

**JOINT PBC CHAIR AND ASG PBSO VISIT TO CHAD
(13-17 MARCH 2018)**

Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel Strategies

At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, H.E. Cherif Mahamat Zene, together with the ASG for Peacebuilding Support Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco and the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, Ambassador Moustapha Ali Alifei, PBC Chair, Ambassador Ion Jinga, attended the 6th meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform (MCP) for the Sahel Strategies, held on 15 March 2018.

The MCP, established in November 2013, serves as a political and diplomatic platform to discuss cross-cutting challenges and promote collaboration and coherence between the Sahelian countries and their international partners. The meeting, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, brought together: the countries of the Sahel region, UN, AU, EU and G5 Permanent Secretary, as well as other bilateral and multilateral partners. These included the Special Envoys for the Sahel of France, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as the Ambassadors of Morocco, Mali, Niger, Germany, France, Algeria and the USA also attended the meeting.

SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Mohamed Chambas, the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, H.E. Pierre Buyoya, the EU Special Representative for the Sahel, Mr. Angel Losada, and the G5 Permanent Secretary, Mr. Maman Sidikou respectively briefed on ongoing efforts by their respective organizations in support of countries in the region. PBC Chair delivered a message on the Commission's engagement since the Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2017/2 of January 2017, and assured participants of its commitment to sustain international attention and support to the countries in the Sahel, and to help enhancing coherence and coordination between the national, regional and international partners.

The MCP provided an opportunity to review the developments in the Sahel since the last Ministerial Coordination Platform meeting held in June 2017. Participants expressed concerns over the persistent threat of terrorism and other transnational crimes in the Sahel, including the most recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The MCP recognized that despite the considerable efforts to ensure peace and stability, the countries in the Sahel region were facing persistent and growing security challenges, in addition to the already serious economic, environmental and food security risks. It stressed the need for a holistic approach to deal with the multidimensional threats facing the Sahel region, calling on the relevant regional and international partners to act with greater synergy. The MCP reiterated their commitment to the platform as the political and diplomatic platform for the countries in the Sahel, international, regional and sub-regional organizations to deal in a coordinated and coherent manner with the complex and transnational security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges facing the region.

Participants, including the countries of the Sahel region, reiterated their commitment to maintaining the Platform as the political coordination framework to foster coherence and

coordination between the various efforts to address the complex, multi-dimensional and transnational challenges facing the region. Participants also welcomed the efforts to revitalize the Platform, including through four thematic groups on security, resilience, development and governance.

Meetings with government officials

Together with ASG PBSO and the UN Resident Coordinator, PBC Chair met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Cherif Mahamat Zene, and the Minister of Economy and Development Planning, H.E. Dr. Issa Doubragne on 14 and 15 March respectively. Our meetings with the government officials provided an opportunity to further discuss the situation in the Sahel as well as the peacebuilding challenges in the Lake Chad Basin. Government officials also highlighted the country's internal peacebuilding priorities, including UN support through the peacebuilding fund and the PBC. I assured the government officials of the PBC readiness to use its platform to bring international attention and support to Chad's peacebuilding priorities, and to help enhancing UN-system wide coherence and coordination.

Field visit and meetings with the UN Country Team

On 17 March, together with ASG PBSO, UN Resident Coordinator and staff members of UNDP and UNICEF, I visited the PBF funded Cameroon-Chad cross-border project in Mitterine in the Mani District. We met with local administrative authorities, community leader, women and youth groups. We discussed the peacebuilding challenges facing the communities across the border. After the visit, ASG Peacebuilding and I met with the UN Country Team to discuss UN ongoing support to the regional and national peacebuilding challenges, with a particular focus on UN efforts in Chad.