

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek
Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
At the Security Council high-level Open Debate on
“Diversity, State building and the Search for Peace”
New York, 12 October 2021

**Your Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and
President of the Security Council,**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**At the outset, I would like to congratulate Kenya for assuming the
presidency of the Security Council. I am pleased to submit this statement, in my
capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, to this important open debate
on “diversity, State building and the search for Peace”.**

Mr. President,

**Diversity is the greatest strength of humanity. However, unfortunately,
throughout history it has very often been manipulated, politicized and
instrumentalized for mobilization to compete over resources and power. This
could lead to exclusion, grievances, undermine the social contract and stability,
and ultimately spark conflicts.**

**The Peacebuilding Commission, in exercising its unique advisory, bridging
and convening roles, has advanced a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding
and sustaining peace. An approach that embraces diversity and inclusion. This has
been evident in the 2016 and 2020 twin resolutions of the Security Council and
the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. they have
emphasized that inclusivity is key to advancing national ownership and
leadership of peacebuilding processes in order to ensure that the needs of all
segments of society are taken into account. The twin resolutions have also
underlined that development, peace and security, and human rights are
interlinked and mutually reinforcing**

The Commission has also provided, through its country- and region-specific engagements as well as thematic discussions, a unique platform to share cross-regional scalable experiences, good practices, lessons learned as well as innovative approaches and solutions in addressing root-causes of conflict, and advancing inclusive peacebuilding processes.

Earlier this year, the Peacebuilding Commission convened a meeting on “Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions”, focusing attention on institution-building efforts.¹ In this connection, I wish to share the following points for the consideration of the Council:

First: The PBC’s engagements have shown that inclusivity and respect for diversity are key to build and sustain peace. It’s through inclusive national dialogues that conflict-affected countries can address present, past and potential future grievances. Such efforts should equally enhance the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding.

Second: The Commission remains extremely concerned over challenges in preserving hard-won peacebuilding gains around the world due to the pandemic, which is exacerbating existing grievances and inequalities and eroding social cohesion and peace. The Commission, therefore, calls for ramping up collective efforts in supporting nationally owned and led endeavors to prevent, mitigate and build back better from crises and conflicts.

Third: 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.

Fourth: There is a need for further alignment of resources and efforts of the UN and international financial institutions with national peacebuilding priorities,

¹ See Press Statement of the Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-level Meeting on Institution-Building “Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions” (19 May 2021). Available at https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2105199_pbc_press_statement_on_institution_building.pdf

strengthening of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, and inclusion of all segments of society.

Last but not least: Peacebuilding efforts should be accompanied by communication strategies that use new and traditional media including social media platforms to promote peaceful coexistence and counteract incitement, hate, hate speech, misinformation and fake news.

In conclusion, the PBC is well positioned to continue to advise the Security Council, when and where relevant, including during the review of peacekeeping mandates and transitions, with a view to bring a peacebuilding perspective that complements the Council's deliberations and better inform its actions.

I thank you.

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