

PBC Chair's draft remarks
General Assembly Interactive Dialogue to commemorate and promote the
International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
5 May 2021 at 10:00 am

Mr. President,

- I thank you for inviting me to this important Interactive Dialogue to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, which is a matter of significant importance to us all.
- Upon assumption of my duties as the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, I have clearly stated that enhancing effective and impactful multilateralism is an overarching priority for Egypt's chairmanship, and I remain committed to leading the PBC to that end.
- There has been enough evidence over the last few years to show that the Peacebuilding Commission has fostered a more inclusive and effective multilateralism by promoting and supporting multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder solutions that cut across current siloes and help reshape UN responses to the multidimensional nature of new threats.
- This has been particularly the case since the 2015 review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, when the Peacebuilding Commission embodied the spirit of the United Nations reforms by making a tangible difference on a number of country and regional contexts as well as thematic issues.
- In particular, the Commission has made a remarkable effort to deliver on its promise by creating space for contributions from a wide array of stakeholders with particular emphasis on leadership voices from the field in support of national and regional peacebuilding priorities..
- Its inclusive and strategic approach guarantees results, which has recently motivated more countries to seek its support. In 2020, at the request of Member States who wanted to engage with the PBC, the Commission supported 15 separate country- and region-specific contexts, a sharp increase from the 2 countries under its consideration in 2006 and from the 6 countries under its consideration in 2015, bringing the total number of conflict-affected contexts the Commission has supported since its inception in 2005 to 22.

- In this connection, allow me to share some highlights from recent engagements:
 - **Since the outset of the “COVID-19” pandemic, the PBC has promoted global solidarity to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding in countries under its consideration.** Building on its unique experience in mobilizing support for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone’s efforts to preserve peacebuilding gains and deal with the socio-economic impact of the Ebola epidemic in 2014-2016, the Commission created space for national and regional leaders to share their experiences and seek support for efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **The PBC has created space for countries who chose to engage with the Commission to lead by example, define their own peacebuilding needs, and hold themselves accountable.** Sierra Leone did just that by confirming its exit from the configuration and later (December 2020) presenting its own roadmap and priorities for engagement with the PBC. Similarly, Papua New Guinea sought in May 2020 additional resources to meet its Sustainable Development Goals; and Somalia requested in December 2020 further attention to and support for the implementation of its National Development Plan and its National Reconciliation Framework.
 - **The Commission led strong multi-partner support for peacebuilding in Burkina Faso.** The Commission began its engagement in support of Burkina Faso in 2015, which it maintained over the years to promote coherent UN action and coordinated international support, including from the Peacebuilding Fund. This resulted in mobilizing over US \$400 million from PBC members in support of the country’s peacebuilding priorities in 2020. This also led to Burkina Faso being the first country to benefit from the World Bank’s Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), under its Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Envelope.
 - **In exercising its advisory role, the Commission provides enhanced input on broad peacebuilding perspectives for the Security Council’s consideration,** including during mandate renewals as was recently the case on MINUSCA, UNIOGBIS and UNOWAS, and most recently briefed the Council on the Great Lakes Region. I also take this opportunity to underscore that the Commission will be advising the

General Assembly for the first time on “Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa” in accordance with GA Resolution 74/302.

- **The Commission has strived for deepening and expanding partnerships.** In addition to existing partnerships with regional organizations, International Financial Institutions, last month, the Commission has engaged for the first time with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and joined the recently inaugurated “Trade for Peace Network” to assist conflict affected countries seeking accession of the WTO.

- **The Commission is also a strong advocate for enhancing the role of women and youth in peacebuilding.** Guided by a gender strategy adopted in 2016 and reviewed in 2020, as well as a Strategic Action Plan on youth and peacebuilding adopted in February 2021, the Commission delivers tangible support to women and youth. The unique form of PBC engagement in Colombia with women former combatants and victims in January 2020; an innovative PBC engagement in the Great Lakes designed by women in the region in June 2020; and strong PBC support for the implementation of the second Liberia National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2019-2023 and the National Roadmap on Rape and sexual and gender-based violence in March 2021 are successful examples of the Commission’s country-specific and regional activities. They complement and reinforce the Commission’s work to amplify the voices of women and youth by conveying their messages and recommendation to other intergovernmental bodies, including the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Mr. President,

- These examples and success stories show the PBC’s potential and invaluable contribution to advance effective multilateralism in support of conflict affected countries. In order to sustain the significant role of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, more needs to be done to address the most critical and pressing challenges it faces, namely financing. We remain

hopeful that the General Assembly High-Level meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding, which is mandated by the 2020 twin resolutions, will translate our commitment to multilateralism into concrete actions towards realizing adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

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- the complexity of modern-day crises and conflict require scaled-up peacebuilding responses. Peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge globally, including financing for the Peacebuilding Fund. The Peacebuilding Commission will also need to scale up its work in terms of its geographical and substantive focus.
- To conclude, the PBC is well positioned to support effective and inclusive multilateralism through its convening and bridging powers. Let us all give it the attention that it deserves so that it can respond effectively to current peacebuilding needs.
