

**Security Council Open Debate on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace:  
Investing in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges**

**26 January 2023**

**Remarks by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

**DRAFT**

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for inviting me, in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, to brief the Security Council at this important meeting.

At the outset, I wish to commend Japan for focusing today's debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and on the importance of further strengthening how we collectively respond to the multifaceted, and often interlinked, challenges that we face today. The challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace have multiplied, particularly in the context of prevailing global pandemic, resulting economic downturn, and exacerbated by climate change and the changing nature of conflict dynamics. It is imperative to enhance the ability of individuals, societies, and nations to cope with these challenges specific to our times. This has led to an increased interest from countries and regions to engage with the Peacebuilding Commission in expanding and strengthening their capacities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Last year alone, the Commission engaged with several new contexts for the first time, including Timor Leste, South Sudan and the Central Asian region, to learn from their experiences in building peace.

A critical lesson that has repeatedly emerged from the Commission's engagement in various parts of the world is the importance to support nationally owned and led efforts to build effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions at the national and local level for reducing vulnerability, and protecting and empowering citizens. In view of this, the Peacebuilding Commission recognizes the need to increase investments in strengthening effective, accountable and inclusive public service institutions that deliver for all citizens, within the framework of the rule of law, cutting across all the sustainable development goals, in an integrated and coordinated manner. As recognized by the identical resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which is also relevant in today's discussion, inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. In this regard, the Commission continues to underline the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and to call for the inclusion of both women and youth in efforts to build capacity at the local, national and regional levels.

As the demand for peacebuilding support continues to grow, both in terms of number of requests for support and in complexity of the multifaceted and often interlinked challenges which need to be addressed for sustainable outcomes, it is clear that our responses need to be strengthened. We need to place greater emphasis on efficiency, on coherence, on leveraging our comparative advantages, and on

ensuring that our actions can have an impact on the ground, helping societies reach lasting peace and sustainable development. Achieving this, while working in full respect of national ownership and of existing UN mandates, requires the full commitment of all of us towards finding agreed, and often innovative solutions.

I am pleased to note that the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council represent a good practice in this regard. The Commission has considerably strengthened its advisory role towards the Council, on the Council's request. The number of submissions to the Council has continued to grow, reaching 17 in 2022. The timeliness of its advice has also improved, allowing the Council to take decisions benefiting from the broader peacebuilding perspectives shared by the Peacebuilding Commission.

This progress was achieved thanks to a number of informal arrangements, which allowed the Council to make a better use of the advisory, bridging and convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission. To name just a few of those arrangements:

- The convening of Informal Interactive Dialogues has offered an additional opportunity for the Council to seek the informal advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, including in preparation for Council's visits to the field to contexts which face peacebuilding challenges;
- The appointment by the Peacebuilding Commission of an informal coordinator for the interactions between Council and Commission has contributed to a better alignment of the Peacebuilding Commissions programme of work to that of the Council, hence improving the relevance and the timeliness of its submission;
- The decision, taken by the Council in 2022, to share with the Peacebuilding Commission the advance copies of relevant reports of the Secretary-General, has allowed the Commission to make its advice more substantive, complementing – and not duplicating, the content of those reports.

Based on these best practices, I wish to take this opportunity to encourage all of us to further explore innovative ideas on how the Council could make use of the Peacebuilding Commission to complement its work. These joint reflections could also be useful in developing guidance for the Peacebuilding Commission when it prepares written submissions for the Council's consideration.

The Peacebuilding Commission is also open to exploring other form of advice to the Council on relevant countries, especially those with the presence of a peace operation, building on the Commission's interactions with the countries in question, and updates it receives from the UN system on the ground and, taking advantage of the PBC's convening role vis-a-vis regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, regional development banks, and civil society organizations.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

We have just heard the Deputy Secretary-General's update on the Secretary-General's commitment to develop a New Agenda for Peace, as a contribution to the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024.

With the view of strengthening the UN response to the multifaceted challenges we are facing, the Commission looks forward to further discussions on the outcomes of the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda which echoes the need to enhance support for national peacebuilding priorities and the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and of the inclusion of youth in peacebuilding processes. The Commission also reiterates its call for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding with a view to reinforcing efforts to build and sustain peace at the national and local level.

I am pleased to inform that the Commission will convene a dedicated discussion on the New Agenda for Peace on Monday next week. The meeting will be an opportunity for the Peacebuilding Commission members to complement the ongoing consultation process with peacebuilding-specific ideas, including on a strengthened and more strategic role of the Peacebuilding Commission for better and more sustained peacebuilding outcomes.

I thank you