

Security Council

Briefing on the PBC annual report

29 June 2018

Statement of the current Chair of the PBC

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the Republic of Korea, and Ambassador Cho in particular, for the excellent work done as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2017. As we have just heard, under the leadership of the Republic of Korea, the Commission made good progress in making the PBC more effective and in improving its advisory role to the Security Council.

I wish to focus my intervention on what the Commission has been doing this year to continue on that positive track.

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 the convening role of the PBC in mobilizing 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 (UNISS), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). 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, which this year is scheduled to take place in the fall, 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 commitments and partnerships in support of efforts to build and sustain peace in the Sahel under the umbrella of the UN's Sahel Strategy, which SRSG Chambas will present in July.

The annual session is a good example of how the convening role of the PBC can improve its advisory role. It is through its engagement with all relevant stakeholders to discuss broad peacebuilding issues that the PBC can provide comprehensive advice to the relevant UN bodies and support their deliberations. To be able to do that in an effective way, the Commission will further enhance its working methods and will strengthen cooperation with

key partners. With regards to the PBC advisory role to the Council, most importantly, and I wish to support a point raised earlier by my predecessor, the Commission needs to better time its calendar of work based on the activities of the Security Council. Early preparation is key if we want to provide strategic advice to the Council, if requested, when possible a couple of weeks ahead of the SC meetings on specific issues. In the same time, the PBC needs to submit the advice to the SC which would complement what the Council receives from other sources.

The Commission is also working towards further strengthening its relationship with the African Union. On 18 July, on the margins of the Security Council meeting with the AU Peace and Security Council, the PBC will convene a joint event with the PSC to explore opportunities for collaboration.

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 months 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 successful International Conference for the Gambia which took place in Brussels last May 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 continue to do their important work in support of longer term peacebuilding and sustaining peace strategies. Just at the beginning of this week, the PBC had a substantial meeting where we heard reports from the CSC Chairs and a briefing by the ASG for Peacebuilding Support on the progress in enhancing synergies between PBC and PBF.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to thank you for organizing the Informal Interactive Dialogue that will take place this morning. A discussion on the advisory role that the PBC can play when the Council is considering the formulation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates is very timely and important. I look forward to having a fruitful discussion and to further strengthen the relationship between Council and Commission.

I thank you.