

Former PBC Chair's remarks at the General Assembly debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

16 July 2024

Mr. President,

In my capacity as former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission at its seventeenth session, I'm pleased to brief the Assembly on the Commission's work from January to December 2023.

I wish to start by expressing my gratitude to the fellow Vice Chairs –Bangladesh and Germany – for their support and commitment to the Commission's work. I also appreciate Brazil, Morocco, and Sweden for their leadership of the Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic, Liberia configurations, respectively. My most sincere appreciations to all the members of the Commission for their active and fruitful engagements throughout the year and for supporting my delegation to effectively realize the ambitious agenda that we collectively set for the Commission during its 17th Session. I wish to also acknowledge the excellent secretariat support we received from the Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar and her team at the PBSO for which I remain most grateful. I am grateful to PBSO all for the successful implementation of the Commission's 2023 Programme of Work.

In 2023, the Commission held 20 Ambassadorial level meetings which included meetings on separate country- and region-specific settings and other thematic priorities. It also carried out three substantive missions: to Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and lastly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to engage with the African Union.

Mr. President,

Allow me to highlight some of the key features of the Commission's work:

First, the Commission has engaged in support of 10 separate country- and region-specific settings, broadening its geographical scope, including by holding meetings for the first time on Canada, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal and Norway. The Commission also continued its regional engagements on the Great Lakes region but also on strengthening peacebuilding and the implementation of the regional maritime security framework in the Gulf of Guinea as well as addressing transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel.

Secondly, the Commission, in accordance with its mandate, continued to address cross-cutting and thematic issues within the framework of country-specific and regional discussions, which provided an opportunity for countries to share their experiences and good practices in peacebuilding. Issues including transitional justice, the role of Indigenous Peoples and education in peacebuilding as well as, peace and reconciliation efforts were addressed. Similarly, the Commission convened a ministerial-level meeting that was aimed at providing political guidance

and build momentum for strengthened multilateral cooperation to address challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meeting was an opportunity for members of the Commission to study the policy brief “A New Agenda for Peace” that pertained to the work of the Commission.

Thirdly, the Commission continued its advocacy to support the critical role and voices of women as well as youth in peacebuilding and sustaining peace throughout the world. In accordance with its gender strategy and its action plan, the Commission has continued to place women, peace and security at the center of its work, including in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. Gender dimensions of peacebuilding were also integrated into the Commission’s country, regional and thematic discussions and engagements, including during country visits. Similarly, in line with its Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding, the Commission has continued to support the critical role played by young people and youth-led organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Of interest, the Commission held a dedicated meeting on Youth, Peace and Security during which we heard from the UN Youth Envoy, the AU Youth Envoy and youth representatives from the League of Arab States and civil society organizations in Southeast Asia.

Fourthly, the Commission continued to enhance its bridging role with other intergovernmental bodies by providing sixteen advisories to the Security Council and three to the General Assembly, including through letters and formal briefings. The Commission also provided two submissions and briefings to the Economic and Social Council and held its joint annual event with ECOSOC on ways to identify and address linkages between peace and development on the ground. The Commission also had informal engagements at ambassadorial and expert levels to strengthen coordination and cooperation between ECOSOC and PBC. This was in line with the Commission’s approach to promote coherence and impact for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts.

Fifthly, the Commission continued to strengthen partnerships with partners outside the Organization by engaging with the World Bank on the activities of the Group. The Commission also continued its engagement with regional and subregional organizations, notably the African Union. To that end, and alongside the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, I convened the sixth annual informal consultative meeting of the two bodies. The meeting provided an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership between the Commission and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in support of peacebuilding efforts in Africa. A joint statement was agreed after the meeting which now institutionalizes the holding of the annual joint consultative meeting between the two bodies. I also led a very successful mission to the African Union Headquarters, accompanied both by Vice-Chairs and Chairs of country configurations as well as the ASG for Peacebuilding to strengthen our engagement and we agreed to hold an expert group meeting before the annual ambassadorial level meeting with the Commission and the Peace and Security Council.

I also led a very successful mission to Mozambique accompanied by the Vice-Chair from Germany to follow up on the ground after a meeting we had earlier in the year in order to follow up on the recommendations from the meeting.

The Commission engaged with participants of the CSO-UN dialogue on peacebuilding and is committed to ensure and strengthen participation by civil society representatives in its meetings, considering gender parity.

Finally, the Commission continued its dialogue and efforts on ensuring peacebuilding financing through holding for the first time a meeting with the Peacebuilding Fund's Advisory Group and the Commission. The meeting helped discuss opportunities for synergies with the Fund through more regular interactions.

To conclude Mr. President, I wish to commend Brazil for expertly chairing the Commission this year and to express dedication of my delegation and me personally as the Vice-Chair to continue strengthening the Commission including through the Pact for the Future as well as upcoming 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture.

I thank you, Mr. President.