

Chair's Remarks
International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
High Level Luncheon, New York, 20 September 2022

1. I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me to this important discussion to share the Peacebuilding Commission's experience in providing political accompaniment and advocacy to conflict-affected countries, through various phases of their efforts to build and sustain peace with a view to 'leaving no one behind.'
2. The devastating effects of armed conflicts, challenging recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse effects of climate change have pushed the most affected countries further off track from meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The risks of slide back are higher for countries that are in transition and where the State's capacity to withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks is weaker. As such, the Commission has been experiencing increased demands for flexible engagements with a view to expanding their support base across stakeholders, such as, the private sector, IFIs and other development entities.
3. In 2022, for example, the PBC has aimed to adopt a more ambitious and forward-looking agenda. The Commission planned to engage with at least 12 different countries and five different regions, in addition to its ongoing thematic priorities. To date, PBC has held 14 Ambassadorial level meetings and a field visit by the Chair of the Commission's Liberia configuration. Country specific meetings have been held at the requests of Colombia, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Burkina Faso, while regional meetings took place on Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the Pacific Islands to discuss specific peacebuilding challenges and priorities of those countries and regions.
4. In order to remain fit for purpose in the face of increasingly complex socio-economic and political climate the Commission will have to be able to ensure timely and effective responses in support of nationally-owned peacebuilding priorities. In its recent engagements with Burundi, Liberia and Sierra Leone the PBC tried to ensure that its efforts are in alignment with national and regional initiatives focusing on development as well as issues of exclusion, sustainable reintegration of combatants, refugees and returnees, natural disasters and climate change adaptation, among others.
5. The Commission recognizes that the challenges of peacebuilding cannot be met in silos. In this regard, the PBC continues to promote effective partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations and with international and regional financial institutions. So far this year, a wide variety of partners, including the African Union, the European Union, African Development Bank, ECOWAS, Lake Chad Basin Commission, G5 Sahel, Pacific

Islands Forum, and the Pacific Community, participated in the meetings of the PBC. This year's annual informal consultative meeting between the PBC and the African Union Peace and Security Council is expected to take place later this year. The Commission is also working to enhance the South-South and triangular cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and exploring opportunities to further strengthen its relationships with international and regional financial institutions. The Commission is also providing its platform for sharing good practices to allow countries with comparable socio-economic condition benefit from successful state-building experiences.

6. In responding in the new and evolving challenges to peacebuilding, it is essential to remember that non-inclusive responses are unsustainable and often leave the drivers of conflict unaddressed. In view of this, the Peacebuilding Commission emphasizes the importance of ensuring that women and youth are included in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts at the local, national and regional levels and that in their engagements, the cross-cutting gender equality targets of Agenda 2030 are advanced on a priority basis. For its part, the Commission has promoted inclusive approaches by engaging a greater number of local actors, particularly women and youth briefers at its meetings, which allows development partners to assess the real needs of the women and youth and accordingly calibrate their peacebuilding engagements on the ground.
7. While striving to meet national peacebuilding needs, the Commission continues to focus on enhancing its advisory and bridging role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. This unique mandate – in combination with its flexible working methods – has allowed the Commission to coordinate and scale up UN system long-term coherent support to conflict-affected countries. So far, during this 16th session of PBC, the Commission sent 8 advisories and delivered 12 statements in different meetings including meetings of General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC. This year's submissions and statements have focused on the country, regional, and thematic contexts where the PBC has previously engaged, which include, submissions to the Security Council on Burkina Faso; Central Africa; Great Lakes; women, peace, and security; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding; briefing to the Security Council on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and a submission to the General Assembly on peacebuilding financing.
8. The complexity of today's conflicts requires comprehensive approaches that should involve the entire United Nations system and strong partnerships with a range of actors. In that regard, the Commission underlines the importance of ensuring stronger coherence and coordination among the peace, development and humanitarian actors on the ground. For its part, the Commission continues to create space for non-United Nations partners, such as national and local government officials, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, women and youth organizations, to work together in support of local peacebuilding efforts.

9. Lastly, peacebuilding requires timely and effective financial and technical support and, in this regard, the Commission notes with concern that adequate, predictable and sustained financing remains a critical challenge as financial flows to conflict-affected countries have come under increasing pressure, particularly Official Development Assistance devoted to peacebuilding. It has stressed the need to enhance financial support for countries in transition phases, where United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions are scaling down, to avoid national authorities and local communities losing funding at a time when they assume greater responsibilities. The Commission is committed to continue identifying creative peacebuilding financing, and non-financial contributions, such as capacity building and technical cooperation.

10. In order to ensure realization of ‘leaving no one behind’ we need to focus on conflict-affected countries, and ensure that realization of SDGs in those countries is inclusive, extending to excluded and difficult-to-reach populations, while continuing our efforts to address the root causes of conflict and promote the foundations of peace.

I thank you.