

**High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace
Interactive Dialogue II: “Strengthening the United Nations Work on
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field”**

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Draft

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

[Thank moderator.]

First, allow me to express my gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, for his excellent organization of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, and inviting me to address today’s interactive dialogue. This well-timed dialogue helps us to elaborate on the important role the Peacebuilding Commission has been increasingly playing in supporting the UN’s work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the field.

The twin resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace recognise the critical role of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body. It is also meant to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts in support of country-led efforts to build peaceful and resilient societies. The Peacebuilding Commission has an important bridging role to play in this respect.

The Report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, requested by the resolutions, highlights the unique role of the Peacebuilding Commission, as a key platform and forum to enhance intergovernmental coherence between the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. It underscores that coherence and complementarity among the principal organs of the United Nations with respect to their mandates, including the governing bodies of UN entities, are critical.

Let me note, three important elements of the work of the Commission in view of the panel’s focus on “Strengthening the United Nations Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field”:

First, the Commission has embraced the intention of the joint resolutions over the past two years, diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This new orientation of the Commission has enabled it to work better in support of national processes, mission transitions and cross-border and regional issues, across contexts, at the invitation and with the consent of the countries concerned, such as the Great Lakes region and the Sahel, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Solomon Islands, the Gambia, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan. This is in parallel to its long-term engagement with countries like Burundi and Sierra Leone, or the Central African Republic, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau.

This engagement has served to underline the importance of lessons sharing across diverse contexts. While recognizing that each case is unique, recent discussions at PBC have demonstrated that the lessons learned from one country can benefit others. A discussion on Sri Lanka in late 2017 last year, was also an opportunity for the Colombian delegate to underscore the similarities between the two, and the value of sharing lessons.

The Commission has advanced discussion on important thematic issues for peacebuilding including in relation to national ownership, youth, financing and institution-building, as well as gender, including through the continued implementation of its gender strategy, adopted in 2016.

Second, let me underscore the important role of the Commission in strengthening partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Peacebuilding Commission plays a unique role in strengthening coherence within the UN and in fostering partnerships with other actors. Notably in the past two years, as a priority, the Commission has strengthened its collaboration with international financial institutions, regional organizations and, where relevant, the private sector and civil society.

These partnerships – now a core component of PBC discussions – are critical to supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace on the ground. In the Sahel, for example, the Security Council has emphasized the importance of the convening role of the Commission in peacebuilding efforts, and thus in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to supporting UNOWAS in advancing the implementation of the UN integrated strategic for the Sahel. Similarly, the Central African Republic configuration of the PBC has identified the UN – World Bank relationship in the field as one of its priority areas.

This brings me to my final point: that of the imperative of coherence and bridging. The Commission brings together members of General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC, as well as the top troop and financial contributors to the UN system. The Commission serves as a bridge for the work done across relevant

principal organs. We are seeking to harness the different perspectives that the members of the Commission can bring in representing the organs and categories of countries they represent – and we can build on these to achieve even greater impact in the future.

the challenges in contexts such as the Sahel are complex and multidimensional; touching upon political and security dimensions, but also humanitarian and development dimensions. Our support must be integrated and coherent, to produce effective and long-term results.

In Liberia, the Commission has provided assistance to the Security Council in the formation and transition of a peacekeeping operation mandate in Liberia and development of a national peacebuilding plan. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2333 of 23 December 2016, the Commission worked closely with the Government of Liberia, and the UN system to support a smooth transition process. Since that time, the PBC has also convened discussions on a mapping of capacity needs in view of peacebuilding priorities following the departure of UNMIL. The PBC stands ready to provide continued support, if needed, to Liberia in the development of its new National Development Agenda, incorporating also its peacebuilding priorities.

This is assistance in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in practice – and a good example of the kind of role the Commission could play with respect to other country or regional situation, if and when called upon by the General Assembly or Security Council, in accordance with its mandated advisory role.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking forward, the Peacebuilding Commission stands ready in support of the continued realization of the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture, and as envisaged by the newly adopted resolution to follow-up on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace to further discuss the options and recommendations it contains.

I thank you.