

**PBC Ambassadorial-level meeting
Debriefing on Aswan and Stockholm Fora**

9 June 2021

Chair's summary

1. On 9 June 2021, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an Ambassadorial-level virtual meeting convened by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees (Egypt), to discuss the outcome of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development and the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development.
2. The Chair opened the meeting underscoring the relevance of both fora for the work of the PBC and welcoming the presence of Mr. Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Director General of the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa (CCCPA), and Mr. Dan Smith, Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, to brief the PBC on the main findings of the fora they respectively organized.
3. Mr. Abdel-Latif informed that the second edition of the Aswan Forum, convened virtually on 1-5 March 2021, reflected how sustainable peace and development were important, in particular when recovering from the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the forum convened over 800 participants from 96 countries, including senior officials from the UN and the African Union. He noted that peacebuilding represented a key component of the Forum, with a session led by the PBC Chair and the ASG for Peacebuilding Support, and noted that one of the key outcomes of the Forum was that a stronger recovery from COVID-19 in Africa can only be achieved by moving away from a crisis management approach and focus instead on prevention and on longer term peacebuilding and development built on national ownership and strong local institutions. This would call for a recommitment to multilateralism and to coherence across the peace and development nexus. He informed that the Forum underscored the importance of strong partnerships with key stakeholders and the need for sustained and predictable financing. Looking ahead, he noted that CCCPA is working on a matrix to track the implementation of the conclusions of the Forum and feed into the third Aswan Forum. He concluded that CCCPA is also planning a number of trainings in the area of peacebuilding and sustaining peace to foster a more coherent approach across peace and development.
4. Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support, noted how both fora reaffirmed three important messages of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture: predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding is critical; investments in peacebuilding should focus more on women and youth; regional and sub-regional organizations are critical partners for peacebuilding in Africa. He welcomed the strong commitment to financing showed by Member States during the review process and affirmed DPPA/PBSO's work in support of the PBC in preparation of the High-Level meeting of the General Assembly scheduled during its 76th session. In this regard, he welcomed the initiative of those Member States who are convening initiatives to discuss financing options.

He reaffirmed the important role of the Peacebuilding Fund in addressing today's challenges while fostering coherence. The ASG stressed the importance of focusing on women, young people and vulnerable groups as the main beneficiaries of peacebuilding efforts. He recognized the progress made by the UN in building stronger partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs and civil society organizations since 2016.

5. H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden, recalled that the Stockholm Forum was co-organized by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SIPRI from 4-7 May 2021. She underscored that there were strong links between the two fora and that key ideas discussed were relevant for the work of the PBC and noted that both platforms provided a space to convene a broad range of partners and discuss priority areas for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
6. Mr. Dan Smith informed that the Stockholm Forum focused on promoting peace in the age of compound risks. He said that discussions focused on how the international community should focus on concrete impact and noted that participants stressed how building peace required collaborative efforts. He informed that participants noted that partnerships is about everyone having their share of responsibility in building peace. He said that against compound risks we need to set a framework to work together, fostering resilience, which must be built on partnerships and inclusivity. The Forum stressed the centrality of gender equality, saying that gender inequality kills in conflict-affected countries. He underscored the importance of coherence, noting that, to break siloes, institutions need to initiate small changes, for example bringing all relevant partners around the table, or by encouraging professional changes, so that professionals learn how to work across siloes. Financial changes are also critical, and Mr. Smith noted that financing for peacebuilding was a central theme at the Forum. He stressed the importance of predictability and flexibility of funding.
7. Member States welcomed the presentations by the briefers and raised the following points:
 - The convening of the Aswan and Stockholm fora represented an important contribution to building and sustaining peace. The PBC should integrate the outcome of those discussions in its deliberations, not only on African countries but on other regions as well.
 - The PBC is a unique platform to bring partners together and an important actor to foster a coherent and integrated approach in the field, in particular in Africa. The Commission should be a center of excellence where Member States and partners can share good practices and lessons learned. In this connection, the majority of speakers underscored the importance of building strong partnerships in support of national priorities.
 - Local peacebuilding initiatives are critical to address the multifaced challenges faced by African countries.

- Climate change is a challenge, especially in conflict-affected countries in Africa. There is a need for a UN coherent approach to support governments build long-term adaptation strategies.
- COVID-19 poses challenges, in particular to economic growth, and it can only be addressed through coherent responses from the international community.
- Inclusivity is central and youth and women are at the heart of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts and they should be included in all processes.
- Predictable and sustained financing is critical for building and sustaining peace. However, despite efforts, little progress has been made to secure more financing.