

**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in Burkina Faso**

**5 March 2020
Chair's Summary**

1. On 5 March, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Burkina Faso. The objective of the meeting was to help mobilize adequate and coherent international support for the Government's peacebuilding priorities, as articulated in the Priority Action Plan (Matrice d'Actions Prioritaires) emanating from the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment (PPBA) undertaken by the Government of Burkina Faso with support from the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union.
2. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of the PBC. Burkina Faso's Minister of Economy Lassané Kaboré, USG DiCarlo, senior representatives of EU/EEAS, the African Development and the World Bank as well as the mayor of Dori and a representative of a women's civil society organization in Burkina Faso briefed the Commission. A senior representative of USIP attended the meeting and intervened from the floor. Germany was represented by the Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance and the U.S. was represented by the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), Department of State. The UN Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso, Ms. Makhetha, attended the meeting virtually and was joined by locally-based Ambassadors and partners.
3. In his opening remarks, the Chair noted that the meeting built on past PBC meetings on Burkina Faso, including the high-level meeting held on 26 September 2019. He recalled that the Government had asked its main multilateral partners in June 2019 to jointly undertake the PPBA exercise to identify priorities for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, particularly in the six regions most affected by instability and insecurity. He congratulated the Government for concluding Phase 1 of the PPBA by finalizing the Priority Action Plan.
4. The Minister of Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Lassané Kaboré, recalled that the country had been facing increasing security challenges since 2015, in particular since mid-2019 when the security situation rapidly deteriorated, causing instability and severely affecting the socioeconomic situation. He noted that the breakdown of social services had deprived more than 300,000 children of education and 1.5 million people of access to health care. In addition, 1.2 million people were affected by food insecurity. The Minister informed the Commission that the Priority Action Plan set out a series of priority actions focusing on: i) strengthening rule of law and security institutions; ii) optimizing humanitarian

and social emergency management; iii) strengthening the presence of the state; iv) consolidating the foundations of social cohesion and resilience. He underscored that the estimated cost of implementation of the Priority Action Plan amounted to 378.6 million USD, of which 176.9 million USD was yet to be mobilized. The Minister emphasized the regional nature of the challenges experienced in Burkina Faso, and called for mechanisms to be put in place to mobilize adequate resources and ensure synergies of actions to respond to the security, humanitarian and peacebuilding challenges in the Sahel with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In conclusion, the Minister shared with the Commission his hope that the meeting would lead to concrete actions for prevention and peacebuilding. The Minister was complemented by Director-General and National Coordinator of the *Program d'Urgence pour le Sahel of Burkina Faso*, Mr. Martial Wilfried Bassolé, who provided details on the implementation of the Priority Action Plan. He underlined that, to avoid duplication, the strategy for implementation of the Priority Action Plan built on existing dialogue frameworks in different sectors at local, central and regional levels. He informed of a new technical framework through which the Government, with support from financial and technical partners, would monitor implementation. He underscored that the successful implementation of the Priority Action Plan would depend on renewed partnership based on transparency and mutual accountability and consensus at the highest level on the critical priorities in the short-term and flexibility in international assistance.

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Ms. Rosemary A. DiCarlo, commended the Government for its leadership in responding to the emerging threats and noted that the meeting presented an opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the international community to help accelerate development and sustain peace in Burkina Faso, including through the Government's forthcoming National Development Plan for 2021-2025. She recalled her recent visit to Burkina Faso during which she discussed with the President and several ministers the worsening security situation, which had multiplied the humanitarian challenges. She noted with concern the number of internally displaced persons that had rapidly risen from 87,000 in January 2019 to over 765,000 in February 2020 and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance that had increased from 1.5 million in December 2019 to 2.2 million in January 2020. She further highlighted that the Humanitarian Response Plan launched on 27 February was appealing for 321 million USD to provide direct lifesaving assistance to more than 1.2 million people. The USG urged that in implementing the Priority Action Plan, emphasis should be placed on meaningful participation of women and youth in prevention initiatives and peace processes, including through direct support to women-led and youth-led initiatives that aim to promote social cohesion, counter violent extremism and radicalization and offer livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, she underlined that coordinated and coherent support was needed for the implementation of the Government's recently launched first-ever national security policy as well as for the holding of credible elections in November 2020. The USG underscored that the UN remained committed to providing fully integrated and system-

wide support across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding areas of work, including through its strengthened presence in the five regions of the Sahel Emergency Program and through the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

6. The Director of the Integrated Approach for Security and Peace Directorate at the European External Action Service of the European Union, Mr. Stefano Tomat, commended the Government for demonstrating strong commitment to restoring peace in Burkina Faso. He underlined that the Priority Action Plan was a strong coordination tool and highlighted the value of the innovative form of cooperation demonstrated in the PPBA. He emphasized that the second phase of the PPBA would focus on strengthening long-term stability and address the root causes of the crisis in Burkina Faso and the Sahel. He highlighted that the EU had provided 100 million EUR through budget support and several projects funded through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for the implementation of the Priority Action Plan. He emphasized the need for long-term commitment from the Government and international partners and underscored that success should be measured by tangible improvements in the living conditions of the population. He underlined in this regard the valuable role of the PBC in mounting political support and maintaining a high-level engagement. He briefed the Commission on the EU Stabilization Action Plan with a series of stabilization actions for the Sahel and on the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S) adopted during the 45th G7 summit. In conclusion, he noted that the next meeting on the P3S in Brussels on 26 March would be an occasion to ensure synergies between the different processes.

7. The World Bank Country Director for Burkina Faso, Ms. Soukeyna Kane, reiterated that the Government had demonstrated its leadership at the first signs of a worsening situation, which to date had led to the closure of 2,400 schools as well as the closure of 9.5% of all health facilities. She recalled the World Bank's engagement in Burkina Faso and the Sahel to support the delivery of basic services, the creation of economic opportunities for the disenfranchised youth and the improvement of the situation of refugee and host communities. She informed the PBC that the World Bank was mobilizing existing projects to fund emergency activities in the sectors of education; social protection; health; road infrastructure; water; and governance, which could amount to more than 30 million USD in support of strengthening the presence of the state and consolidating the foundations of social cohesion and resilience. The Country Director noted that the core support to Burkina Faso under IDA19 was 1 billion USD and highlighted that, if the eligibility of Burkina Faso was confirmed, the Prevention and Resilience Allocation could provide the country with an additional 700 million USD over the next three years. She further informed that the World Bank was currently discussing an emergency multisector program with the Government that would focus on conflict-affected regions and the surrounding areas. The Country Director underlined the need for the international community to build on comparative advantages and to further step up partnerships with

humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and security actors to maximize impact on the ground.

8. The Country Manager for Burkina Faso of the African Development Bank, Mr. Pascal Yembiline, briefed the Commission on the African Development Bank's engagement with Burkina Faso within the framework of the Country Strategy for 2017-2021, which focused primarily on access to electricity and development of the agricultural sector. He informed the PBC that the African Development Bank planned to support, within existing projects, the implementation of the following areas of the Priority Action Plan: i) the optimization of humanitarian and social emergency management, focusing on water and sanitation as well as the needs of displaced persons; and ii) the consolidation of foundations for social cohesion and resilience, focusing on the creation of income-generating activities. The Country Manager also emphasized the budget support provided to help alleviate public finances from increasing humanitarian and security spending needs. Furthermore, he highlighted the implementation of two road access projects that would increase connectivity in the country and a Program to Strengthen Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity for households in the Boucle du Mouhoun and the Sahel regions. In conclusion, he reiterated the importance of addressing the needs of displaced persons and highlighted that the African Development Bank intended to mobilize additional resources from the Emergency Fund for humanitarian assistance in Burkina Faso.
9. The Mayor of Dori, Mr. Ahmed Aziz Diallo, noted that this year represented a critical moment for Burkina Faso for the implementation of the current programs and for ensuring coherence in the tools available to the Government and local actors. He informed that the current security situation was negatively impacting local communities and causing increasing difficulties in mobilizing resources at the local level. He highlighted that the *Programme d'Urgence pour le Sahel* had helped the development of local economies and allowed local actors to contribute to the restoration of State authority and delivery of social services. He underlined the importance of strengthening this program and its implementation mechanisms, ensuring their flexibility. The Mayor noted that the planned decentralization initiatives, including the initiative to transfer 15% of the state budget to local bodies, had been delayed due to the increasing security expenditures and stressed that the full potential of the comparative advantage of local actors to address peacebuilding challenges had thus not yet been reached.
10. The President of *Coordination Régionale des Organisations Féminines du Sahel*, Ms. Sabine Ouedraogo Compaore, underlined that women and children were the most affected by the current security situation that had caused significant displacement of persons and seriously impacted infrastructure and social service delivery. She highlighted that, at the same time, women had a central role to play in peacebuilding and in fostering social cohesion, which had been seriously weakened by the current crisis. She called for partners to assist in addressing the

root causes of instability and the needs of displaced persons and urged for serious consideration of the need for meaningful participation of women in crisis management measures.

11. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

- They echoed the briefers' concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation and conveyed solidarity with the people and the Government of Burkina Faso. They recognized the regional nature of the challenges facing the country and the crucial role of Burkina Faso as the last barrier of the Sahel to prevent the security threats from spreading further.
- They congratulated the Government for its continuous efforts, with regional and international support, to address the security situation and its humanitarian and socio-economic consequences, and for defining clear priorities for immediate action, in addition to existing emergency measures.
- They urged for the implementation of the Priority Action Plan to be carried out within existing structures to the extent possible and called for flexibility in management of programmes to support continuous learning and adaptability throughout implementation.
- They agreed on the need for immediate mobilization of resources to ensure timely implementation of the priority actions identified in the Priority Action Plan and reiterated their commitment to help promote development and peacebuilding in Burkina Faso in the long-term. They stressed the need to take a cross-pillar approach and advance the Sustainable Development Goals to address the root causes of fragility.
- They supported the Government's focus on the meaningful participation of women and youth and encouraged the authorities to thoroughly tap into the full potential of women and youth in all peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. In addition, they reiterated the importance of holding free, fair and credible elections in November 2020.
- They recognized the UN system-wide support, including through strengthened UN presence in the five regions of the Sahel Emergency Program, that had quickly adapted to the evolving situation and acknowledged in particular the role of the PBF. They encouraged the UN to continue to do its utmost to ensure system-wide coherence, including by regularly mapping its interventions and funding gaps.

- They urged partners to support and complement the Government's efforts to combat violent extremism and insecurity and to restore social cohesion and stability in the affected regions of the country, in close coordination with regional and sub-regional actors such as ECOWAS.
- They asked the Chair of the Commission to work with the Government to track commitments made by partners and encourage coherent delivery and recognized the unique platform that the PBC provided in this regard.

12. In his closing remarks, the Minister thanked all participants for their contributions and their commitment to support the Government's peacebuilding priorities. In addressing some of the points raised by Member States, he underlined the crucial role of women in the Government's programs, including for the prevention of radicalization, and stressed that comprehensive preparations with partners were ongoing for peaceful elections in November 2020. The Minister emphasized the Government's interest in continued engagement with the PBC and ensured that the progress in implementation of the Priority Action Plan would be monitored and shared with partners.

13. The Chair reiterated the Commission's commitment to continue accompanying Burkina Faso in its efforts to sustain peace and informed the participants that the Commission would release a press statement following the meeting.