

**United Nations Security Council Ministerial Open Debate on Transitions
under agenda item ‘United Nations Peacekeeping Operations’**

8 September 2021

**Written statement by H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek
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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

At the outset, I wish to welcome Ireland’s decision to convene this open debate on “transitions”, which addresses key priorities for the Peacebuilding Commission, which, building on its advisory, bridging and convening roles, has regularly provided its advice to the Security Council.

In 2005, the General Assembly and the Security Council decided to create the peacebuilding architecture with a view to filling what late Secretary-General Kofi Annan called a “gaping hole” and to providing support to conflict-affected countries, particularly those transitioning from one form of UN presence to another. Since then, not only the Peacebuilding Commission has accompanied successful transitions, such as those in Liberia and Sierra Leone, but the whole UN system has engaged in a more coherent way, recognizing the centrality of building and sustaining peace in our efforts to build lasting peace, sustainable development, and respect for human rights.

This has been particularly evident in the strong synergies between peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Peacekeeping operations have played an increasingly important role in assisting host countries to develop critical peacebuilding capacities and generate peacebuilding outcomes and the twin resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace of 2016 welcomed “the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace”.

Mr. President,

On 15 June 2021, the Commission convened a meeting to discuss the contributions of peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Allow me to share with the members of the Security Council the main elements that emerged from that meeting that are relevant for today’s debate:

- Coherence, strategic and operational coordination and synergies are vital, especially at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the risks and impact of conflict. This is particularly important during mission drawdowns, when more efforts should be done to build a common vision between the UN, host governments and a wide range of partners, including civil society, women, and youth organizations, with a view to mitigate gaps. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, working in support of national priorities and fostering coherence among partners, including international,

regional and national actors, are important tools in transition phases. In this regard, recognizing the important role of women in transition settings, and in implementing its gender strategy, the Commission held dedicated discussions on the gender aspects of transitions.

- Peacekeeping operations continue to be an important instrument to assist host countries to develop critical peacebuilding capacities. They not only enable the work of other peacebuilding actors through their security presence, but also provide political focus on peacebuilding goals and undertake peacebuilding tasks that help address root causes of conflict. The launch of the A4P three years ago aimed, inter alia, to enhance the contribution and impact of peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The emphasis that A4P+ places on working closely with international partners is a positive development.
- Strong partnerships and appropriate financing mechanisms are key to ensure smooth transitions and avoid relapses into conflict. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the progress and further opportunities for the UN-World Bank collaboration in peacebuilding, including taking into account the release of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence strategy of the Bank and the IDA 2020 replenishment, and encourage the two organizations to continue to work together in joint programming and peacebuilding assessments in support of nationally-defined peacebuilding and development priorities, in accordance with the commitments and terminology agreed upon by Member States at multilateral discussions.
- Financing for peacebuilding remains a critical element to secure successful transitions. The Commission reiterates the need to mobilize more peacebuilding financing, and it welcomes the decision of Member States to convene a General Assembly High Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding in the next session.
- All phases of peace operations' mandates should contain guidelines to encourage timely transitions. The PBC, with its broad peacebuilding mandate, is well positioned to advise the Security Council during the formation, review, and drawdown of peace operations' mandates and the work done by the Commission to inform the mandate renewal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic is a good example. Elements contained in the Security Council PRST/27/2017 remain very relevant for the Council to draw upon during all mission's lifecycle. In this connection, on countries and regions considered by both the Security Council and the Commission, PBC members would welcome receiving a copy of the Secretary-General's relevant reports to the Council with, as far as practicable, enough anticipation to allow timely PBC input.

Mr. President,

I wish to reiterate the readiness of the Peacebuilding Commission to strengthen its advisory role to the Security Council in matters under consideration of both bodies with a view to providing specific, strategic and targeted recommendations, in line with its mandate on issues relating to

peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the formation, review, drawdown and transition of peacekeeping operations.