



Press Statement of the Peacebuilding Commission on Institution-Building “Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions”

19 May 2021

Following the meeting on “*Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions*”, convened by the Chair H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees (Egypt) on 17 May, with briefings by the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner, Presidential Counsellor for Stabilisation and Consolidation of Colombia, Mr. Emilio Archila, Chief Executive Officer of India-based NGO Pratham, Dr. Rukmini Banerji, and President of the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace in Niger, Brigadier General Mahamadou Abou Tarka, as well as interventions from the General Secretary of the G7+, Mr. Helder da Costa, and Member States, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) issued the following statement:

The Commission reiterated that nationally owned and led efforts to build effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions were critical to reduce vulnerability, strengthen the social contract, protect and empower people, including women and youth, and foster trust in society. Highlighting its core mandate “to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict ...to lay the foundation for sustainable development”, the Commission recognized the importance of its unique advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned institution-building efforts.

The Commission expressed concern over recent challenges in the implementation of sustainable development goals and preserving hard-won peacebuilding gains around the world due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating existing grievances and inequalities and eroding social cohesion and peace. It called for ramping up collective efforts in strengthening effective, accountable and inclusive public service institutions, within the framework of the rule of law, cutting across all the sustainable development goals, in an integrated manner, as strong actors and enablers to prevent, mitigate and build back better from crises and conflict. The Commission appreciated the cross-regional sharing of scalable experiences and expertise from Colombia, India and Niger, and underlined the importance of supporting institution building in countries under its consideration, including through systematically sharing good practices, lessons learned as well as innovative approaches and solutions in the area of institution-building. South-South and triangular cooperation was recognized as a valuable approach in this regard.

The Commission underscored the role of the UN system, particularly the UNDP, in promoting context-specific and whole-of-system coordination and synergies among humanitarian, development and peace actors and partners at all levels with expertise and experience in strengthening inclusive institution-building. It recommended that UN field presences should be fully equipped to effectively work with various partners, in line with national peacebuilding priorities, to implement peacebuilding-related activities aimed at supporting the building of national and local institutions and capacities critical to ensuring equitable and peaceful transitions, equal access to public services and sustainable development. The Commission emphasized the need for further alignment of resources between the UN and international financial institutions in line with national peacebuilding priorities, strengthening of partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, and inclusion of all segments of society, to ensure meaningful participation of civil society and local actors, including women and youth representatives, enhanced capacity of institutions and trust between the people and the state by promoting rule of law.

The Commission acknowledged the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Fund to institution building in conflict-affected countries and catalyzing follow-up investments. It called for adequate, predictable, and innovative financing for institution and capacity building, drawing upon domestic and international public and private sectors. It also called for bold new mechanisms to help countries address crippling debt which has been sharply worsened by the pandemic.