

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Coordination and Management Meeting
New York, 25 – 27 July 2016**

Statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

President of ECOSOC,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank you for inviting me to brief the Economic and Social Council in my capacity as Chair of the UN Peace-building Commission(PBC) on lessons learned from the PBC's experience with African countries, in its agenda, emerging from conflict or at risk of conflict.

Since the PBC is not engaged in South Sudan, allow me to focus my briefing on lessons that could benefit several conflict-affected countries rather than on a particular situation (*A/RES/60/180, OP12 (b)*).

The PBC greatly appreciates this invitation and opportunity to interact and brief members of ECOSOC in this regard.

Mr President,

This meeting takes place after the joint meeting between ECOSOC and PBC held on 24 June 2016 to discuss “*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace*”. That meeting discussed the nexus between peace and development in view of the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The discussion also focused on the outcome resolutions of the review of the peacebuilding architecture that resulted in adoption of twin resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council. We all agreed that comprehensive approaches are needed for effective implementation of the Sustainable development goals particularly in fragile States and States emerging from conflict.

The African countries in the PBC include Burundi, Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Guinea Bissau. In the last 10 years of PBC's engagement with the countries on its Agenda, the following lessons can be learnt:

1. As a matter of principle, national ownership of peace-building agenda and priorities by all national stakeholders must be respected. This must be respected in all efforts of peace-building

and sustainable development. This is a principle that has always guided the work of the PBC in the countries in its agenda. Involving national stakeholders in all PBC policy discussions in all its fora both in New York and the field is a big step towards long term success in achieving the peace-building goals in each country.

2. Countries in transition from conflict require committed support, financial, technical and Material from the international community to build a viable, functional state.
3. Strengthening national and local institutional capacities to run transitions. Countries emerging from conflict or at risk of new conflict, as a priority, targeted capacity building efforts to strengthen national and local institutions capability for implementing policies including on sustainable development and sustaining peace.
4. Constitutional review making process and creation of an enabling legal framework is very crucial.
5. Strengthening of rule of law, administration of criminal justice and security institutions. Successful peace-building hinges on security sector reforms as basis of more sustainable socio-economic reforms and long term development.

Examples:

- In Burundi, the PBC supported the strengthening of the Burundi Revenue Authority. Since 2012, this institution has performed well in domestic revenue collection, contributing to national efforts to sustain peace even though the recent political crisis affected revenues as well. The PBC continues to engage countries in its agenda on efforts to combat corruption and implementation of inclusive development strategies.
- Both in Burundi and in Liberia, the PBC and the Peacebuilding Fund(PBF) have supported national institutions dealing with land issues, as part of national reconciliation efforts. In Liberia, the PBF invested in the establishment and functioning of the Land Coordination Centres to support reconciliation efforts. The Land Coordination Centres supported alternative land dispute resolution and also helped raise people's awareness of their land rights. In Burundi, PBC support and engagement with the

National Commission for Land and other Assets has been a priority of the peacebuilding strategy. As you are aware, Land and other natural resource disputes have fueled violent conflict in Africa. Therefore, supporting institutions that address these issues through targeted capacity building is key to both development and sustaining peace.

6. Promotion of national reconciliation, healing and forgiveness is crucial to creation of strong resilient communities and to sustaining peace.
7. Cross-border/transnational collaboration. Normally, violence in one country often spills over across the border or its effects are felt in an entire region through negative economic consequences for neighbouring countries. Therefore, collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations is important. This is an area that has featured prominently in the PBC's strategy of engagement and will be essential going forward. This strategy is now anchored in the outcome of the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture through the identical resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) three months ago.

For instance, during his trip to West Africa in June, the PBC Chair met the authorities in Senegal and Liberia in their respective capacities as outgoing and incoming Chairs of ECOWAS. In Sierra Leone, the delegation engaged with the Mano River Union Secretariat on cross cutting cross-border issues and their impact on sustaining peace.

Mr President,

In conclusion, let me emphasize the importance of a multi-dimensional approach going beyond the military and security responses, and political 'Peace' Agreements and focusing on addressing the root causes of conflict in affected countries. In a country undergoing a transition, such a multi-dimensional approach should entail a proper comprehensive Transitional framework to ensure a completed transition that can overcome the myriad false starts.

I would invite the ECOSOC to study the special multidimensional character of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group(UNTAG) particularly its peace-building aspects and how it shepherded a successful transition in Namibia in 1990.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the PBC is uniquely placed to address the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including in relation to the 2030 Agenda. We must recognise the role of the UN Development System in sustaining peace. ECOSOC and the PBC can review good practices in addressing the root causes of conflict, in the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict and how the UN Development System has integrated sustaining peace into its planning frameworks and activities.

I thank you