

Arria Formula meeting on:

**Beyond the inconvenient truths about underdevelopment in
Haiti: seeking pan-African solutions/pathways and supporting
national dialogue and reconciliation**

15 October 2021

Remarks by the PBC Chair

Excellencies,

I thank you for inviting me, in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, to participate in this Arria Formula meeting titled “Beyond the inconvenient truths about underdevelopment in Haiti: seeking pan-African solutions/pathways and supporting national dialogue and reconciliation”.

Allow me, at the outset, to inform you that the PBC does not have any ongoing engagement with Haiti. However, I wish to share some observations that build upon the role the Commission has played in supporting conflict-affected countries in their efforts to reach lasting peace and sustainable development which may be relevant for this discussion.

The Commission has a mandate to support countries build and sustain peace. In this connection, I wish to recall the definition of sustaining peace adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council: “sustaining peace should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations’ engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance”. The two bodies also reaffirmed the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and in this regard, emphasizing that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives.

Since the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture, when Member States agreed on this definition, the PBC has made a tangible difference on a number of country and regional contexts and pushing the envelope on wider policy issues.

As the Secretary-General mentioned in his report on Our Common Agenda, the Commission has fostered a more inclusive and effective approach to multilateralism by promoting and supporting multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional solutions and has helped reshape UN responses to new challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Commission is best placed to ensure effective support when its engagement is guided by a clear national strategy.

In all the different national and regional contexts where the Commission has engaged [22 since its inception in 2006], it has provided space for countries to lead by example by defining their own peacebuilding needs. In addition, the Commission has particularly endeavored to deliver on its promise of inclusiveness by creating space for an array of stakeholders in support of national peacebuilding priorities. For example, guided by its gender strategy and action plan, as well as its strategic action plan on youth and peacebuilding, the Commission delivers tangible support to numerous women and youth peacebuilders, successfully mainstreaming gender dimensions of peacebuilding into the Commission's country and regional activities.

The Commission has been able to produce better results where its granular attention to individual countries was combined with support for relevant cross-border and regional dimensions of peacebuilding – as was the case in its engagement in support of Burkina Faso and the Sahel region; as well as Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands region.

Excellencies,

I wish to reaffirm the PBC's readiness to support building and sustaining peace in Haiti, if requested by the Government of Haiti. In this regard, and building on the bridging role of the PBC, it might be opportune to convene, at an appropriate time, an informal interactive dialogue with the Security Council, the ECOSOC Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the PBC and the Government of Haiti to further discuss lasting peace and sustainable development in Haiti.