

The Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session
Partnerships with Regional Development Banks

22 November 2022

Chair's summary

1. On 22 November 2022, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened its annual session on the theme: “Partnerships with Regional Development Banks”. Chaired by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith (Bangladesh), the meeting was convened to generate a better understanding of the engagement of regional development banks in support of peacebuilding, take stock of good practices, and explore opportunities for greater collaboration between the UN and regional development banks to support the peacebuilding priorities of the countries and regions in need.
2. In his introductory remarks, the Chair underlined the critical importance of strengthening partnerships with regional development banks, given their regional focus and unique position to help to fill the development gap and reduce multidimensional risks. He highlighted the Commission’s increasing engagement with international and regional financial institutions, as well as for the ongoing collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He recalled the General Assembly resolution 76/305 on financing for peacebuilding, which recognizes the role of international and regional financial institutions in peacebuilding, and stressed the importance of strengthening partnership and strategic cooperation between the United Nations and international financial institutions at headquarters and field levels. He noted that this meeting provides an opportunity for the Commission to further strengthen and expand its partnership opportunities, through new and enhanced engagements with the regional financial institutions, an objective set by the PBC in its 2022 Programme of Work.
3. **The Director of the Transition States Coordination Office, African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Yero Baldeh**, informed that the African Development Bank approved its third Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, with the focus both on the drivers of fragility and the sources of resilience. Emphasizing the importance to collaborate along the Humanitarian-Peace-Development nexus, he underlined that the AfDB is strengthening its partnerships with humanitarian, development and peace actors, including UN DPPA/PBSO, UNHCR, IOM, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Recognizing the important regional role played by the African Union (AU), he highlighted that the AfDB is actively supporting the AU’s Peace and Security Architecture, including through jointly developing financing instruments to finance peace and security on the continent, such as the Security-Indexed Investment Bonds Initiative. He also noted that the AfDB is collaborating with the AU, UN Economic Commission for Africa and UNDP to

unlock the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, in support of peace and development in Africa. He noted that the AfDB's Transition Support Facility, as its main instrument to catalyze financing for peacebuilding, has provided over 5 billion US dollars to finance more than 400 operations in low-income countries facing conflict. He emphasized the importance to engage with civil society organizations and build resilience of youth and women. He informed that the Bank has been creating dedicated financing facilities that support women and youth's entrepreneurial initiative, such as the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) and Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks (YEIBs). He also underscored the significant potential to leverage the private sector in support of peacebuilding.

4. **The Director of Resilience and Social Development, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Mr. Syed Husain Quadri**, noted that, in the face of climate change, conflict and the lingering effect of the COVID-19, the IsDB developed a new strategy, centered around three key objectives: (1) boosting recovery, (2) tackling poverty and build resilience, and (3) driving green economic growth. The IsDB addresses various cross-cutting areas, including climate change and women and youth, with two key pillars: green, resilient and sustainable infrastructure, and inclusive human capital development, he explained. He informed that the IsDB's policy for fragility and resilience focuses on investing in prevention, transitioning from relief to development, supporting recovery and resilience, and mobilizing resources. He explained the operational framework deployed by the IsDB for different stages of conflict. During what the IsDB calls the pre-conflict phase, the IsDB utilizes risk analysis and prevention policy instruments and do-no-harm and conflict sensitivity lens. During the conflict phase, the IsDB develops Transition Management and Mitigation Strategy to stay engaged in conflict-affected countries. For the post-conflict phase, the Bank conducts Joint Damage and Needs Assessment (JDNA) to identify the scope of damage and needs of the country, together with strategic partners. He introduced the IsDB's flagship initiatives, including 4.7 billion US dollars COVID-19 support program, 10.5 billion US dollars food security response program, as well as dedicated support for gender empowerment and resilience. He noted that the IsDB wishes to strengthen collaboration along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and engage in joint capacity development and analytical work with other regional development banks. Informing that the IsDB will establish the Fragility Financing Facility, he shared the IsDB's willingness to share with the Peacebuilding Commission ideas and lessons coming out of the Facility.
5. **The Representative of North American Representative Office, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ms. Lesley Lahm**, noted that the ADB's approach to working in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS) and small island developing states (SIDS) aim at reinforcing peacebuilding efforts of the countries themselves. She informed that the ADB released an enhanced "FCAS and SIDS Approach" in May 2021, to promote a comprehensive and

context-specific way to understand and address the multi-dimensional nature of fragility in the region. She underlined that the Approach aims at guiding the ADB to find the best ways to design and implement projects, by operationalizing lessons that have emerged from the ADB's experiences in FCAS and SIDS. The Approach ensures that projects are designed with tailored and adapted processes and procedures and benefit from flexible business processes and procedures. It also ensures to adjust resources and staffing to fit contextual realities on-ground, and to train the ADB staff to work in FCAS and SIDS contexts, she explained. She highlighted that the ADB complements national and international peacebuilding efforts through formulating Country Partnership Strategies together with each individual developing member countries and other development partners. A Fragility and Resilience Assessment is undertaken to serve as a diagnostic tool in this process, she noted. Emphasizing that partnership with other international organizations is an integral part to the ADB's approach, she expressed the ADB's commitment to continue to work with the United Nations and the PBC as well as other multilateral development banks. She recognized this meeting as an opportunity to foster closer coordination and take stock of the specific resilience strategies being developed by institutions in other regions.

6. **The General Manager of the Country Department for Central America, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mr. Fernando Quevedo**, underscored the importance to develop analytical and operational approaches tailored for fragility settings and respond to their needs and capacities. He emphasized that development interventions must consider the causes and drivers of fragility, the political economy dynamics of each context, and each countries' absorptive capacity of external assistance. He noted that the IDB has gathered valuable experience from an array of fragile situations throughout the region and has pioneered some approaches that have been shared with other multilateral development banks. He informed that, while the IDB does not yet have a unified conceptual framework or operational guidelines to guide its work in fragile contexts, an effort is underway to close this gap. In March 2022, its Board of Governors mandated the IDB to advance operational and institutional reforms to address the needs of populations in fragile, conflict and violence-affected situations. He explained that the IDB's first strategic framework on the topic is currently being developed, which encompasses three objectives: (1) better identify and address drivers of fragility, (2) promote resilience for sustained transitions out of fragility and prevention, and (3) help mitigate spillovers of fragility. Stressing the need to further strengthen partnerships and strategic cooperation with other international financial institutions, bilateral partners, and the United Nations to ensure complementarity, economies of scales, and more effective development outcomes, he conveyed the Bank's willingness to present and discuss lessons learned, guiding principles and the proposed core actions to enhance the Bank's support in fragile settings at the Peacebuilding Commission once the framework has been formally approved.

7. **The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar**, commended regional development banks' effort to develop and implement fragility and resilience strategies. She emphasized the critical importance to take a holistic approach, along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, to support fragile and conflict-affected countries, with a particular focus on inclusion of women and youth and engagement at community level. Emphasizing the critical importance to ensure conflict sensitivity and understand root causes of conflict and fragility, she called for strategic alignments between the UN and regional development banks, especially at country and regional levels, and underscored the key role of data sharing and joint analysis and assessment. She highlighted the benefit for the Commission to continue to engage with regional development banks in its thematic, regional and country-specific engagements, building on their regional and contextual understanding and vital resources. The ASG suggested that regional development banks that are developing fragility and resilience strategies could use the Peacebuilding Commission platform to receive feedback on their strategies.

8. **Invited by the Chair to speak before opening the floor to Member States, Lead Partnership Specialist, World Bank, Mr. Thomas Djurhuus**, noted that its Fragility, Violence and Conflict Strategy, which was launched in 2020, has guided the World Bank to take new and innovative approaches for operations, analytics and financing. With this Strategy, the Bank scaled up its engagement in fragile settings with more than \$ 30 billion being deployed covering the full spectrum of fragility, he emphasized. He informed that under IDA19, the Bank introduced the new Prevention and Resilience Allocation, which has become an important tool to provide additional financing and help incentivize the Governments to proactively address risks and grievances. He emphasized that the United Nations, with its humanitarian, development, security and political mandates and field presences, has been a key partner for the Bank in support of countries facing fragility challenges. He also underscored that the Bank has been intensifying collaborations with regional development banks at both headquarters and country levels, including through joint analysis and trainings, cooperation in monitoring and evaluation and collaborative work on innovative financing. He expressed the Bank's commitment to strengthen its partnerships with the United Nations and multilateral development banks.

9. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:
 - They recognized the roles of regional development banks in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Emphasizing the importance of regional and context-specific approaches, they welcomed increasing engagement of regional development banks in addressing fragility and building resilience and development and the implementation of relevant strategies. They underscored the importance for regional development banks to build risk-tolerant instruments to address complex and multidimensional situations in conflict-affected settings.

- Emphasizing that peace and development are interlinked, they called for strengthening partnerships and strategic cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations and regional development banks at headquarters and field levels, in accordance with resolution 76/305 of the General Assembly on Financing for Peacebuilding. They called for enhancing systematic alignments and synergies between the United Nations and regional development banks, including through joint analysis and assessment, and leveraging comparative advantages. They also called for strengthened strategic cooperation among international and regional financial institutions.
- Highlighting the Commission’s bridging and convening roles, they welcomed discussions at the Annual Session and the Commission’s increasing engagement with regional development banks. They encouraged the Commission to continue to scale up partnerships with regional development banks and serve as a platform to facilitate dialogues among international and regional financial institutions and a wide range of relevant stakeholders.
- They encouraged regional development banks to invest more in participation and empowerment of women. They called on regional development banks to further support youth. They stressed the need for regional development banks to address cross-cutting challenges, such as climate change and food insecurity.
- They called for mobilizing the private sector and promoting peace positive investment. They underlined the roles of regional development banks in this regard and encourage them to support innovative financing for peacebuilding.
- They called for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for the United Nations’ peacebuilding support. Recognizing the important role played by the Peacebuilding Fund, they called for the increased allocation to the PBF including through widening of donor base, assessed contributions and promoting innovative financing.

10. The Chair thanked the briefers and the Member States for their participations in the Annual Session. He emphasized the crucial importance of regional and tailor-made approaches to peacebuilding, especially in regions and countries where the peacebuilding challenges are complex and multidimensional. Recognizing the existing challenges and gaps in exploring the strengths of the regional development banks in the context of peacebuilding, the chair underscored the importance of the meeting which provided the regional development banks an opportunity to share and learn from their respective good practices and also informed the PBC members and the countries that engage with PBC possible areas of partnerships. Finally, the

Chair stressed that the Commission would continue to enhance its engagements with regional development banks in its country-specific, regional, and cross-cutting engagements.