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## Chair's Summary

### Peacebuilding Commission meeting on “Good Practices in Financing for Peacebuilding and Partnerships”

Cartagena, Colombia  
14-15 January 2020



At the initiative of the President of Colombia, H.E. Mr. Iván Duque Márquez, the government of Colombia hosted a meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on “Good Practices in Financing for Peacebuilding and Partnerships” in Cartagena on 14-15 January. This was the first PBC meeting outside of New York. Before the opening, participants visited an exhibition of products of former combatants, survivors, and communities, where the Minister

of Foreign Affairs, the Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, and the SRSG for Colombia provided context. Participants witnessed firsthand that entrepreneurship, supported by the private sector, is an engine of peacebuilding in former conflict areas. The PBC discussion that ensued provided input into the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

In her opening remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, **H.E. Ms. Claudia Blum**, expressed appreciation for the positive role of the international community in support of the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia, including through the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, the constructive engagement of the PBC and the catalytic support of the PBF. She emphasized the importance of adequate and sustained financing for peacebuilding and expressed hope that during the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture this important issue would be adequately reflected. She underscored the importance of strategic partnerships with the private sector, IFIs, and civil society, which, as was evident in the Colombian context, were crucial for sustaining peace. She also highlighted the importance of empowering local communities, noting that human rights and sustainable development were integral parts of peacebuilding and development efforts.

#### **Panel I - Financing for peacebuilding: good practices and sharing of experiences**

Colombia's High Commissioner for Peace, **Mr. Miguel Caballos**, briefly described progress to date in the implementation of the peace agreement, while also noting remaining challenges, including the existence of illegal armed groups that threaten the rule of law. He explained that dismantling these groups was a matter of priority for lasting peace, while also stressing the important role of local level mediators, including women, in promoting reconciliation. He also explained that, in Colombia, there was need for continuous support from the international community for clearing mines in areas affected by conflict.



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The Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, **Mr. Emilio Archila**, described how development plans with a territorial approach were created in Colombia with the objective of carrying out rural reforms through participatory planning. He detailed efforts aimed at accelerating the structural transformation of remote rural areas, particularly those affected by conflict, by mobilizing private and public investments and improving public services at the local level. He added that the projects that were being implemented within the framework of the territorial plans were owned by local unions such as associations of conflict survivors and former combatants, which contributed positively to the implementation of the peace agreement.

**Mr. Mark Durkan**, one of the key negotiators of the Good Friday Agreement between the British and Irish governments, explained how peace enables societal change. ‘Peace is about emancipating people to seeing things differently, in a way that conflict and victimhood did not allow them previously’, he said. Making reference to the product exhibition of survivors, local communities and former combatants that participants visited on the margins of the meeting, he described the transformational change that comes with empowering and resourcing people to ‘not only see peace but, more importantly, to be the peace’. He recalled that partnerships and local delivery mechanisms helped ensure the successful implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and underscored the importance of allowing for a period of growth for local people-to-people based initiatives, through local delivery mechanisms, before focusing on mainstreaming and scaling up.

**Ms. Anne Anderson**, member of the Advisory Group of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, noted the generous financing for peacebuilding in Northern Ireland, and contrasted it with other, less privileged contexts, where, in the absence of adequate financing, efforts to sustain peace become extremely complicated. She explained that reconciliation requires systemic change. ‘Without grass root movements, there is no attitudinal change, which is essential for stability and peace’, she observed. She explained the interplay between economic regeneration and wider society regeneration, noting that peace and prosperity are intertwined. She lamented the mismatch between rhetoric and reality in overall peacebuilding ODA, adding that the necessary transformative change will not happen unless economic change occurs within a human rights and social justice framework.

The Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, **H.E. Mr. Yemdaogo Eric Tiare**, emphasized the importance of national ownership of peacebuilding processes while at the same time expressing concern about the increasing spending on security in his country’s national budget and calling for strong international support for Burkina Faso’s peacebuilding priorities. He recalled his government’s collaboration with international partners within the framework of the prevention and peacebuilding assessment (PPBA) and expressed hope that international community would support the implementation of the action plans that emanated from this exercise. The Permanent Representative emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships in support of national peacebuilding strategies and mentioned the G5 Sahel as an example of a strategic partnerships that aims to mobilize resources for humanitarian, development and security initiatives in the sub-region. He thanked the Alliance for the Sahel for supporting development projects and helping to attract private sector investments in the region.

**Ms. Rosa Elena Hoyos**, member of a victims’ association (ASOTEJER) presented her personal trajectory to craft making and entrepreneurship. She stressed the importance of supporting and



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empowering women peacebuilders at the local level. ‘The training that I received through the association toughed me how to be an entrepreneur and how to be independent’, said Ms. Hoyos. She added that the active participation of women in productive associations is essential for their success.

**Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding, reiterated that PBSO will continue to support the efforts of the PBC in mobilizing needed resources for peacebuilding, including by encouraging strong multi-partner support to peacebuilding priorities, using catalytic PBF support to reinforce peace dividends in high-risk situations, and promoting coherent UN action in support of a country’s or a region’s peacebuilding strategy. He stressed the need for a renewed commitment to preventing and responding to critical situations - at scale - with adequate, predictable and sustained funding. He also emphasized the importance of promoting innovative financing solutions for peacebuilding and forging strategic partnerships.

## **Panel II - Strategic partnerships, International Financial Institutions and Private Sector**

**Mr. Rafael de la Cruz**, General Manager for the Andean countries, Inter-American Development Bank, noted that fragile situations undermine the development prospects, stability and security of countries and regions. He described initiatives and strategic partnerships of IADB that aim to engage actively in situations of fragility, including by financing infrastructure and supporting basic service delivery by the state and local communities, supporting economic recovery and macro-stability, encouraging private sector growth and job creation; and helping to strengthen governance and accountability systems. He stressed the need to deepen and enhance the effectiveness of these efforts through even stronger partnerships.

**Mr. Ulrich Zachau**, World Bank Country Director in Colombia, presented the Bank’s focus on addressing the challenges posed by fragility, conflict and violence (FCV), which lies at the core of the World Bank Group’s mission to end extreme poverty. He outlined different financing and support instruments available to the Bank in advancing its strategy to address the drivers of Fragility, Conflict and Violence, including IDA 19; IFC/MIGA and the State and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF). He explained that, in Colombia, the Bank supported the government’s development goals through the Country Partnership Framework (2016-21), which focuses on fostering balanced territorial development; enhancing social inclusion and mobility through improved service deliver; and supporting fiscal sustainability and productivity.

**Mr. Jorge Enrique Bedoya Vizcaya**, Colombian private sector representative, stressed the importance of vocational training in creating an environment conducive to private sector investments. In order to participate in cooperatives and be employed in collectives ranging from agricultural ventures to clothing manufacturing to eco-tourism, former combatants, survivors and community members need to invest in a broad range of new skills, including business management, organizational and marketing skills.

The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, **H.E. Mr. Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard**, stated that Canada has been working vigorously with partners to increase financing for sustainable development and peacebuilding, and that Canada will continue to do so, including within the framework of the PBC. He expressed concern that demand is outstripping



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contributions to the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund and emphasized the importance of making more predictable the financing of UN peacebuilding activities from voluntary, assessed and innovative sources, as articulated in the Secretary-General's 2018 report. He stressed the importance of strengthening UN partnerships with IFIs and the private sector in support of national peacebuilding strategies, a priority he was planning to pursue within the PBC.

### **Member States observed that:**

- The international community was unanimous in acknowledging progress in the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia, as evidenced during a recent meeting of the United Nations Security Council. PBC members noted in particular Colombia's comprehensive approach in reintegrating child soldiers. They also recognized that trust-building and reconciliation takes time and stressed the need to ensure comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement. They noted that all regions deserve to receive investments for rural development and added that substitution of illicit crops requires a lot of effort and resources, and it entails land reforms, which should also take into account ethnicity and gender. They also emphasized the importance of protecting social leaders and human rights defenders.
- The contributions of PBF and Sweden to the umbrella Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) are considered a good model for replication in other similar contexts.
- There should be no more missed opportunities in pursuing the Secretary-General's options to significantly increase and make more predictable the financing of UN peacebuilding activities from voluntary, assessed and innovative sources. In Liberia for example, a voluntary commitment of unspent assessed contributions from the peacekeeping budget to the PBF could have provided urgently needed resources in support of transition priorities, many of which remain unmet.
- The PBF is a key component of UN reform and a key instrument in promoting coherence. The Secretary-General has recently reiterated his plea to all Member States for a "quantum leap" of support to the Fund to meet its \$500 million per year goal. Participants expressed hope that this meeting, inspired by the pride, hope and commitment of survivors, former combatants and communities, would help to advocate for that cause.
- Funding for PBF goes beyond the PBF. It affects the whole of the United Nations system, which is why it is imperative that the UN system enhances coherence and shows more results. In that regard, PBC has a role to play not only in helping to enhance coherence within the UN system but also between the UN and the WB, by discussing good practices. It is equally important to ensure that financing for peacebuilding is more strongly linked with agenda 2030 and to strengthen synergies between the different international funding streams.
- More needs to be done to increase innovative financing for peacebuilding initiatives and to attract private sector investments in conflict-affected areas. There are several challenges to overcome in that regard, including challenges related to tax reforms and high levels of corruption.
- There is need for more alliances not only with more generous countries and IFIs, but also with ideologically and politically like-minded countries. In that regard, there is need for PBC to reinforce its links with the group of friends of peacebuilding. In view of the ongoing process of



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reviewing the peacebuilding architecture, strengthened links between the two groups of countries can go far in supporting efforts to improve financing for peacebuilding.

- The importance of complementary bilateral aid in support of peacebuilding should also be acknowledged and encouraged.
- Capacity building of State institutions at central and local levels should be a priority in conflict affected and fragile settings, and in that regard the PBC should do more to promote good practices in this important area.
- With respect to the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, PBC members stressed the importance of a critical look into the status of implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations related to financing for peacebuilding, emanating from the 2016 resolutions.
- Representatives of countries that are recipients of PBF support and countries that engage with the PBC expressed deep appreciation for the critical support. PBC members further noted that the Commission can be most effective in supporting efforts to enhance financing for peacebuilding in cases where there is active effort to ensure broad consensus in the definition of specific peacebuilding priorities and alignment of regional institutions and the international community with these priorities.

In his concluding remarks, the President of Colombia, **H.E. Mr. Iván Duque Márquez**, stressed the importance of partnerships with international organizations in support of territorial development plans in Colombia. He explained that financing of local-level peacebuilding initiatives, including by empowering local municipalities with appropriate budget and by ensuring transparent distribution of resources, are essential for the successful implementation of Colombia's peace agreement. He added that robust and detailed planning for the implementation of all aspects of the peace agreement, with a clear timeline from central all the way to local levels, is equally important. He stated that the agents of peace at the community level, the ones who understand and believe in peace, are those who can make a difference.