

Security-Council's briefing on the PBC Annual Report on its 10th session

Draft statement of the current PBC Chair

19 June 2017

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate Ambassador Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, for his strong leadership and commitment with which he successfully led the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as its Chair last year. He worked tirelessly to lay the grounds for a stronger, more effective and more relevant PBC.

As my predecessor just stated, the Commission made important progress throughout 2016 in the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. This year, we are building on those achievements, as the PBC continues to promote an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

In response to the Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2017/2) in January which emphasized the importance of the convening role of the PBC in peacebuilding efforts, the Commission has been making an effort to use its convening role, in collaboration with the UNOWAS in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN, the countries of Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to advance the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). On 6 March, I convened a PBC meeting, which was briefed by H.E. Pierre Buyoya, Former President of Burundi and AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel; Mr. Mohamed Chambas, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General; Mr. Najim Elhadj Mohamed, Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel; and Mr. Angel Losada, EU Special Representative for the Sahel. Representatives of the countries of the G-5 Sahel also participated in the meeting. In addition, together with the Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding, in my capacity as Chair of the PBC, I also attended the Meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel which took place in N'Djamena, Chad last week. The meeting allowed me to identify opportunities for the PBC to support, upon request, the efforts of the countries in the Sahel towards development and stability. I look forward to discussing this in more detail at the informal interactive dialogue scheduled for late this morning.

Mr. President, the resolutions requested the PBC to consider reviewing its working methods in order to enhance efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In this regard the Commission in accordance with its mandate and upon requests from the relevant states continued consideration of country situations and region specific situations. At the request of the Gambian Government, the Commission convened a meeting to discuss the peacebuilding priorities of The Gambia, following my visit to the country last March. The meeting was preceded by developments on the ground and important regional initiatives in support of the political transition in the Gambia, strongly supported by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the PBC meeting, the Permanent Representative of the Gambia provided a direct account from the

perspective of the Government while the Commission provided a platform to discuss international and regional support.

On June 7, the PBC also convened a meeting on the situation of the Solomon Islands upon request of The Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands who presented the key peacebuilding challenges for his country at a crucial time of transition, as the Regional Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is expected to withdraw from the country this month. The Commission not only benefited from the direct engagement by the Prime Minister, but also heard from a representative of the Young Women's Parliamentary Group and key regional partners of the Solomon Islands, including the members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Chair of ASEAN. It was an excellent opportunity for the Commission to demonstrate its unique value as a partnership forum for countries to engage with the international community on challenges in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

There remain a number of priorities for the Commission during its eleventh session, which I will mention briefly:

First, partnership. Partnerships and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, both within and outside the United Nations, are crucial. The Commission should examine all available opportunities to strengthen its collaboration with international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and with regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the AU. Early this month, I visited the World Bank in Washington, together with a group of Ambassadors from the PBC, and met with the President of the World Bank, several Executive Directors and other senior officials. We discussed ways to strengthen the partnership between the PBC and the Bank in support of conflict-affected countries that are on the agenda of both the UN and the World Bank. This discussion will continue at the PBC Annual Session on 30 June on "Partnerships for Financing for Peace," where Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Group, has agreed to attend along with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

In connection with the AU, I intend to follow-up on the work of my predecessor and visit the AU Headquarters in the latter part of this year to strengthen collaboration with the AU, especially the Peace and Security Council.

Within the UN, we need to further explore ways to improve the quality of advice we provide to the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC. In recent months, the Security Council asked the PBC to advise on a number of regional and country-specific issues, including the Sahel region, Central African Republic, Liberia, and Guinea Bissau. These are the opportunities for the Commission to prove that, through its convening role, it can provide solid and comprehensive advice upon request from the principal bodies of the UN. In line with the above mentioned Security Council Presidential Statement on Sahel, The PBC intends to propose a joint meeting with ECOSOC on the Sahel region on 28 June to look at ways to address the development challenges in the region, the outcomes of which we will be ready to report to the Security Council if requested.

Second, coherence. The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture recognized the importance for the Commission to promote integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and bring sustained international attention to sustaining peace. Over the past few years, the PBC has demonstrated that by bringing different parts of the UN system together in one forum, it can induce better, integrated and coherent work together in the countries concerned. By

discussing country-specific and regional peacebuilding issues with senior representatives of lead departments, the PBC has the opportunity to reinforce that message and enhance the UN's coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. I am committed to use the remainder of the current session to work in that direction, to engage relevant UN actors and explore ways to work better together,.

Third, gender. The Commission in 2016 adopted its gender strategy, which now is being integrated into the work of PBC. The Commission will continue to build on the achievements of the past year to promote the gender dimension of peacebuilding and to provide opportunities for increased participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Fourth and finally, transparency, efficiency and flexibility. The Commission will continue to consider ways to respond in a rapid and effective manner to requests for advice and support, including through newly created focal points on gender, youth, institution-building, financing and national ownership.

Mr. President,

The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body to the General Assembly and the Security Council. Its relevance depends on its capacity to provide the kind of advice that can enrich the deliberations of both its parent bodies. The PBC remains committed to provide that kind of advice by fully utilizing its convening role and diverse membership, recognizing that peace, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We stand ready to respond to the requests to contribute to to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

I thank you.