

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-level meeting on Mozambique
29 March 2023
Chair's Summary

Executive summary

On 29 March, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened its first meeting on Mozambique to hear from stakeholders about good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation and to exchange on the remaining peacebuilding challenges in Mozambique. The President of the Republic of Mozambique underlined national ownership, mutual trust, and dialogue among the key success factors in the peace process, called for international support of current efforts to counter violent extremism and invited a PBC Delegation to Mozambique. Various briefers outlined the human-centered and gender-sensitive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) approach as well as the decentralization process, and attributed its success to the President's leadership, the recognition among stakeholders of the need to address root causes, and the inclusion of different stakeholders in the process, including civil society. The PBC commended the progress in implementing the Maputo Accord, including DDR efforts, and emphasized the importance of national ownership, trust, and the inclusion of women, youth and grassroots organizations. The PBC expressed concern about the security situation in the northern Cabo Delgado province and called for international support to complement national efforts to counter violent extremism and address root causes of conflict. Among his recommendations for concrete follow-up, the Chair encouraged international financial and logistical support to complement existing efforts to holistically and sustainably counter violent extremism in the country, including increasing support for youth empowerment.

1. On 29 March 2023, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on “Mozambique’s Experience in Peacebuilding: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead” to hear about Mozambique’s good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation and facilitate exchange on experiences of other countries and contexts.
2. In his remarks, the PBC Chair encouraged more countries to share experiences with the PBC for the benefit of all and highlighted the PBC as uniquely placed to demonstrate that peacebuilding goes beyond security issues, referring to socioeconomic and environmental issues, including climate change and human rights challenges, as recurring causes of conflict or exacerbating fragile situations. He stressed that Mozambique’s experience offers many good practices to learn from, including gender mainstreaming in the DDR efforts, and noted poverty reduction, limited human capital accumulation and job creation as remaining challenges, compounded by the impact of Covid-19 and climate change, and peace and security threats in the Cabo Delgado province.
3. The **President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva**, commended Mozambique’s efforts towards implementing the Maputo Accord and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She noted how the Mozambican

experience underscored the importance of an integrated approach to strengthening peace and promoting sustainable development. Ms. Stoeva underscored the urgency of pursuing a risk-informed and resilient implementation of the 2030 Agenda as this can help address drivers of conflict and avoid its relapse. She stressed the need for strengthened collaboration between the work of the ECOSOC, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Security Council and the PBC to promote comprehensive and integrated solutions across the peace-security-humanitarian development-pillars of the United Nations.

4. In his keynote speech, the **President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi**, informed of failed peace processes before the Maputo Accord, and emphasized that he prioritized definitive peace after assuming the presidency. He highlighted the linkage between peace and development, outlining that the Maputo Peace Process places emphasis on trust, tolerance, dialogue, humility, patience, determination, reconciliation, and national ownership. He highlighted the principle of ‘African solutions for African problems’ and emphasized the strong commitment from all parties in the process. He underlined the importance of national ownership, mutual trust, dialogue, implementation during negotiations, and parties’ adaptation in a flexible and agile manner as success factors in the Mozambican experience. He outlined the progress of the DDR efforts and highlighted its transparency and inclusiveness, and how they worked closely with communities and local leaders. He mentioned the continuous challenge posed by violent extremism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado and shared the progress of joint bilateral and multilateral efforts with Rwanda and SADC/SAMIM. Pointing to the remaining threat posed by terrorism, he stressed the need for financial and technical support by the international community for its definitive eradication. The President underlined peacebuilding as an ongoing process and stressed the importance of human rights and equitable distribution of wealth.
5. The **United Nations Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General (PESG), Mr. Mirko Manzoni**, underlined the importance of the nationally owned and human-centered DDR process to achieving and sustaining peace in Mozambique. He outlined its design which aimed to respond to the varying needs of former combatants, their families and communities, and highlighted gender sensitivity and the mainstreaming of considerations of vulnerable groups. He emphasized the necessity of women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding and noted that a gender perspective was integrated throughout the peace process. The PESG underscored the importance of the recent decree on pensions, which extends a pension to eligible women and men demobilized as part of the implementation of the Maputo Accord, setting an example for reconciliation and highlighting the human-centered approach of the entire peace process. He outlined that confidence-building measures early in negotiations were crucial and noted the importance of early-stage implementation. The PESG highlighted the national ownership and leadership of the process as “forged by Mozambicans for Mozambicans”, with the mediators in a supporting role. He underscored how the Joint Technical Groups demonstrated exemplary commitment to cooperation, coordination, and dialogue. He emphasized the important role of local communities and civil society in ensuring sustainable reintegration and fostering a culture of reconciliation.

6. **Dr. Chaloka Beyani, Associate Professor of Law at the London School of Economics,** commended the President's leadership in building peace in Mozambique, underscoring the importance of the leadership's vision for peace. He emphasized the importance of trust on both sides that unlocked suspicion and removed obstacles to make and build peace. He outlined the detailed decentralization process, noting that its early agreement paved the way for reaching an agreement on military affairs, emphasizing the techniques used in Mozambique as important lessons for countries in transition and in contexts using DDR strategies. Professor Beyani also stressed the importance of reaching out to the opposition and establishing a common understanding of the causes of conflict and the needs to be resolved as a key lesson for other countries. He further emphasized the need to map out the constitutional structure of the country and form an understanding of the constitutional aspects and laws that need to be changed. He lastly noted the constitutionalization of the peace agreement itself as an important lesson, as a full implementation of the agreement required it to be part of the country's supreme law.
7. In his briefing on the role of civil society in the process, **Mr. João Pereira, Director of Support Mechanisms for Civil Society (Fundação MASC),** highlighted the need for a critical analysis of the underlying conflict drivers. He outlined the 'radar' approach of the civil society that identified opportunities, hinderances and possible solutions that could have arisen in negotiations. As one lesson, he informed of a restricted number of negotiating actors, who were consulted in an inclusive manner, and engaged different sections of civil society formally and informally. He further noted civil society's contribution in the context of Mozambican decentralization, including through research and development of decentralization proposals. Referring to the local origin of many conflicts, Mr. Pereira pointed to the need to empower grassroots organizations to address community-level conflicts. He noted that the demobilization process has taken place in partnership with the government, private sector, and national and international civil society organizations, with the goal to establish necessary infrastructure with local ownership to ensure long-term stability. He highlighted civil society's involvement in monitoring efforts and stressed the need to develop their analytical capacity and establish a social cohesion index for Mozambique. He outlined the important advocacy role of civil society, ensuring that women's and youth demands are reflected at all levels.
8. The **World Bank Country Director for Mozambique, Ms. Ida Pswarayi-Riddihough,** highlighted development and peacebuilding as mutually reinforcing. She highlighted the World Bank's expertise on the operations and investments and on accessing financing through its convening power, highlighting the importance of leveraging partnerships. Outlining examples of World Bank support in Cabo Delgado, she emphasized a multi-faceted approach, based on understanding the conflict causes, risk and resilience analysis and where to target the financing. She informed of short-term measures of a World Bank emergency project, including support for the reunion of families or children's education, and rebuilding institutions and the social fabric.
9. In her remarks, the **Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar,** acknowledged the role of the President and other actors, including academics, civil society and grassroots participation in contributing to the success of the peace process. She

congratulated Mozambique on the near completed demobilization and disarmament process, highlighting the comprehensive, human-centered, gender-sensitive, multi-pillar DDR approach. She emphasized the importance of reintegration, outlining the Peacebuilding Support Office's (PBSO) experiences in assisting global DDR efforts from which PBSO seeks to learn and improve its support. The ASG noted national efforts and remaining challenges to consolidate peace in Mozambique where the UN and other international partners can support. She mentioned current PBSO support through its Partnership Facility and the UN Country Team and in collaboration with the World Bank and informed about exploring support for some of the peacebuilding challenges in the North. The ASG stressed that Mozambique's experience provides important lessons and expressed hope for its continued engagement with the PBC.

10. Member States acknowledged the presence of the President, welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

- They commended the progress in implementing the Maputo Accord, including the DDR efforts. They underscored the importance of leadership, long-term commitment, national ownership, trust, dialogue, and inclusion, particularly of women, youth, and the local level, in peace processes. Members also welcomed the pensions decree.
- They welcomed the international and regional support for the peace process in Mozambique and underscored the importance of continued international and regional cooperation and coordination in support of achieving national peacebuilding priorities.
- They highlighted the importance of addressing root causes of conflict and violent extremism.
- They expressed concern about the security situation in the northern Mozambique and commended the national efforts as well as the support from bilateral and regional partners, highlighting Rwanda's and SADC's efforts, in tackling violent extremism and terrorism.
- They called for continued international support to complement national efforts to holistically address remaining peacebuilding challenges, particularly in countering terrorism and violent extremism.
- They welcomed Mozambique's use of the PBC as a platform to share their experiences, recognizing the important lessons learned for other contexts and encouraging Mozambique's continued engagement with the PBC.

11. In his concluding remarks, President Nyusi thanked participating Member States and the briefers, while expressing gratitude to partners and appealing for increased coordination of efforts. Regarding women's empowerment in Mozambique, he highlighted the gender parity in the Cabinet and mentioned ongoing work to improve female education, address gender-based violence and prevent early marriage. He noted an improvement of the situation in Cabo Delgado, acknowledged the support of various countries and regional organizations and called for further financial and logistical support. He commended the PBC's role in facilitating exchange on experiences to increase the understanding of the challenges and concerns of conflict-affected countries as well as to inform of efforts in the fight against terrorism. He concluded by inviting a PBC delegation to Mozambique.

Chair's recommendations

- Monitor the timely conclusion of the demobilization and disarmament phase, and the continuation of an inclusive and community centered sustainable reintegration and reconciliation and welcome Mozambique to update on progress as desired.
- Continue advocating for the inclusion and full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, youth and civil society throughout and beyond the peace process.
- Advocate for coordinated international support of national efforts to holistically address the root causes of conflict, including socio economic development.
- Encourage international financial and logistical support to complement existing efforts to holistically and sustainably counter violent extremism in the country, including increasing support for youth empowerment.
- Continue providing a platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and remaining challenges to increase the understanding of the challenges and opportunities in conflict-affected settings.