



**Remarks of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
1 June 2021**

Madam President, Excellencies,

1. It is my pleasure to address the 20th session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, in my capacity as the Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, and allow me first to congratulate you Madam President, Ambassador María del Carmen Squeff, Permanent Representative of Argentina, as Chair of the Committee, as well as all the other members of the Bureau for your election to lead the Committee.

2. From the outset of the pandemic, the Commission adjusted its program of work and served as a platform in support of urgent national, regional and global responses to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on development and peacebuilding and build back better in countries under its consideration.

3. In its advisory, bridging and convening roles and commitment to share lessons learned to improve outcomes, the PBC has been, since its founding, guided by national ownership in peacebuilding, sharing of expertise to build capacities and pooling of resources and solutions, which are also the South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC)'s foundational principles and objectives. As evidenced at PBC meetings on the Impact of COVID-19 on Peacebuilding efforts as well as the annual PBC-ECOSOC meeting in 2020, and the 2020 Security Council-PBC Informal Interactive Dialogue, the Commission highlighted the need for nationally led and inclusive responses, global solidarity and SSTC, to collectively combat the pandemic's impact and build the foundation for achieving better results on the SDGs by 2030.

4. Within the context of the 2005 PBC founding resolutions and 2030 Agenda, the PBC has been scaling up its facilitation of partnerships, including regional cooperation and SSTC. In follow-up to the BAPA+40 outcome, in September 2019, the Commission convened an

Ambassadorial-level meeting on SSTC for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace and also identified in the PBC 2021 Programme of Work, as one of its priorities, “Explore ways of supporting the role of South-South cooperation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace”.

5. During 2020 and 2021, PBC country-specific, regional and thematic engagements have served as an effective platform for sharing context-specific knowledge, expertise and good practices, improving coordination, and enhancing regional cooperation to mitigate the impact of Covid-19, ensure protection of hard-won gains in peacebuilding and accelerate achievement of the SDGs. Most recently, in a May 2021 press statement issued on institution-building, the Commission recognized SSTC modality as a valuable approach in efforts to build back better from crises and conflict. Furthermore, in my remarks to the 2021 “Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development”, the Commission called for stronger support for African Union-owned and -led Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development efforts, and in that regard welcomed the establishment of the AU Centre for PCRCD in Cairo as a positive step. While emphasizing the SSTC principle of national ownership, the PBC has given priority to including perspectives and recommendations from conflict-affected countries that have hosted peacekeeping, political and humanitarian missions and undergoing transitions.

Excellencies,

6. The Secretary General, in his 2018 report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, noted that “while financial support for peacebuilding activities is indispensable, the contribution of in-kind resources can also be significant...I encourage United Nations senior leadership to support SSTC in peacebuilding.” The PBC has created opportunities for in-kind exchanges of expertise while its members have also committed financial resources, including by non-traditional donors. SSTC funding mechanisms, while small, have a catalyzing impact.

7. The Peacebuilding Fund, similar to the PBC, has played a critical role in enabling partnerships and broader coalitions for sustaining peace. In my role as PBC chair, I will continue to facilitate Member States’ consideration of innovative and full-range of peacebuilding

financing proposals, including those set out by the Secretary-General in his 2018 Report, in order to ensure predictability and sustainability of peacebuilding funding.

Excellencies,

8. The growing recognition of SSTC as an important modality of international cooperation in support of national priorities has resulted in increased interests from Member States to enhance support for highlighting SSTC for peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the future work of PBC and the reformed UN system.

9. Building on the gains achieved, the effective implementation of the *UN System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2020-2024* and its Action Plan, as well as the commitment of dedicated resources, would be necessary to ensure more coherent and coordinated support by the UN system for SSTC across all pillars.

10. To conclude, the PBC mandate has positioned it as a political platform for promoting experience-sharing between countries which have undergone peacebuilding processes and those who are engaged in or embarking on similar processes. Drawing on its unique composition of key actors from the North and the South, as well as its bridging, convening and advisory roles, the Commission is well positioned to advance UN system's support to SSTC across all pillars, in collaboration with UNOSSC and UNDP, for enhanced partnerships and accelerating progress towards achievement of the SDGs.

Thank you.