

# United Nations Nations Unies

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Excellencies,

It is my pleasure to share the following update regarding the activities and future plans of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Through various meetings held in the aftermath of the successful elections and transition, including the ambassadorial-level meeting of the configuration held on 23 May 2018 with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Alie Kabba, the Government of Sierra Leone has articulated its early priorities: social cohesion, national reconciliation, education and skills training, health, agriculture, tourism and inclusive economic growth.

Through these meetings, we were able to identify potential areas of PBC support to Sierra Leone in the near future: support to social cohesion and national reconciliation efforts to bridge regional and ethnic divides, supporting the empowerment of women and youth in political processes, leveraging the convening and advocacy role of the PBC to bring international and donor attention on the priorities of Sierra Leone, focusing on ways to ensure secure and equitable access to land ownership and control over natural resources, ensuring access to justice and supporting reform of justice and security institutions, and ensuring that various stakeholders active in Sierra Leone, including international financial institutions, conduct their activities relying on an analysis of risks and opportunities in the present context. The detailed reports from these meetings are attached.

Following these meetings, the configuration conducted a working-level visit to Washington D.C. on 27 June 2018, to meet with officials from the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The visit helped identify a number of action points for the configuration to further consider, including using the configuration to facilitate information exchanges between the United Nations and IFIs, inviting World Bank and IMF representatives to brief the PBC on their future plans and projects, and engaging in dialogue with the WBG's Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group and relevant UN partners on the implementation of the joint UN-World Bank "Pathways for Peace" study with a focus on Sierra Leone. The report of this visit is also attached, and was later discussed in a bilateral meeting with Hon. Nabeela Tunis, Sierra Leone's Minister of Planning and Economic Development, on 20 July 2018 on the margins of the High Level Political Forum.

In my briefings on lessons learned from the PBC's engagement with the Sierra Leone elections during the PBC meetings on West Africa on 16 July 2018, and the meeting with the African Union's Peace and Security Council on 18 July 2018, I underscored that the PBC was able to act as a forum to mobilize resources and attention for the elections, and provide a platform to the new

government to share priorities; our role as PBC now should be to identify ways to best support the new government in delivering on its priorities in the critical months ahead.

As next steps, we plan to convene expert-level meetings in the coming weeks, to discuss in detail the priorities of the configuration for the rest of the year. We also plan to connect the senior World Bank and IMF officials on the ground to the configuration via VTC, and identify other opportunities where the PBC can act to convene all key actors active in Sierra Leone to support coherence among international support to peacebuilding priorities and implementation of the Government's development strategy. A Chair's visit will be planned in late 2018 or early 2019, and we are working with the Government to identify priorities for the visit.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support and commitment.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Chairperson  
Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard  
Permanent Representative of Canada  
to the United Nations