

Security Council Briefing on the PBC Annual Report

Statement of the former Chair of the PBC

29 June 2018

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

I thank you for inviting me to the Security Council, in my capacity as former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, to present the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eleventh session, as contained in document A/72/721–S/2018/83.

Since the adoption of the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2016 and the Secretary-General's strong commitment towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the political momentum for improving the activity of the Peacebuilding Commission has been growing.

Taking advantage of this hard-won momentum, the Commission, last year, continued to work hard to use its convening role to mobilize relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations to assist countries and regions, in line with its mandate, with their peacebuilding priorities, , by way of an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Mr. President, let me highlight some of the achievements made last year.

First, as the advisory body to the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission continued to make efforts to improve the quality of its advice to enrich the Council's deliberations, when requested. For this reason, the interaction and dynamics between the PBC and the Council seemed to improve, as the Council recognized the importance of the convening role of the Commission last year on a number of regional and country-specific issues, including the Sahel region, Central African Republic (CAR), Liberia, and Guinea Bissau.

Such requests provided the opportunity for the Commission to show that, given its convening role of diverse actors, including the host governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions, civil society, and, where relevant, private sector, it can provide comprehensive advice to the Council. For instance, in the case of Burundi, the Commission presented to the Council the socio-economic dimensions of the country, while maintaining a channel of communication with the Burundian Government. As for Liberia, the Commission, , helped to develop a peacebuilding plan for Liberia in preparations for the transition ahead of the withdrawal of UNIMIL.

On the Sahel, the Council emphasised the importance of the Commissions convening role to mobilize relevant stakeholders in collaboration with United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) with a view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). To this end, last year, the Commission held several meetings on the Sahel and engaged with the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, SRSG of UNOWAS, Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel, EU Special Representative for the Sahel, and Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, among others. An Informal Interactive Dialogue (IID) with the Council was also held to discuss the regional peacebuilding challenges in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. And in my capacity as Chair of the PBC, I attended the Meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel in Chad to identify ways the PBC can support the efforts of the countries in the Sahel towards development and stability, the results of which I had shared with the Council last year.

The PBC also held a joint meeting with ECOSOC to focus on the social and economic dimensions of the Sahel's multidimensional challenges. This was also an attempt by the PBC to play its bridging role among the relevant intergovernmental UN principal organs and to pursue an integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace within its mandate.

Second, in addition to the good work of the existing country-specific configurations, the Commission expanded its work by considering other countries and regions in the Organizational Committee.

Most notably, the PBC started to assist The Gambia, upon its request, in its critical time of transition by sustaining international attention and supporting the country which was not on its formal agenda, after the Security Council stopped deliberations on its situation. After visiting The Gambia, together with the Assistant Secretary-General of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the Permanent Representative of The Gambia, I convened a series of meetings on The Gambia with PBC Members and senior officials from the UN, international financial institutions and civil society to discuss the peacebuilding priorities of The Gambia, with the Gambian national authorities firmly in the driver's seat.

The Commission also for the first time deliberated on the Solomon Islands, Colombia and Sri Lanka, upon their request. After becoming eligible to receiving the Peacebuilding Fund(PBF), these countries came to the PBC to discuss their peacebuilding priorities. The meetings illustrated how countries eligible for the PBF can use the PBC as a platform to secure global political support for their peacebuilding priorities.

The PBC has also been increasingly taking on a regional approach, as the challenges faced by certain countries are intertwined with that of other countries in the region, making it increasingly important to address the issues with a regional, cross-border approach. Last year, as I mentioned earlier, we discussed the Sahel region, at the request of the Security Council, and the Great Lakes region, with the consent of the countries concerned.

Mr. President,

To better assist countries build and sustain peace, the Commission has been strengthening its partnerships with key stakeholders with stakeholders within and outside of the UN, such as international financial institutions, regional organizations, civil society and, where relevant, private sector. For instance, in June last year, I led a delegation of PBC Members to the World Bank where we met with the President and other senior officials of the Bank as well as members of Executive Board to discuss ways to assist the countries and regions considered by the PBC. The PBC and World Bank later announced a joint statement on holding a meeting on an annual basis, and the Commission should make use of these annual meetings to help mobilize resources for the countries supported by the PBC.

In December, I also led a delegation of the Commission to Addis Ababa to discuss ways to reinforce cooperation between the Commission and the African Union. Given that regional organizations and sub-regional organizations are increasingly playing a leading role in building and sustaining peace in their respective regions, the Commission will continue to strengthen its partnerships with these organizations to gain a better understanding of the situation on the ground, while enhancing the coherence and coordination of international efforts to assist countries with their peacebuilding priorities.

The convening role of the PBC has also created space to engage with civil society organizations. Last year, in the discussions on Colombia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, local civil society representatives contributed to the Commission's deliberations by sharing their views on what peacebuilding and sustaining peace mean in practice.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude my remarks, I wish to make a couple of points on how the Peacebuilding Commission can work more closely with the Security Council.

First, the Commission's efforts to advise the Council can be more effective if its work is coordinated with the activities of the Council. For this reason, the Commission should continue to align its work with the Council's calendar and engage with the relevant actors to gather diverse perspectives in the months preceding the relevant Council meetings.

Second, the Security Council and the PBC can consider working more closely during and following transitions, especially in the transition from a peacekeeping operations. The PBC could also look at a country's situation that is passing off the Council's agenda, at the request of the country.. The Commission can help to maintain the international community's support, while assisting the country's efforts to maintain stability and build and sustain peace by helping to implement its peacebuilding plans, mobilize resources, and promote coordination and coherence of international assistance.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by congratulating Ambassador Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania, current Chair of the PBC, for the excellent work done so far, and by thanking the Peacebuilding Support Office for its dedicated support to the Commission.

The Republic of Korea, in its capacity as Vice-Chair, remains committed to fully support the Peacebuilding Commission. I thank you.