

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Ambassadorial-level meeting**

**20 April 2022**

**The peacebuilding challenges in the Lake Chad Basin**  
**Chair's summary**

1. On 20 April, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, convened an Ambassadorial-level hybrid meeting on emerging peacebuilding challenges and priorities of the region. The meeting focused on the peacebuilding priorities identified at the Lake Chad Basin Third Governors' Forum, and on advocacy for support required for their implementation, as articulated in the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) of the RSS<sup>1</sup>. The Chair commended the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Governors for local ownership of the peacebuilding process to address the multi-faceted challenges facing the region, ranging from chronic human underdevelopment, and the COVID-19 pandemic, to terrorism, violent extremism, and climate change.
2. The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, in a video recording, acknowledged the convening and bridging roles of the PBC in mobilizing international attention and resources for peacebuilding efforts in the region, which possesses extraordinary opportunities and untapped potential to yield peace dividends. Furthermore, the Deputy Secretary-General emphasized that international support was essential to change the trajectory on the ground, including through the implementation of the RSS, enhanced partnerships with local communities and civil society organizations, prioritization of development in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals, and coherence and coordination in the humanitarian, peace, and development nexus.
3. The Executive Secretary of the LCBC, H.E. Mr. Mamman Nuhu, welcomed the PBC's engagement in the region and briefed on the RSS functions. The Executive Secretary emphasized the role of the Steering Committee as an instrumental political tool to facilitate peace in collaboration with civil society organizations. Furthermore, the Taskforce of Implementing Partners consisting of 32 UN and non-UN humanitarian, development, and peace entities, plays a complementary role through its the translation of the Strategy into programmatic interventions. He underlined the importance of sufficient financing for the implementation of the TAPs, which require an investment of US\$1.8 billion over the next five years.

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram affected areas of the LCB Region (RSS). The Strategy is centred around three thematic clusters: Governance; Development and Humanitarian; Security and Protection.

4. The African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Mr. Bankole Adeoye, highlighted the enormity of challenges in the region, and the need to address the drivers of conflict, including climate change and its impact on livelihoods, weak governance structures, intercommunal violence, terrorism, violent extremism, and weak management of and unequal access to natural resources. The Commissioner informed on the African Union's support to the RSS, which prioritizes stabilization, conflict-sensitive investments, climate-smart actions, environmentally sustainable livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, transhumance corridors, and plans to establish a regional observatory on pastoralism.
5. The ECOWAS Permanent Observer, H.E. Mahama Kappiah, called for collaborative and inclusive approaches to address the security barriers, and adequate funding for the TAPs to ensure the provision of food to vulnerable communities. The European Union External Action Service Director for Africa, Ms. Rita Laranjinha, stressed the importance of regional strategies, partnerships and local ownership in the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, and informed that the European Union will be allocating 894 million Euros towards addressing food insecurity in the region.
6. The Governor of the Far North Region, Cameroon, H.E. Governor Midjiyawa Bakary, cited the concerns on prevailing insecurity, absence of basic social services, limited state authority, and the adverse impact of climate change, as well as remedial steps, including the meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding processes, and equitable access to natural resources. The Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development, Partnerships, and Humanitarian Support in Borno State, Dr Mairo Mandara, briefed on the progress in the security sphere, underpinned by the reintegration of over 40,000 former Boko Haram members into their communities.
7. The Deputy Executive Director of Administration, Network of Yobe Civil Society Organization, Nigeria, Mr. Gambo Garba Muhammad, noted an improvement in the security environment due to the reintegration of ex-Boko Haram associates, relocation of displaced population to their homes, as well as programmatic interventions in health and agricultural sectors. He called for increased collaboration and synergy between all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the RSS.
8. The Founder of Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré (ALDEPA), Cameroon, Ms. Marthe Wandou, called for investments in resilience, basic amenities, and infrastructure, as well as the involvement of traditional leaders, women, youth, and support to civil society organizations in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives in the region. In addition, she advocated for the prioritization of gender inclusion and human rights in the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus.

9. The President of the Youth Association for Peace and Cohesion (AJEPAC), Niger, Mr. Mamadou Djibro Abba Yacine, expressed concern over the worsening insecurity, and its adverse impact on stabilization, humanitarian assistance, women, and youth. In this context, he underscored the importance of human rights, education, youth employment, border surveillance, cross-border cooperation, information sharing, and curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons.
10. The President of the Women's Associations' Information and Liaison Group (CELIAF), Chad, Ms. Respa Bevia, highlighted the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency, including instability, massive displacement, and dire humanitarian situation, which is compounded by low economic growth. She stressed the need for capacity building, strengthening governance, security and protection pillars, and cross-border interventions.
11. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:
  - They commended the peacebuilding efforts in the region, especially the local ownership and role of Governors in mainstreaming humanitarian development and peace nexus in the TAPs, to address the multitude of challenges relating to conflict, terrorism, intercommunal violence, the inclusion of women and youth, and climate change. They underlined the importance of the identification of solutions to strengthen the resilience of local organizations and communities.
  - They underscored the importance of cross-border approaches, coordination, and integration in the implementation of the RSS. They stressed that the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Financing for Peacebuilding provides the platform for concrete commitments on adequate, predictable, and sustained financing, integral to the rollout of the TAPs.
  - They expressed concern over the deteriorating security, humanitarian, socioeconomic and development situation in the region, and called for further mobilization of international attention and support for the peace and development priorities.
  - They commended the PBF investments in consolidating peacebuilding dividends, noting the crucial aspect of cross-border partnerships, especially at the international, regional, and local levels to ensure complementarity in peacebuilding efforts.
12. In the closing remarks, the European External Action Service (EEAS) Managing Director for Africa, Ms. Rita Laranjinha, underlined the political and financial commitment of the European Union (EU) to the region, the relevance of multilateralism, and noted that the overwhelming humanitarian, security and development challenges requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. She underscored the importance of a regional approach, the leadership of four riparian

countries and AU in the implementation of the RSS. Ms. Laranjinha informed that for the period, 2014 to 2020, the EU has contributed one billion Euros to the Lake Chad Basin. The UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Mr. Mar Dieye, stressed the criticality of financial resourcing to TAPs, and the importance of the humanitarian, peace, and development nexus in “breaking the silos”. He noted the increasing importance of ensuring stronger links between the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and the RSS, including support for the implementation of TAPs . UNOWAS DSRSG, Ms. Giovane Biha, echoed this viewpoint, and called for a holistic response that would reinforce the nexus between the military, humanitarian, and development actors. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, underscored the need for continued support to the region through increased partnerships, including with IFIs and local peacebuilders. She informed that PBF initiatives are currently open for proposals from the civil society, which is a concrete way to help advance peacebuilding in this region through the population most directly affected.

13. In closing, the PBC Chair remarked on the productive discussions the innovative approaches to address peacebuilding challenges, and the commitment of the Commission to continue its support to the region.