

Written submission

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the G5 Sahel

New York, 15 November 2022

In the last few years, the Peacebuilding Commission in line with its mandate has sought to mobilize support for regional peacebuilding efforts in the Sahel, including for the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and its Support Plan in collaboration with Sahelian countries, the G5 Sahel, the African Union, the European Union and other regional and international organizations and financial institutions.

Based on its continuing engagement in support of peacebuilding in the Sahel, including through a meeting on 22 March 2022 where Sahelian countries underscored the extreme vulnerability of the Sahel to the humanitarian, security, political and development challenges, and called for coordinated responses taking into account their impact on peacebuilding in the Sahel, the Commission would like to share the following points:

1. The Commission stresses the need to preserve the political unity of the G5 Sahel and the gains achieved through its cooperative efforts to address the multidimensional challenges faced by the region, while encouraging all parties to remain engaged in and committed to this process. It further encourages greater alignment of collective support for the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Program based on a political, security and socio-economic analysis of the specific situation conducted in each of the G5 Sahel countries.
2. The Commission recognizes the magnitude of peacebuilding challenges and the persistent threat of terrorism faced by the Sahel region which poses a serious threat to international peace and security and impacts the humanitarian crisis on civilians through increasing numbers of displaced persons and rising food insecurity. The Commission notes the importance Sahel countries place on enhanced and coordinated counter-terrorism measures in the region supported by predictable and sustained financing. The Commission notes the SG's previous call for providing sustainable and predictable support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

3. The Commission also acknowledges the need to address the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes, natural disasters, drought, desertification, land degradation, energy access as well as food insecurity. To compliment the efforts of the G5 Sahel, the importance of improved governance and management of natural resources should be emphasized to help tackle the root causes and drivers of instability. In this regard, the Commission notes the call by Sahel states to encourage greater support for the objectives of the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Program which incorporates climate change adaptation and governance reforms into it.
4. The Commission encourages the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel to continue engaging with the Sahelian countries, sub-regional, regional organizations and International Financial on strategic alignment and coherence with national and regional peacebuilding priorities in complementarity with the efforts of the G5 Sahel. In that regard, it notes the importance of ensuring national ownership and of reinforcing institutions and accountability of governance mechanisms promoting local dialogues and juridical cooperation.
5. The Commission in line with its mandate, emphasizes the need to mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources to address the numerous challenges in the region. It stresses the importance of international and regional partnerships and welcomes the initiation of the joint AU-UN-ECOWAS-G5 Sahel Strategic Assessment on governance and security to strengthen support to the G5 Sahel, its Joint Force and other security, development, and governance responses in the Sahel.
6. The Commission underlines the importance of respecting human rights in all efforts to combat terrorism in the Sahel region and acknowledges efforts to implement the G5 Sahel Joint Force Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Compliance Framework. The Commission welcomes recent positive development for including women in the G5 Sahel Joint Force and encourages continuous efforts to support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security as well as the Youth, Peace and Security agendas, including through empowering women and young people to

undertake leadership roles in peacebuilding initiatives at the local, national, and regional level and to strengthen their roles in governance mechanisms.

I thank you.