

Peacebuilding Commission's advice to Security Council on the "implementation of resolutions 2532 (2020) and 2565 (2021)"

11 April 2022

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peacebuilding Commission has consistently drawn attention to its impact on the countries in armed conflict or post-conflict situations in their peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts.

During its country- and region-specific as well as thematic engagements, countries have shared their respective efforts, and associated resource limitations, to increase the effectiveness of health and socio-economic responses to the pandemic through inclusive approaches. They have shared relevant experiences such as holding inclusive dialogues, including around the response in Liberia; promoting integrated approaches to address and pandemic related challenges in the Sahel region and the Pacific islands and undertaking efforts to address gender-based violence amid the pandemic in Sierra Leone.

Throughout its deliberations, the Commission has advocated for vaccine equity, stressed the importance of strengthening health systems and institutions and widening social safety nets. Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on women and girls, the Commission has been promoting the incorporation of a gender perspective into the COVID-19 pandemic responses. The Commission has also called for a stronger focus on countries in armed conflict and post-conflict situations with a view to 'leaving no one behind' and ensuring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In view of the above the Commission would like to make following points:

First: The Commission encourages strong partnerships across humanitarian, development and peace pillars and between United Nations and other relevant actors, such as, national and local government officials, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks, women and youth organizations, to support sustaining recovery from the pandemic. In many contexts, this requires humanitarian pauses and immediate cessation of hostilities to deliver vaccines and combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as called for in resolutions 2532 (2020) and 2565 (2021).

Second: The Commission wishes to also emphasize the role of regional and South-South and triangular cooperation in addressing common challenges related to COVID-19 and advancing long-term goals of economic recovery, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by sharing lessons, identifying good practices and building capacities through exchanges of expertise.

Third: The Commission continues to underscore the need for ensuring access to vaccines in the countries in situations of armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, as well as in humanitarian emergencies. Unprecedented scientific co-operation and expansion of manufacturing capacity

means supply is now rapidly increasing, but delivery challenges mean a number of countries with humanitarian emergencies still only have vaccine coverage of less than 10 percent of their population. Scaling up vaccine availability, distribution and rollout is of critical importance in ensuring inclusive and sustainable recovery. The Commission welcomes the work of COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership, which is working to increase coverage by improving co-ordination of local and international partners, and underscores that utmost priority be given to ensuring the most at risk and the most vulnerable are not left behind and can receive vaccines, including through the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer.

Fourth: The Commission continues to advocate for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. In this respect, the Commission has noted the Peacebuilding Fund's efforts, in collaboration with United Nations Resident Coordinators and partners, to identify risks and opportunities, adapt ongoing projects and develop new proposals to mitigate and prevent pandemic-related risks.