

Written submission

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes

New York, 27 April 2022

Madam President,

In the last few years, the Peacebuilding Commission in line with its mandate has sought to mobilize support for regional peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region. The Commission has welcomed the comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the United Nations strategy and, in its recent engagements in the region, has focused on strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding and development and addressing the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on its continuing engagement in support of peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region, the Commission would like to share the following points:

1. The Commission welcomes the efforts of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region towards implementation of the peacebuilding priorities contained in the action plan of the regional strategy, as articulated in the most recent report of the Secretary-General.
2. The Commission notes that the importance of strengthening of national and regional programmes for the demobilization, disarmament, repatriation and reintegration remain key to peacebuilding in the region. A series of recent events related to M23 in the DRC was a stark reminder of that. In this regard, it underscores the importance of contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of reintegrating former combatants repatriated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda, and welcomes the proposal of the new Demobilization, Disarmament, Community Recovery and Stabilization Program (P-DDRCS) by the DRC and other non-military measures to support the eradication of negative forces in eastern DRC and the region.
3. The Commission also welcomes the activities currently underway to support efforts aimed at advancing the inclusion, participation and empowerment of women and young people, particularly the operationalization of the Great

Lakes Women Entrepreneurs Network as part of efforts to support the participation of all segments of society in regional economic cooperation, and the commitment to strengthen legislative measures to ensure gender equality and accelerate women's participation in political processes.

4. The Commission emphasises the importance of supporting improved governance and management of natural resources to leverage the socio-economic opportunities for the Great Lakes.
5. The Commission in line with its mandate, stresses the importance of partnership with international and regional financial institutions, in supporting peacebuilding and development efforts in the region. It encourages the Special Envoy of the Great Lakes to continue engaging with IFIs on strategic alignment and coherence around pillars of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region.
6. The Commission calls for continued support from the international community to the countries of the region and regional organizations in their efforts to advance towards peace, security and development. The Commission, while adhering to its mandate, will continue to support the implementation of the action plan of the regional strategy, including through advocacy for international support for critical peacebuilding projects developed by the Special Envoy's Office in consultation with countries of the region and in coordination with the UN system, building on the Peacebuilding Fund's programmatic support.

I thank you.

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