

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee**  
**17 November 2016**

**Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion**

**Background**

---

On 17 November 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Chair of the PBC, and addressed the following agenda items: 1) UN-AU Cooperation / Peacebuilding in Africa; 2) Other matters.

**UN-AU Cooperation / Peacebuilding in Africa**

1. The Chair opened the meeting recalling that the strategic partnership between the UN and the AU had grown significantly over the last decade and had been critical to conflict prevention and sustaining peace efforts in Africa. In that connection, the resolutions on sustaining peace (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)), and the subsequent Presidential Statements issued by the Security Council in May (S/PRST/2016/8) and July (S/PRST/2016/12), stress the importance of partnership with the African Union and call for improved coordination and cooperation, as well as increased coherence and complementarity of sustaining peace efforts in Africa.
2. Against that backdrop, the Chair briefed Member States on the PBC visit to the African Union Headquarters that he led from 17 to 19 October 2016. He informed that the delegation, composed of the two PBC Vice-Chairs (Republic of Korea and Sweden) and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, held a meeting with the AU Peace and Security Council on 18 October 2016. The meeting was attended by the 15 members of the Peace and Security Council (Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zambia) and the Permanent Members of the Security Council, as well as Angola and Senegal who were also invited to attend. Participants recognized the need to enhance synergies and complementarity of the PBC and AU-PSC joint efforts while fostering inclusive national ownership and leadership. Participants also underscored the importance of putting an emphasis on conflict prevention and addressing the root causes of conflicts, and they highlighted the links between peace and security, development and human rights. The Chair also reported that several members of the AU-PSC welcomed the work undertaken by the PBC in addressing regional and sub-regional peacebuilding challenges, and also agreed on the importance of women's and youth's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. Finally, he noted that there was broad recognition that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Africa Agenda 2063 were mutually reinforcing and important frameworks to strengthen the cooperation between AU and PBC.

3. The Chair informed that, on 18 October, the AU-PSC issued a Communique which called for stronger partnership between the PBC and the PSC. In particular, the communique called for a) a meeting between AU-PSC and the PBC on an annual basis, with meetings in Addis Ababa and New York in alternate years; b) Planning ahead for possible joint visits to post conflict areas in Africa; c) Organizing future PBC and AU Peace and Security Council interactive sessions to which post conflict African countries will be invited to share views on the opportunities and challenges; d) Organizing joint retreats to exchange views and coordinate our respective interventions in the areas of conflict prevention and sustaining peace in Africa.
4. The Chair also informed that, in addition to the meeting with the AU-PSC, the delegation met with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), the Economic Community for Africa (ECA) and other UN Agencies and Programmes with a representation at the African Union, including OCHA, UN Women, UNICEF and UNESCO. The delegation also consulted with Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations with a Liaison Office to the African Union, including Oxfam International, World Vision, ICRC, Crisis Action, Transparency International and Plan International. On the margins of these meetings, the delegation paid a courtesy call to the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who commended the PBC efforts to enhance cooperation with the AU.
5. Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, noted that, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on “Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa”, there was an urgent need for a stronger partnership with the AU to enable us to respond more swiftly, coherently and decisively to prevent and manage conflict, as well as to sustain peace. He noted that peacebuilding was an important element in the partnership between UN and AU and that sustainable and predictable financing for peacebuilding was critical. In this connection, he recognized the important work undertaken by the PBF in providing support to African Union initiatives, or to countries where the AU was an important partner to the United Nations. Looking ahead, it was important that the partnership between the AU and the UN continued to be based on complementarity, burden-sharing and comparative advantage. He informed that, ten years after the adoption of the policy on “Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development” (PCRD), the AU was now taking steps to operationalise the policy. Mr. Menkerios also updated the Commission on the discussions ongoing in the AU on the modalities for implementation of proposals on financing and on the Peace Fund. He said that this was potentially a positive step towards ensuring that such activities were placed on a more secure and predictable financial footing. In tandem, President Kagame has been asked to lead a reform initiative to make the AU Commission and other Organs more effective and streamlined. The outcome of these initiatives would have an important impact on the AU-UN partnership going forward.
6. Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, welcomed the decision of the Commission to explore ways to further strengthen its partnership with the AU. He reported that, during the PBC visit to Addis Ababa, he discussed with the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security ways to lay the foundations for a more predictable and strategic partnership in areas of conflict prevention, political dialogue,

national reconciliation, democratic governance and human rights. He also discussed with the AU Special envoy for Women Peace and Security, with the Head of the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division, and the Head of the Crisis Management, Post-Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Division, how the momentum provided by the resolutions on sustaining peace and the ten years of the PCRD could further enhance UN-AU cooperation, including through the promotion of youth participation and gender-sensitive peacebuilding.

7. Mr. Fernandez-Taranco noted that Africa was of strategic importance for the peacebuilding architecture and updated the Commission on the PBF overall engagement in the region. He underscored that, since 2007, the PBF had disbursed more than \$650 million globally, including support to sustain peace in 20 countries in Africa which received over 75% of all PBF support. The following had been initial priorities for PBF investment:

- Burundi: \$65 million in support of the peacebuilding efforts since 2007. The PBF funding, included support to the political dialogue, the reform of the security forces and management of land conflicts. The Fund also supported the deployment of AU Human rights observers, the first direct support to a regional organization.
- Central African Republic: \$56 million, of which \$34 million prior to the relapse into violence of late 2013. In 2014, the fund supported the payment of salaries of 3,417 police. On 17 November, at the Brussels Conference on the CAR, the Deputy Secretary-General announced that the PBF would immediately make available \$15 million to address key peacebuilding needs.
- Guinea: \$60 million since 2007 in support of peacebuilding priorities . Ongoing support [\$15.3 million] focused on the Security Sector Reform, National Reconciliation, Youth and Women employment, and the prevention and responses to Gender Based Violence.
- Guinea-Bissau: \$31.2 million since 2008, with ongoing support [\$10 million] including for the political dialogue, SSR, the justice system and the rule of law.
- Liberia: \$50 million since 2008 with current focus on efforts to strengthen access to justice and security as well as the implementation of the National Reconciliation Roadmap. Additional support committed as part of the transition of UNMIL and in the context of next year's electoral process.
- Sierra Leone: \$52 million since 2007 to support a wide range of peacebuilding efforts, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Fund supported the country during the Ebola crisis and additional funds allocated to support the elections planned for early 2018.

8. Mr. Fernandez-Taranco added that the PBF had further supported other countries in Africa to address their peacebuilding needs. For example:

- Somalia: \$24 million in support of the federal government's peace- and state-building efforts. Support to the Federal Government and AMISOM strategy of reclaiming territory from Al Shabaab to re-establish government authority in the Newly Recovered Areas.

- Madagascar: \$11.5 Million to support good governance, including anti-corruption efforts and security sector reform.
- Mali: \$11 Million to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement, including through support to the cantonment, reintegration of returnees and peace dividend activities in the North.
- Cote d'Ivoire: \$33.7 million with current focus [\$12 million] on consolidating peacebuilding gains to deliver services and foster social cohesion, economic empowerment and intra-community dialogue. The PBF also responded to a joint call of the Presidents of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia for increased attention to the border areas by launching a Cross-border Project.
- South Sudan: \$14.5 Million to support the country's priorities, including economic and employment opportunities for young people. Unfortunately, the projects were suspended following the relapse into violence.

9. Member States welcomed the briefings and, in their interventions, highlighted the following issues:

- There was a need for a stronger partnership between the UN and the AU. The regional approach of the PBC, its increasingly flexible working methods, its closer relationship with the AU, including through the recent meeting with the AU-PSC, represented important steps forward.
- A strong UN-AU partnership was a key requirement to properly address root causes of conflicts, to support conflict-affected countries develop solid institutions and, ultimately, to prevent lapse and relapse into conflict.
- Stronger synergies between UN and AU had to be anchored into the principle of national ownership.
- On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PCRCD, more clarity discussions were needed to further elaborate on its evolution and vision. The PBC could be an important partner of the PSC to bring forward these discussions.
- Stronger synergies between the PBC and the PBF would reinforce the catalytic role of the Fund and ensure a more coherent approach towards sustaining peace. More predictable funding was crucial and delegations stressed their expectations to the proposals from the Secretary-General on how this could be achieved.
- In connection with the PBF, efforts should be made to make the activities of the Fund better known, to the PBC and beyond, showing how it contributed to sustaining peace.

#### **Other matters**

10. The Chair updated delegations on the ongoing discussions on the PBC rules of procedure and working methods. He recalled that the resolutions on sustaining peace, in paragraph 5, encouraged the Commission to review its provisional rules of procedure and working methods in order to become more flexible and effective. In this connection, and in the aftermath of the adoption of those resolutions, the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and

Kenya had convened informal discussions with relevant partners and stakeholders on the working methods of the Commission. Those discussions resulted in a non-paper that was circulated to the PBC in August, and received contributions from PBC members. Since then, the Commission convened 5 expert-level consultations which culminated into a document composed by: Part A: implementable actions based on good practices; Part B: recommendations which required further discussion. The Chair informed that the Commission had placed Part A under silence procedure for informal adoption with a view to incorporate it in its annual report as an Annex.

11. Member States congratulated the Chair for his leadership in bringing forward a key recommendation of the resolutions on sustaining peace. Delegations underscored that a more flexible PBC, which through an evolution of the country-configurations could convene country-specific discussions in the framework of its Organizational Committee, would represent an important outcome of the recent review process. In this connection, delegations welcomed the ongoing review of the PBC engagement with Guinea, which would graduate from the current form of engagement at the request of the government of Guinea. The review would further elaborate and recommend accompanying measures for such graduation, the content and modalities for a future engagement with the PBC.
12. On another matter, the Chair reminded Member States of the invitation to attend the annual retreat of the PBC organized by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and PBSO. The retreat would take place in Greentree, NY, on 8 and 9 December and it would bring together the Members of the PBC, the Presidents of GA, Security Council and ECOSOC, and senior UN officials to discuss practical ways to implement the resolutions on sustaining peace and identify key priorities for the work of the Commission in 2017. The Chair encouraged all Member States to attend.

The Chair further informed Member States that preparations were ongoing for a high-level informal event of the President of the General Assembly on the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace. The event was scheduled for 24 January 2017 and the Presidents of Security Council and ECOSOC, the Secretary-General, as well as the Chair of the PBC had been invited. The Chair underscored that the event would represent an important opportunity to strengthen the coherence in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, as well as to showcase the important work undertaken by PBC and PBF in the areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

\*\*\*\*