

The Advisory Role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to the Security Council (SC)

Working-level meeting of
members of the PBC that are members of the Security Council, countries on the PBC agenda,
and members of the PBC Chairs' Group

21 April 2017

Coordinator's summary

Background

1. On 21 April 2017, Egypt, in its capacity as coordinator of the periodic stock-taking exercises on the PBC's advisory function to the Security Council, convened an informal meeting to take stock of how the PBC exercised its advisory function to the Council in connection with the situations in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. Since the last stock taking meeting that took place in October 2016, the Council considered these situations and it was important to assess how the Council drew upon the engagement of and the advice from the PBC. The members of the PBC that are members of the Security Council, the representatives of the three countries under consideration, and the respective chairs and penholders were invited to participate in the meeting.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator opened the meeting recalling that the situations in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia represented important areas where the advisory role of the PBC to the Security Council was of particular importance. Furthermore, the decision of the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/2) to task the PBC to provide support to the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel represented a significant development in the cooperation between the Commission and the Council. Generally, the coordinator emphasized that the Security Council has over the past year increasingly demonstrated interest in drawing upon the advisory role of the PBC in specific.
3. With regard to **Integrated Strategy for the Sahel** (UNISS), Member States noted that the Commission, in view of its convening power, had an important role in support of UNOWAS in the implementation of the Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. In particular, it was noted that the different areas of the strategy were interlinked and would benefit from a more coherent approach from a broad range of partners, including countries from the region. In this connection, delegations reported that the Commission would continue its engagement with the g5-Sahel, relevant actors on the ground, including UN presence in the region, as well as other stakeholders (including ECOSOC). Member States also underscored that the Commission should further identify ways to support UNOWAS and SRSG Chambas as they attempt to exercise the required leadership in coordination of the implementation of UNISS, taking into consideration the

timeline set out in PRST/2017/2. Delegations referred to the need for the PBC to provide political support to the SRSG, as well as to advocate for identified priority areas of the strategy.

4. On the **Central African Republic**, delegations reflected on the complexity of the situation in the country and on the challenges facing the Commission in fulfilling its mandate. In this connection, Member States recognized that the recent interaction of the PBC with President Faustin-Archange Touadéra of the CAR was welcome, and called on the Commission to further explore ways to sustain attention on the key challenges facing the country by enhancing its convening role. This role is most needed in connection with fostering greater focus and coherence among donors. In connection with the role of the United Nations, delegations underscored the importance of further strengthening dialogue between MINUSCA and the PBC in order to enable the PBC to fulfill its advisory function to the Security Council in connection with the tasks identified SCR 2301 (2016) and S/PRST/2017/5. In this regard, delegations stressed the need for the PBC to contribute to the Council's consideration of MINUSCA's mandate scheduled for August 2017.
5. On **Guinea-Bissau**, delegations expressed concern regarding the political impasse in the country. They recognized the work done by ECOWAS and underscored the importance for the Commission to convene all relevant relevant actors, particularly countries from the region, in support of ECOWAS. Looking forward, delegations underscored the importance of aligning the messages between the PBC and the Security Council with a view to exhibit unity of the international community behind regional efforts to overcome the political stalemate.
6. On **Liberia**, Member States welcomed the work of the PBC in response to SCR 2333 (2016) as an example of discharging its advisory function to the Security Council. Delegations emphasized Delegations underscored that the value of such advisory role on Liberia rests with the Commission's bridging role and its capacity to provide the Council with timely, strategic, and integrated analysis of Liberia's key needs and challenges in relation to UNMIL's draw down plans. In this connection, delegations invited the Commission to continue to convene key partners, including relevant UN system actors, as the country takes the next steps in implementing the peacebuilding plan.

Next steps

7. Participants welcomed the meeting as a platform for frank discussions on the diverse nature and scope of the PBC's advisory function to the Council. Member States were informed that a follow-up discussion will take place in the context of the next meeting scheduled for October 2017.
