

**Informal Interactive Dialogue convened by the General Assembly and the
Peacebuilding Commission
26 March 2019 (10:00am-6:00pm)**

**Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
Introductory Remarks**

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to speak on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission.

First, allow me to express our gratitude to you, Madam President, for organizing today's meeting with the Peacebuilding Commission. For the first time, we -- the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission -- are convening an Informal Interactive Dialogue to discuss peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Not only are we providing a space where Member States can share their views on these issues, but also because we are strengthening the advisory and bridging role of the Commission to the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

The High-level Meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in April 2018 concluded with the adoption of two parallel resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018)).

These twin resolutions (1) welcomed the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General; (2) invited relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), to further advance, explore and consider implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the report; (3) requested the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly an interim report on his recommendations and options; and (4) requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a detailed report in connection with the next review of the peacebuilding architecture.

To implement the twin resolutions, the Peacebuilding Commission, under the capable leadership of its Chair and Vice-Chairs (Romania, the Republic of Korea and Germany), and with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office, convened a series of meetings throughout 2018 to discuss the main four themes addressed in the report: **(1) operational and policy coherence; (2) financing for peacebuilding; (3) leadership, accountability and capacity** in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and **(4) partnerships** for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Let me briefly highlight the main ideas that emerged from those four discussions:

Strengthening, where relevant, coherence, synergies and complementarities both at UN Headquarters and in the field, while respecting the mandates of each entity is important. In this regard, Member States also recognized the strengthened advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular to the Security Council, and underscored readiness of the Commission to provide targeted advice to the Council, as appropriate, complementing the reports of the Secretary-General, in particular during deliberations on mandate renewals.

The report of the Secretary-General contains several recommendations on financing for peacebuilding which will require further consideration. In this connection, several Member States reiterated the Secretary-General's call for a "quantum leap" in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund and welcomed stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund to enhance coherence between the policy discussions of the Commission and the activities of the Fund.

The Secretary-General, during a briefing to the Commission, highlighted that effective, responsive and accountable leadership that was provided with the right capacities and resources in support of national Governments and their populations was central to his vision for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. He also noted the Peacebuilding Commission's role as a "double" hinge, not only between the various intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, but also between intergovernmental bodies and the activities undertaken by the United Nations system on the ground, in particular during transitions from a UN peacekeeping mission to a UNCT-led presence.

Finally, the Commission’s bridging and convening role for closer and more strategic collaboration with key partners, within and outside the United Nations system, was recognized. This is particularly true for what concerns regional and subregional organizations, the World Bank, civil society, and, where relevant, the private sector.

This convening role is critical to supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace on the ground. In the Sahel, for example, the Security Council has emphasized “the importance of the convening role of the Commission in peacebuilding efforts, and thus, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to advancing the implementation of the UN integrated strategic for the Sahel”.

Excellencies,

Today’s meeting is particularly relevant because, while the PBC is the dedicated forum to discuss peacebuilding and sustaining peace, to respond to the mandate of the twin resolutions of 2018 in an inclusive manner. This is particularly true at a time when Member States are also convening early discussions on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

Since the last review, in 2015, the Commission has made important progress in diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This new orientation of the Commission has enabled it to work better in support of nationally identified peacebuilding priorities, convening discussions on country-specific, regional and thematic issues, always with the consent and the participation of the countries concerned, such as in the cases of the Great Lakes region and the Sahel, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Solomon Islands, the Gambia, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan. This is in parallel to its long-term engagement with countries like Burundi and Sierra Leone, or the Central African Republic, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau. The Commission has also strengthened its advisory role to the

Security Council. Last week, for example, the Council convened an Informal Interactive Dialogue in preparation for its visit to Burkina Faso and Mali. PBC Chair, Vice-Chairs and the ASG for Peacebuilding Support were invited to brief the work of PBC and PBF in the Sahel region and in those two countries.

The Commission has also advanced discussion on important thematic issues for peacebuilding, including national ownership, youth, financing and institution-building, as well as gender, including through the continued implementation of its gender strategy, adopted in 2016. The recent PBC meeting on ‘Gender responsive social protection systems and access to public services in peacebuilding contexts’ is a good example.

The progress made so far represents the basis for another review of the peacebuilding architecture. The Commission, building on the good practice established in 2014, has decided to initiate early discussions on the objectives and modalities for the 2020 Review. Summary of those discussions will be shared later this year with the General Assembly and the Security Council for their consideration.

Excellencies,

Today’s dialogue is well-timed to provide an important opportunity for all of us not only to respond to the twin resolutions from 2018 which ask to further advance, explore and consider the implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It is also an opportunity to share our views on what we want the United Nations to deliver on peacebuilding and sustaining peace..

I look forward to hearing from you during today’s rich dialogue.

I thank you.