

**Remarks of the PBC Chair at the General Assembly debate on
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace
10 am, 2 September 2022**

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening today's meeting.

I wish to express our appreciation to Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek, the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN for presenting the annual report of the 15th Session of the Peacebuilding Commission, in his capacity as the Chair of the Commission in 2021.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Mr. President,

In 2022, peacebuilding needs have mounted in many dimensions in different regions. Conflicts, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerating global challenges such as food insecurity, energy crisis and financial crunch all pose serious risks on the peacebuilding gains that the Commission has been supporting to achieve for years, through implementation of its mandate.

To ensure our work results in tangible support to national and regional peacebuilding priorities, this year the Commission has placed strong emphasis on results and expanding the Commission's work to more settings, based on requests. The Commission's annual work plan, which guides its forward-looking agenda, considered the relevant recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda as they pertain to the requests of specific countries and regions.

Allow me to share some highlights of the PBC's work in last six months:

First: Founded on a demand-driven approach, the Commission has **emphasized on delivery**, particularly by responding to the requests from Member States in a timely manner. According to its annual work plan, the Commission was prepared to engage with twelve different countries and five different regions in addition to its ongoing thematic priorities.

To date, the Commission has convened thirteen Ambassadorial level meetings and a field visit by the Chair of the Liberia configuration. It has held country specific meetings at the request of Colombia, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Burkina Faso, and region-specific meetings on the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the Pacific Islands. At each meeting the Commission discussed peacebuilding

challenges and priorities identified by and specific to those countries and regions. At the thematic front, a meeting on Youth, Peace and Security was convened and preparation is underway for other thematic meetings including on Women, Peace and Security and peacekeeping, among others.

Second: The Commission has continued to prioritize **national ownership and inclusivity** in all its interactions. In this regard, before organizing the meetings, the Commission has engaged with an array of relevant national and regional stakeholders to ensure that the PBC responds to the real needs on the ground.

For instance, ahead of the meeting on the Sahel, the PBC, with the support from DPPA held extensive consultations with representatives of the Sahel and its international partners. Building on FAO and IOM cross-border initiative on transhumance in the Sahel region, which has been implemented with PBF's support under the auspices of UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the meeting created an opportunity to generate additional political, technical and financial support to address the specific peacebuilding challenges in that region. Similarly, the meeting held at the request of Pacific Islands Forum witnessed participation by the Pacific countries and other relevant stakeholders from the region. The Commission heard their unique peacebuilding challenges, including those accelerated by the negative impacts of climate change and inadequate financial support to developing countries in addressing them.

The Commission continues to promote inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, including by engaging with a greater number of local actors, particularly women and youth briefers. The percentage of national and local actors who briefed at the PBC meetings is 43%. Participation rate of women briefers in the PBC meeting so far has been 80% and the participation rate of young peacebuilders 60%. We are committed to maintaining the trend throughout the year.

Third: Greater attention to **United Nations coherence as well as accountability** has remained a priority for the Commission this year. So far, the Commission has given due attention to promote integrated, strategic and coherent approaches to peacebuilding and placed emphasis on synergies with the PBF. In June, the Commission held a meeting with the Chairs of the Country Specific Configurations on the progress achieved and upcoming activities. The Commission also received updates on PBF activities from the PBSO.

As agreed in its Programme of Work, the Commission will continue to bring all relevant parts of the United Nations system together, including agencies, funds and programmes, with a focus on its representatives in the field, who are leading United Nations efforts in supporting the national peacebuilding priorities, addressing conflict risks and enhancing the capacity of national institutions. An Ambassadorial level meeting in this regard is currently being planned.

Fourth: The Commission has been pursuing **effective partnerships** with regional and sub-regional organizations and with international and regional financial institutions. So far this year, a wide variety of partners, including the African Union, the European Union, African Development Bank, ECOWAS, Lake Chad Basin Commission, G5 Sahel, Pacific Islands Forum, and the Pacific Community, participated in the meetings of the PBC.

This year's annual informal consultative meeting between the PBC and the African Union Peace and Security Council is expected to take place later this year, during the African Union's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development week. The Commission is also working to enhance the South-South and triangular cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and exploring opportunities to further strengthen its relationships with international and regional financial institutions.

Fifth: Peacebuilding **financing** continued to remain in focus this year. In the lead up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding financing held on 27-29 April, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with the Secretary-General. In this context, the Commission also provided input to the President of the General Assembly seeking an action-oriented outcome and encouraging the Assembly to consider all options for enhanced peacebuilding financing, including voluntary, assessed and innovative in its high-level meeting.

The Commission will continue its advocacy for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, including by exploring ways to encourage flexible funding for local peacebuilding organizations, and developing approaches to foster innovative financing for peacebuilding.

Sixth, the Commission has continued its efforts to enhance its advisory, bridging and convening role and emphasized particularly on improving the quality and timeliness of its submissions and briefings to other intergovernmental bodies and peacebuilding fora, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, and ECOSOC.

So far, during this 16th session of the PBC, the Commission sent eight advisories and delivered ten statements in different meetings. The Commission's submissions to the Security Council include advisories on Burkina Faso; Central Africa; the Great Lakes; Women, Peace, and Security; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding. The Commission has also briefed Security Council this year on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the PBC's workplan and capacity building in Africa.

Apart from its submission to the General Assembly on peacebuilding financing, the Commission delivered a statement in a joint event of the General Assembly and

ECOSOC on financing for SDGs in Africa. The Commission also made contributions to ECOSOC during its High-Level Political Forum, Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and meeting on Kimberly process.

Before I conclude, I wish to add a few words on **how to improve the PBC's advisory role vis-à-vis the General Assembly**.

Building on the encouraging results of the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, there is scope to further deepen its advisory role to the General Assembly particularly in the context of the current efforts to revitalize the work of the General Assembly and its increasing role in addressing the root causes of conflicts. The Commission acknowledges the need to better align the programmes of work of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission, especially in areas where the mandate of the Commission complements that of the General Assembly.

This year, the Commission for the first time formally shared its Programme of Work with the General Assembly immediately after its adoption in March. This has been a major step towards institutionalization of the advisory relations between the PBC and the General Assembly. The Commission's Programme of Work could potentially be an effective tool for exploring complementarities between the agendas of the Assembly and the Commission. As such, the PBC Chair this year has participated in the High-Level Dialogue on the theme "The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority for the United Nations System" convened by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission also appointed South Africa as its informal coordinator for the General Assembly, as a new practice established only last year. In addition to the informal coordinator, the members of the Peacebuilding Commission who are elected from the General Assembly as well as the countries that have engaged with the PBC can play a significant role in advancing the PBC's advisory role to the Assembly and in increasing the PBC's visibility and impact among the broader UN membership.

Finally, more regular dialogues between the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission both in a formal and informal setup would go a long way in strengthening the relations between the Assembly and the Commission; these meetings could also possibly be included in the annual agenda of the Commission and the Assembly's work.

I thank you Mr. President.
