

Peacebuilding Commission Informal Meeting on the preparations for the High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

8 March 2018

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 8 March 2018, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting to hear a briefing by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly, on the preparations for his High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace scheduled for 24 and 25 April 2018. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ion Jinga, Chair of the PBC.

1. The Chair opened the meeting recalling that the High-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace was mandated by the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and noted that the meeting represented an important opportunity to take stock of efforts made to strengthen and bring more internal coherence to the United Nations work on peacebuilding. He also recalled that, at the meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly on 5 March on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, Member States showed very high expectations for the High-level meeting. The Chair noted that, as an intergovernmental advisory body to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Commission stood ready to support the President of the General Assembly in the preparation and follow-up to the High-level meeting.
2. The President of the General Assembly focused on four main priorities, also raised in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, that he would use as a guide for the High-level meeting.
 - First, how to strengthen the work of the United Nations on sustaining peace on the ground. The president stressed that the UN has several positive examples we should learn from. In this connection, the President recognized the work done by the Commission, such as in the case of its engagement in Colombia, the Gambia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, as a testimony to the importance of being flexible and of adapting tools.
 - Second, the President stressed the importance of sustained and predictable financing and recognized the unique perspective of the PBC on financing which should feed into the High-level meeting.
 - Third, partnerships. The President underscored the importance for the United Nations to work with relevant partners and welcomed the work of the PBC in building partnerships with the World Bank and regional organizations.

- Fourth, the promotion of an integrated and comprehensive approach. The President recalled the bridging role of the PBC and the Commission’s interactions with Security Council and ECOSOC in 2017. He noted that the High-level meeting would be an opportunity to focus on the links between General Assembly and PBC.
3. The President acknowledged the strong support of Member States for a procedural resolution to be adopted at the High-level meeting and informed that he would soon appoint co-facilitators to lead the process. He also informed that he would prepare a Chair’s summary to reflect the discussions. He noted that the High-level meeting should be seen as a unique opportunity for Member States to be concrete and turn the strong calls of the resolutions of 2016 into actions. He concluded noting that the PBC would be crucial to make that happen.
 4. Member States welcomed the briefing and, in their interventions, highlighted the following points:
 - The High-level meeting is well timed to take stock of the progress made so far in implementing the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and to maintain the momentum for action oriented follow-up. In this regard, several Member States noted that the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace should feed into the High-level meeting.
 - A number of delegations welcomed the report and its recommendations.
 - The vast majority of delegations welcomed the decision of the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators to lead the process towards a procedural resolution as outcome of the High-level meeting. Member States underscored how a procedural resolution would pave the way towards the implementation of various options of the SG report, maintaining a link with the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.
 - The increasingly central role of the peacebuilding architecture was recognized and some Members emphasized the importance of avoiding conceptual discussions and to focus on how to strengthen UN action in peacebuilding.
 - A number of Member States noted that the PBC should have a central role in convening key partners and carrying forward these discussions.
 - Several speakers noted the importance of prevention, stressing that it is cost effective and saves lives, but also underscoring the centrality of national ownership in this regard.
 - Several speakers called for a strengthened coherence at headquarters and reduced fragmentation at country level.
 - The need for more predictable funding for peacebuilding activities was recognized and a number of Member States called for more funding to be allocated to the PBF.
 - A number of speakers also underscored the importance of partnerships with international financial institutions and with regional organizations.
 5. In response to comments made by Member States, the President of the General Assembly recalled that peace and prevention are at the core of the work of the United Nations. He

stressed that now it's the time to do more, to learn from the past and not ignore warnings. He underscored the importance to focus on discussing activities and performance on the ground rather than terminology. He said that the High-level meeting represented a timely opportunity for Member States to discuss several important issues to strengthen the work of the Organization on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He concluded noting that he counted on the PBC to help him the UN to use the High-level meeting as a contribution to sustaining peace and prevention.

6. The Chair closed the meeting thanking the President of the General Assembly and expressing his readiness to work together towards a successful High-level meeting.
