

## **Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes region**

New York, 19 April 2023

Mr. President,  
Members of the Council,

I thank you for inviting me to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. Building on its last advice to the Council in October 2022 as well as its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, the Commission encourages the Security Council to consider the following:

1. Reiterating its demand for all armed groups to immediately lay down their weapons and cease hostilities.
2. Continuing to firmly support regional peace initiatives, including the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region-led Luanda process and the EAC-led Nairobi process, as well as its Inter-Congolese Dialogue.
3. Calling for the implementation by all states of the commitments within the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region and the strengthening of confidence building measures and to help build an atmosphere conducive to constructive dialogue and debate.
4. Calling for strengthened international support to alleviate extreme humanitarian situation in the eastern DRC.
5. Emphasizing inclusivity as key to advancing local, national, and regional peacebuilding objectives to ensure long-term sustainable peace and encouraging the continuation of efforts underway in strengthening the role of women in political and peace processes and structures at local, national, and regional levels.
6. Stressing the importance of youth inclusion and noting the need to increase national and regional efforts to include young people in political processes and socio-economic development.
7. Expressing support for efforts towards a sustainable and transparent management of natural resources, in line with the recommendations of the 2021 Khartoum workshop aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Initiative to Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and calling for strengthening the capacity of Great Lakes Region's mineral certification framework.
8. Expressing support for existing accords that promote regional economic and financial integration and contribute to sustainable development.
9. Continuing to promote the good offices and support to address the root causes of conflict in the region with a view of achieving sustainable peace, security and development based on national ownership.

10. Calling for increased efforts to promote reconciliation, accountability, transitional justice, and the fight against impunity in the region, including through support to national institutions and the Great Lakes Region Judicial Cooperation network.
11. Expressing its support for partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, including the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes, and the East African Community, and the Southern African Development Community.
12. Expressing its support for adequate funding for peacebuilding activities in the region including through the involvement of the private sector as appropriate and requesting international and regional financial institutions, , to expedite their support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs.
13. Continuing to reiterate the importance of strategic and coherent approach by the United Nations and stakeholders in the region, to sustain peacebuilding gains, in particular in the context of MONUSCO's transition.

The PBC stands ready to further support the Council's engagements in the Great Lakes region.

Thank you