

**Chair's summary**  
**Ambassadorial-Informal Interactive Dialogue**  
**between the PBC and the President of the Security Council**  
**on**  
**"Addressing Root Causes of Conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa"**  
**Monday, 10 May 2021 at 3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
**Online Platform**

The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an ambassadorial informal- informal interactive dialogue with the President of the Security Council in May (Permanent Representative of China) on "Addressing Root Causes of Conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa".

The meeting was open to all PBC Member States at the ambassadorial level. PBC Members were encouraged to limit their interventions to 2-3 minutes due to the time constraint.

This informal exchange with the President of the Security Council focused on how to enhance cooperation between the Council and the Commission in addressing root causes of conflict in Africa and achieving recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair recalled the testimonies of women and young peacebuilders from across Africa since the outset of the pandemic, who expressed concerns about the implications of the pandemic on women, including their meaningful participation in peace processes. Drawing on the second edition of the "Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development" on 4 March, the Chair recognized that the pandemic had exacerbated governance gaps across the African continent affecting the health, economic and social sectors and causing additional strains on social cohesion with implications for the peace and security landscape, most notably through exploitation by armed groups and terrorist organizations. He echoed a key takeaway from the Aswan Forum that, in order for peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts to be successful, governments must invest in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at the national and local levels while promoting inclusive governance through a whole-of-government approach.

This was followed by a briefing from the President of the Security Council, H.E. Mr. Jun Zhang, as well as interventions from PBC members and closing remarks by the PBC Chair. Participants discussed preparations for an open Security Council debate on post-pandemic recovery in Africa, organized by China. Member States reflected on strengthening relations between the two bodies, including by drawing upon the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission in mobilizing attention and commitment from regional actors as well as from institutional and bilateral partners, most notably during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping missions, on a case-by-case basis. Benefiting from the exchanges during the informal IID and building on the Commission's' extensive and cumulative engagement in support of efforts aimed at addressing root causes of conflicts and building back better in the context of recovery from COVID-19 in Africa, the PBC Chair committed to contribute to the open debate through the submission of a written statement.