

United Nations Nations Unies

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Excellencies,

The High-level Meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, convened on 24 and 25 April 2018 by the President of the General Assembly pursuant to the 2016 resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)), provided Member States with the opportunity to discuss the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43). In parallel, on 25 April, the Security Council convened a briefing on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meetings concluded with the adoption of two parallel resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018)), which: 1) welcome the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General; 2) invite relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), to further advance, explore and consider implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the report; 3) request the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly an interim report further elaborating on his recommendations and options; and 4) request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report in connection with the next review of the peacebuilding architecture.

In implementation of these new resolutions, the PBC, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) agreed to convene a series of meetings to discuss the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General. The meetings were organized around the four main chapters of the report, namely: operational and policy coherence; financing for peacebuilding; leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

On behalf of the members of the Commission, I wish to share with the General Assembly and the Security Council the main elements that were raised during this important process.

Her Excellency
Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
President of the General Assembly

His Excellency
Mr. Kacou Houadja Léon Adom
President of the Security Council

At a meeting on 30 May, the Commission convened senior representatives of the United Nations system, including the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), PBSO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to explore ways to strengthen operational and policy coherence, synergies and complementarities in support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. While noting that sustainable development and human rights constitute universal goals and are most often pursued as ends in themselves, Member States expressed the importance to strengthen, where relevant, coherence, synergies and complementarities both at Headquarters and in the field, while respecting the mandates of each entity. They also welcomed the announcement by the Secretary General of its Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and highlighted the important role of peacekeeping as a platform for early peacebuilding.

Representatives of the UN system underscored the importance for the Organization to focus more on areas such as funding, prioritization and sequencing. They also referred to the importance of close collaboration between Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and United Nations Country Teams in transition settings. A number of Member States expressed their expectations for the reforms of the Secretary-General to strengthen capacity in addressing diverse challenges and to have positive impact on intergovernmental processes. Member States recognized the strengthened advisory role of the PBC, particularly with regard to the Security Council. Delegations reiterated the importance for the Commission to better align its programme of work to that of the Security Council and to plan its activities more in advance. They also underscored readiness to provide targeted advice, as appropriate, complementing the reports of the Secretary-General, particularly during deliberations on mandated renewals.

On 19 June, the Commission was briefed by representatives of the Office of the Controller, DPKO, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Support Office on the options contained in the Secretary-General's report that pertain to financing for peacebuilding. Member States welcomed the meeting as an opportunity to better understand the various options and to reaffirm their support to peacebuilding. In this connection, several Member States reiterated the Secretary-Generals call for a "quantum leap" in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which should be unearmarked and provided over a longer term to ensure that support is both responsive and predictable. Delegations also welcomed stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund which were leading to mutually reinforcing action in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by enhancing coherence between PBC policy discussions and the programmatic activities of the Fund. The importance of further discussing the various financing options was also recognized.

On 7 September, the Commission convened a meeting on leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks where he highlighted that effective, responsive and accountable leadership provided with the right capacities and resources in support of national governments and their populations is central to his vision for sustaining peace. He also noted the Commission's essential role as a "double hinge," not only between the different intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, but also between intergovernmental bodies and the activities undertaken by the United Nations system on the ground, particularly during transitions. In this regard, the Commission has promoted accountability, shared good practices, provided guidance and facilitated broader partnerships with other actors, including the World Bank. He also stressed that PBSO's role and capacity as the "hinge" would be further strengthened through integration into the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in 2019 as part of the restructuring of the peace and security pillar. He also underscored the importance of the changes underway as part of the United Nations reform efforts, including the revitalization of the Peacebuilding Support Office. The upcoming interim report of the Secretary-General mandated by resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) will be a further opportunity to update on this progress. Member States reaffirmed commitments to further deliberate and advise the General Assembly and Security Council, as appropriate. Delegations underscored, inter alia, the importance for the UN in the field to work in support of national governments, aimed at strengthening their capacities, in particular in development. They also recognized that the Commission adds unique value by (1) acting as a forum for convening a wide range of stakeholders, including International Finance Institutions (IFIs); (2) providing a platform for country specific and regional discussion, with the consent of all countries concerned, that could also bring together Resident Coordinators and leadership of UN entities from an early stage; and (3) expanding space for sharing good practices in peacebuilding. Delegations also noted that women's role is vital to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

On 27 November, the Commission discussed the recommendations pertaining to partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Member States shared their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, private sector, the World Bank and other IFIs. They reflected on the Secretary-General's recommendations on strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders and noted the importance of closer and more strategic collaboration with diverse partner organizations to ensure the United Nations supports actors at all levels in their efforts to build and sustain peace. It was noted that the PBC, in view of its bridging and convening role, should enhance collaboration with key partners, within and outside the UN system. The Commission's partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations were recognized as a good practice. Member States noted that stronger dialogue between the United Nations and the World Bank on financing issues of peacebuilding activities is required and they welcomed the decision of the PBC and the Bank to convene annual dialogues.

This last meeting also provided an opportunity for Member States to take stock of this series of discussions and to share their views on how to move forward. In this connection, and in response to resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), the Members of the PBC wish to propose that the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission could consider convene informal interactive dialogues to further advance, explore and consider implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the report. These dialogues, which could take place in early 2019 and could be conducted at the expert-level, would provide a platform for all Member States to share their views on the status of implementation of the resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018) before the Secretary-General finalizes and presents to the General Assembly the interim report mandated by these resolutions. This could be followed by a plenary meeting of the General Assembly after the report is issued.

I remain at the disposal of the General Assembly and the Security Council to further explore ways to continue this important dialogue and I kindly ask you to circulate this letter to the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and to issue it as an official document.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Dr. Ion Jinga
Chairperson
Peacebuilding Commission