

## **Security-Council briefing on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**

### **Draft statement by the PBC Chair**

**25 April 2018**

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Distinguished Members of the Council,

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the Council at this important meeting and for providing a concept note which captures key priorities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. I welcome his emphasis on the importance of enhancing the coherence and the effectiveness of the United Nations system, while respecting existing mandates, in supporting Member State-led efforts to build and sustain peace, on the significance of partnerships across the UN system and with other relevant key partners and stakeholders, and I thank him for providing options for adequate resourcing of peacebuilding activities .

The resolutions to be adopted by General Assembly and the Security Council are important steps that demonstrate the commitment of Member States to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The resolution will provide opportunities for Member States to discuss the recommendations and options contained in the Secretary-General's report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, and enable the continuation of our discussions around how we can better support countries in their efforts to build and sustain peace.

In this connection, I reaffirm the readiness of the Peacebuilding Commission to provide a forum for these discussions in the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting and ahead of the envisaged 2020 review.

Mr. President,

Almost exactly two years ago (27 April), the General Assembly and Security Council adopted twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture by consensus. The resolutions reiterated the commitment of Member States to supporting countries at all stages of conflict; they emphasized that sustaining peace requires coherence, sustained engagement, and coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, consistent with their mandates as set out in the Charter of the United Nations; they also contained a crucial message for the work of the United Nations: an integrated and coherent approach of all relevant actors, within and outside the United Nations, is critical to

sustain country-led peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. I am pleased to see that the same message represents the foundation of the report of the Secretary-General, as well as an important aspect in today's debate.

Mr. President,

One of the main objective of the Peacebuilding Commission is to help strengthen its bridging role, including and especially as a forum for all relevant stakeholders and to enhance partnerships with actors beyond the UN, such as regional organisations, International Financial Institutions, , civil society, including, , women's and youth groups and, where relevant, the private sector.

Allow me to reflect on a few regional and country-specific situations where the Commission has supported more coherence in the work of the United Nations:

First, the Sahel. In response to the Presidential Statement of the Security Council S/PRST/2017/2 of January 2017, which emphasized the importance of the convening role of the PBC in peacebuilding efforts, the Commission has worked, in collaboration with the UNOWAS to mobilize deeper commitment and partnership between the UN, the countries of Sahel and other international and regional partners to advance the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. Since the adoption of the PRST, the PBC convened a number of meetings, including a joint event with the Economic and Social Council, which brought together the countries of the Sahel, the UN and key partners to discuss the challenges facing the region and efforts within the United Nations system to enhance coordination in the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. In S/PRST/2018/3 of January 2018, the Security Council reiterated the convening role of the PBC in support of UNOWAS.

With its ability to go beyond country-specific discussions and focus on cross-border and regional issues with the consent of the countries concerned, and with its capacity to convene national authorities, regional organizations, international financial institutions, the civil society and other relevant partners, the PBC is playing an important role in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in this important region.

Second, Liberia. The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, several Presidential Statements of the Security Council, and the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace all recognized the important role the PBC has to play in advising the Security Council, upon its request, during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates.

In the case of Liberia, where the long-standing peacekeeping mission came to an end only a few weeks ago, the PBC actively assisted national authorities, and engaged with civil society, the UN leadership on the ground and relevant partners to support the development of a national peacebuilding plan. The Commission also convened meetings to discuss preparations for the elections and the UN transition, including hearing from the UN system on a capacity

resource mapping to support national peacebuilding needs. The PBC stands ready to continue fostering international support to Liberia that is sustained and coordinated, including in the country's development of a national development plan that fully integrates peacebuilding priorities. This is a true example of the PBC support to building and sustaining peace in practice.

Third, the Gambia. Since last year, the Commission convened several meetings (the last was held the day before yesterday with the participation of the President of the Gambia). Our discussions focused on assisting the country upon its request at a critical time of its transition. It brought together senior officials of the Gambian government, Member States, relevant parts of the UN system, international financial institutions and the civil society, with a view to enhancing cooperation.

Mr. President,

These brief examples show how the Peacebuilding Commission, serving as a bridge between the three relevant principal organs of the United Nations and through its important convening role, not only fostering coherence at the intergovernmental level but, ultimately, also supporting the United Nations in being more valuable, strategic and effective in the field – where it matters.

Mr President,

Since we are marking the second anniversary of the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, allow me to raise one final point on how the PBC has been working towards more flexible and effective working methods: besides the important work long being done by the existing Country Specific Configurations for Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Commission, over the past two years, always acting in consultation with and upon request of the countries concerned, considered situations spanning from Burkina Faso to Colombia, Burundi to Kyrgyzstan, Liberia to Sri Lanka. The Commission has strengthened its focus on regional and sub-regional situations, and on thematic issues such as financing for peacebuilding and institution-building. It has built stronger links with key partners, such as the African Union and the World Bank. It has strengthened its synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund.

I look forward to further improve the work of the Commission and its advisory role to the Security Council.

I thank you.