

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal meeting with the Chairs of the Country-Specific**  
**Configurations**

**29 March 2017**

**Chair's Summary of the Discussion**

1. On 29 March 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting with the Chairs of the Country-Specific Configurations (CSCs) of the PBC. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Chair of the PBC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Chairs of the CSCs to report on the activities of their configurations during the 1st quarter of 2017, as well as to present their workplans for the second quarter.
2. In his opening remarks, the PBC Chair noted that the meeting was part of the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, and was building on the ongoing efforts to follow-up on the discussions on the PBC working methods. The PBC Chair also recognized that the meeting was going to contribute to strengthening the idea of “One PBC” by sharing best practices and enhancing the synergies in the country-specific work of the Commission. The PBC Chair recalled that during the Commission’s discussions on the working methods, Member States agreed to have a predictable and long-term workplan, which would be aligned to the programme of work of the Security Council, as part of the efforts to strengthen the PBC’s advisory role to the Security Council
3. The Representative of Morocco, in his capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic (CAR) CSC recalled his briefing to the Security Council on the challenges and opportunities with respect to peacebuilding in the CAR that was held on 15 February 2017. He also reported on the CAR CSC informal meeting of 16 March, which focused on ongoing and future peacebuilding efforts in the country. The meeting was attended by H.E Mr. Faustin Archange Touadéra, President of the CAR, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General(SRSG) in the CAR, and Mr. El Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The presence of President Touadéra at the PBC meeting sent a strong message to the international community on his Government’s commitment to lead the country’s efforts aimed at restoring peace and security, following the successful Brussels Conference on the CAR in November 2016. He stressed that the PBC remains committed to pursuing cooperation with the CAR and the UN system, under the leadership of SRSG Onanga-Anyanga.

4. The Chair of the CAR CSC outlined his plan to organize a series of meetings, at both expert and ambassadorial levels, in support of the three pillars of the CAR National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, namely: 1) promote peace, security and reconciliation; 2) renew the social contract between the State and the population; and 3) facilitate the recovery of the economic and productive sector. He attached particular importance to starting in the next quarter a meeting on the first pillar on peace, security and reconciliation, especially in the current fragile security context in the country. Support to peace and stability efforts in the CAR is crucial, as they would be essential to achieving national reconciliation. He informed the PBC of his intention to travel to the CAR within the next quarter to support ongoing peacebuilding efforts in the country.
5. The Representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau CSC, briefed on the activities of the configuration during the first quarter of 2017, which focused mainly on supporting ongoing efforts by the international and regional stakeholders toward a solution to the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau. He referred to the meeting of the Guinea Bissau CSC on 15 February, which provided an opportunity for Mr. Modibo Touré, SRSG and Head of UNIOGBIS to brief the latest developments in the country. H.E. Mr. Lewis Brown, Permanent Representative of Liberia representing the Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, Mr. Tanou Koné, Permanent Observer of ECOWAS to the United Nations, and Mr. Soares Sambú, Minister of External Relations of Guinea-Bissau also attended the meeting. He recalled that following the meeting, the PBC issued a press statement expressing support to ECOWAS mediation efforts, including the six point road map and the Conakry agreement. The press statement also reiterated PBC's backing of the various efforts made by international and regional stakeholders towards assisting the Bissau-Guinean parties to end the political stalemate in order to regain the momentum for the implementation of their programme of national development "Terra Ranka".
6. He also reported on the Chair of the CSC's participation in the meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Guinea-Bissau on 16 February, where he delivered a message focusing on increasing synergies and complementarities among the relevant international and regional partners in support of peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau. He noted that the Guinea-Bissau CSC has also focused on other priorities, such as enhancing coordination between ECOWAS, CPLP, AU, EU and UN in support of the peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau and supporting broad platforms for discussions on the means to support its socio-economic recovery.
7. The Representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Liberia CSC, recalled the progress made on 30 June 2016 with Liberia assuming full responsibility of its own security from the UNMIL, and stressed the importance of continued PBC support in the context of the ongoing transition with the upcoming elections and the drawdown and exit of UNMIL. He noted that the Liberia CSC has focused mainly on

supporting the development of the Liberia National Peacebuilding Plan, as requested by Security Council resolution 2333 of 23 December 2016. He commended the efforts by the Liberian Government, other national stakeholders and the UN for the inclusive process which resulted in a nationally-owned plan. The Liberia CSC had met several times throughout the process at expert level, and provided inputs to the plan, which also brought together the commitment of a wide range of international and regional partners, including the UN, World Bank and ECOWAS. He noted the clear role for the PBC in support of the implementation of the National Peacebuilding Plan, which would complement the Statement of Mutual Commitment (SMC) endorsed by the PBC and Government of Liberia in April 2016.

8. The Representative of Sweden noted that the Liberia CSC's immediate priorities were supporting the implementation of the Peacebuilding Plan, monitoring progress, and the upcoming elections and national reconciliation. An Ambassadorial-level meeting was foreseen for April 2017 to discuss the upcoming elections, with briefings from the National Electoral Commission on the preparations and remaining gaps and challenges. The Chair of the Liberia CSC was also planning to visit Liberia in May to consult with the government and other national stakeholders, the UN and other international and regional partners on the peacebuilding challenges and opportunities with a view to providing inputs to the Security Council meeting on the situation in Liberia to be held in June. He concluded by reiterating the PBC's commitment to support the peacebuilding efforts in Liberia, which has come to represent a test case for sustaining peace in the context of transition.
9. The Representative of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Sierra Leone CSC, recalled the situation in Sierra Leone, with the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for March 2018. He presented the upcoming elections as an important milestone, especially as this would be the first election in the country after the withdrawal of the UN Peacekeeping Operations and UN Special Political Mission. He welcomed the PBF support to a number of key initiatives, such as the dialogue between political parties, building on the 2012 elections. For the forthcoming elections, he noted that a number of technical steps needed to be completed on time within a tight electoral calendar, including boundary delimitation and voter registration. The President announced that a referendum on the constitution would be held in September 2017. There was a funding gap for the elections and referendum in spite of the significant resources committed by the Government of Sierra Leone.
10. The Representative of Canada reported that the Sierra Leone CSC held an expert-level meeting on 3 March 2017 with a briefing from UNOWAS on the situation in Sierra Leone, including the preparations of the elections. Following the meeting, the Chair of the CSC has been undertaking consultations with the Resident Coordinator's office, UNDP and other development partners to discuss the potential role of the PBC in marshaling resources in support of the electoral process. In the next quarter, the Sierra Leone CSC will continue to follow-up on support to the preparation of the elections

and ensuring that UNDP electoral assistance support project is fully funded. The CSC was also anticipating a series of Ambassadorial-level meetings bringing together a number of key actors including the UN, the AU, ECOWAS, Mano River Union, IFIs and other bilateral partners to ensure adequate support to Sierra Leone to help tackle its peacebuilding priorities and a successful electoral process.

11. Member States welcomed the PBC Chair's initiative to organize the meeting and the briefings by the Chairs of the CSCs, which contributed to further enhancing cohesion and synergies within the PBC. Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Sierra Leone, and United Kingdom spoke and highlighted how the PBC could further consolidate and strengthen its role, noting the following points:

- The advisory role of the PBC, noting the importance of the timing of PBC meetings and field visits ahead of Security Council meetings to ensure substantive inputs to Security Council deliberations.
- The unique convening role of the PBC in connecting key stakeholders, such as the AU with different parts of the UN system, relevant local, national regional and international actors, including IFIs, regional and sub-regional organizations, private sector, civil society, women and youth organizations.
- The PBC's role in fostering coherence and coordination within the UN system, and with other national, regional and international stakeholders.
- The importance of a flexible and effective PBC going beyond the CSCs to help sustain international attention and support to the situation in new countries as well as cross-border and regional peacebuilding challenges.
- The importance of inclusive national ownership of the government working with other relevant national stakeholders, including the civil society and private sector to identify and address the peacebuilding priorities.
- The PBC's role in mobilizing resources in support of the peacebuilding priorities, especially for countries in transition.
- The importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, as well as the need to foster inclusive participation of the youth in the sustaining peace efforts.

12. The Chair closed the meeting thanking the Chairs of the CSCs for agreeing to work together to enhance coherence and coordination within the PBC. He also welcomed the commitment of PBC members to work together to build a proactive PBC, providing as appropriate, key policy advice, particularly in connection with the requests of the Security-Council on the situations in the CAR, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and the Sahel.

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