whose relevance and effectiveness have been widely recognized. Commission is continuing to strengthen the synergies with the Fund. Over the past few years, several countries, including Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, approached the PBC to share their peacebuilding experiences and challenges, and to review support received from the PBF in the furtherance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We look forward to continuing with that approach, with a view to raise awareness on peacebuilding experiences around the world and to further increase the visibility of the PBF.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you on the successful high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace that you organized in April. The engagement shown by Member States in the meeting demonstrated how committed we all are to building and sustaining peace. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 April, in particular invites relevant UN bodies, including the Commission, to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in

the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Accordingly, the PBC is considering peacebuilding and sustaining peace in a more pragmatic way, exploring ways for the UN to work in a more coherent and effective manner in support of conflict-affected countries under consideration.

The Commission has already begun its consideration of these recommendations and I look forward to working with you, Mr. President, as well as with other relevant partners, in furthering our mutual goals of supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives.

I thank you.