

Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
Third meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors’ Forum
“Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and
Sustainable Development”
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Your Excellencies, Host Authorities, Governors and Distinguished participants,

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the Third meeting of the Governors Forum taking place in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Inclusive platforms of exchange such as this Forum are critical in our common quest to sustain peace across borders.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission pursues an impact-oriented approach to peacebuilding anchored in its advisory, bridging and convening roles. We convene relevant stakeholders and partners to enhance coherence and maximize the effectiveness and impact of peacebuilding efforts.

Last year we had an opportunity to be briefed by the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, His Excellency Ambassador

Mamman Nuhu, on the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin. The Strategy is anchored within the Territorial Action Plans of the eight Governors present at this Forum today.

As the United Nations Secretary-General just outlined in his report on *Our Common Agenda*, we cannot overstress the need for integrated approaches that bring together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in regions such as the Lake Chad Basin. This was always true and is even more true in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to express the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission's continued support to the much needed collective and coordinated effort by Member States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector to fully realize the AU/LCBC strategy for regional stabilization. The Commission welcomes in particular inclusive efforts in the Lake Chad Basin region to build peace from the bottom up and across borders. It also welcomes the catalytic investments that the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund has made over the last few years in the Lake Chad Basin, including in support of cross-border projects.

Last year we also had the privilege to hear from Dr. Fatima Akilu, Executive Director of Neem Foundation in Nigeria, the dangerous challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic facing women and girls in

the Lake Chad Basin, where they are over-represented in the informal sector. Enhancing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women should continue to be at the heart of our collective peacebuilding responses. We also need to continue to strengthen the role and inclusion of youth in peacebuilding. I commend this Forum for its ongoing efforts to ensure the full participation of women, youth and civil society in peacebuilding efforts in the Lake Chad Basin region.

Coherence and synergies among partners is necessary to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development. This is particularly relevant in regions like the Lake Chad Basin, whose multifaceted challenges can only be addressed through a comprehensive and multidimensional approach that addresses root causes of conflict and instability and aligns efforts with the national and regional peacebuilding priorities. The Peacebuilding Commission remains available to accompany this region in its quest to sustain peace. I wish you all a successful Forum.

I thank you.
