

Peacebuilding Commission Press Statement

The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso

9 October 2020

At the request of the Government of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Bob Rae chaired a virtual meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on “the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso” on 8 October.

The meeting took place against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic that has exacerbated security, humanitarian and development challenges in Burkina Faso, particularly for the populations living in areas under the threat of terrorist activity and for internally displaced persons, and amid considerable efforts by the Government of Burkina Faso to respond to these rapidly evolving threats. The Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Christophe Marie Joseph Dabiré, briefed the Commission on the impact of COVID-19 in his country and on important peacebuilding activities under way. Ms. Agnes Bado, a woman business leader in Burkina Faso, underscored the impact of COVID-19 on women and business, and called upon partners to dedicate appropriate instruments in support for women-led businesses. The Commission also heard a briefing by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Ms. Giovane Biha, on UN support to the Government’s response to COVID-19 and on UNOWAS’ on-going political engagement, including in the context of the preparation of the elections of November 2020.

The Peacebuilding Commission expressed deep concern over the additional challenges posed by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for Burkina Faso, particularly on the most vulnerable populations. They noted that the pandemic had exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities, including the situation of women, whose trading and domestic activities have been negatively impacted, and the local communities.

The Peacebuilding Commission congratulated the Government of Burkina Faso for its continuous efforts, with regional and international support, to address the security situation and its humanitarian and socio-economic consequences, and for the additional actions taken to minimize the economic and social shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the resilience of the Government and the population in connection with the pandemic, including the national pandemic crisis response plan. They further welcomed the preparation for the elections of 22 November despite the challenges posed by the insecurity and the pandemic.

The Commission welcomed the positive response by partners to the Government’s call for support to the priorities identified through the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment (PPBA) and within the framework of the Priority Action Matrix of the Emergency Program for the Sahel (MAP-PUS), following the meeting of 5 March. In this regard, the Commission welcomed the on-going support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund to critical peacebuilding activities in Burkina Faso. The Commission further encouraged Burkina Faso’s partners to sustain their support to

these priority actions and to consider additional support to help the country's immediate response to the COVID-19 and its post COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plan. In this regard, the Government of Burkina Faso could consider focusing the next meeting on the post COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plan.
