

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
At the annual joint debate of the General Assembly on:
Reports of PBC and PBF

29 July 2021 (10:00 am)

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

It's my pleasure to address the General Assembly's annual joint debate on the PBC and PBF reports in my capacity as the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission.

Egypt has assumed the PBC chairmanship in the wake of the successful conclusion of the third comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture, while the world is still struggling with destabilizing socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon assumption of my duties as the PBC Chair, I announced that we will pursue an impact-oriented chairmanship anchored in exploring avenues leading to strengthening the PBC's advisory, bridging and convening roles, with particular focus on championing the need for all actors engaged in peacebuilding, to prioritize "impact" as a result of their respective engagements in support of nationally identified peacebuilding objectives.

This objective is also served by sustaining the efforts made by previous chairmanships in further developing and streamlining the Commission's programme of work and working methods.

It is also worth noting that the 2020 identical resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council placed emphasis on impact made at both Headquarter and Field levels.

To fulfill this goal, I have been actively engaged with relevant stakeholders and partners to explore all possible avenues to make our collective peacebuilding efforts more effective and impactful.

I am pleased to report that in the first half of 2021, the Peacebuilding Commission has further expanded and strengthened its advisory and bridging roles with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. To mention a few, the Commission advised the Security Council for the first time on the Great Lakes region, and also the General Assembly for the first time on “causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”, as well as ECOSOC during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) earlier this month.

Moreover, as part of the Commission’s efforts to promote partnerships, the PBC partnered with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and joined its “Trade for Peace Network” which aims at facilitation the accession of conflict affected countries to the WTO. Earlier this month, the Commission also was briefed by the IMF on its new Fragility and Conflict-Affected States (FCS) strategy as a new tool to help conflict affected countries to achieve macro-economic stability.

Mr. President,

Moving Forward, the PBC will continue to advance the following priorities:

- The PBC is best positioned to mobilize support for recovery efforts from the pandemic. Therefore, we aim to further enhance the PBC’s role in building back better.
- Ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, remains a critical challenge. The PBC will continue to play a key role in convening relevant stakeholders and generating

inputs for the General Assembly's high-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding, scheduled to take place at the seventy-sixth session, as part of advancing the PBC's advisory role to the General Assembly. In this regard, the annual session of the PBC will focus on financing for peacebuilding and we look forward to engaging with Member States, the Secretary-General and other senior officials at this important event.

- It is critical to continue all efforts aimed at advancing the PBC's advisory role to the Security Council to allow for the provision of timely and meaningful advice to the Council, particularly during mandate renewal of peacekeeping operations, and in support of transitions to and from different types of configurations, in accordance with the guidelines introduced by PRST/27/2017.
- The Commission will continue to promote and expand partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as International Financial Institutions, with a view to ensure more efficiency and coherence in peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the UN-AU partnership in peacebuilding will continue to receive the requisite attention with a view to support the AU's evolving effort and ownership of its post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as its prevention efforts.
- Enhancing coherence and the overall performance of the UN system in delivering on peacebuilding remains a priority. The PBC is well positioned to convene relevant actors and offer a practical platform for stock-taking of progress made in that area.
- The Commission will continue to advance the role of women through its Gender Strategy as well as youth in peacebuilding including through the implementation of its relevant action plans.
- The Commission will continue to further consider all tools at its disposal to advance the peacebuilding priorities of the host-states, including those related to institution building at the national and local levels.

In conclusion, we are committed to remaining actively engaged with relevant stakeholders and key interlocutors to realize these objectives and build a broad-based understanding, vision and direction moving forward with a view to make the UN peacebuilding architecture fit for purpose.

I thank you.
