

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

Press Statement on Indigenous Peoples, Peace and Reconciliation in Canada, Colombia and Norway

New York, 19 June 2023

1. On 19 June 2023, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on Indigenous Peoples, Peace and Reconciliation in Canada, Colombia and Norway. The meeting focused on sharing good practices and challenges of peace and reconciliation processes and promoting Indigenous voices in peacebuilding in those countries.
2. The Commission was briefed by the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as by Indigenous representatives of the three countries: the Director of Justice and Correctional Services at the Cree Nation Government Department of Justice and Correctional Services (Canada), the Deputy Director for Collective Reparation at the Victims' Unit (Colombia), and a Sami social anthropologist and member of the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Norway), as well as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support.
3. The briefers from Canada, Colombia and Norway recounted their experiences, and described challenges, good practices and lessons learnt with regard to reconciliation. They noted the importance of efforts to promote social inclusion, participation, economic opportunity, facilitation of livelihoods, transitional justice and truth commissions for peacebuilding and reconciliation in their respective contexts. They reaffirmed that understanding and discussing Indigenous experiences and efforts towards reconciliation in these countries was vital for overcoming discrimination and ensuring economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.