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25 November 2014

Mr. Secretary-General,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. I would like to express, on behalf of the members of the Commission, our deep appreciation and full support for your leadership and commitment in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease. The rapid deployment of United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) represented a crucial step in the international community's collective efforts to assist the people in the countries that are affected by this deadly disease.

I am pleased to inform you that on 3 November 2014, the Peacebuilding Commission convened a joint meeting of its Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone Configurations to discuss the potential impact of the Ebola crisis on state institutions and political stability, as well as to consider practical steps to help ensure that the gains achieved in building sustainable peace in the three countries are not reversed.

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon United Nations Secretary-General New York At the meeting, many participants, including the Permanent Representatives of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to the United Nations, UNDP, UNOWA and the World Bank, emphasized and agreed upon the need to further assess the epidemic's impact in the areas of security, local governance, political institutions, social cohesion and economic recovery, taking into consideration a comprehensive regional and longer-term approach. Such an assessment would help accelerate and more effectively guide international assistance for institutional and economic recovery.

In view of this agreement and the subsequent request I received from the three configurations, the Commission wishes to request that, the United Nations, under your leadership, undertake an assessment of the Ebola epidemic's impact on post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in these areas in the three affected countries. We are confident that this assessment would complement and support the ongoing work by United Nations entities, International Financial Institutions and regional organisations.

The Commission wishes to assure you of its continuing support to the United Nations efforts and leadership in the international fight to contain and eradicate the disease. The Commission also stands ready to work with the governments of the countries concerned and with all relevant international and regional actors to help support continued progress towards peace consolidation despite the new challenges posed by the epidemic. The Commission, therefore, is looking forward to your positive response.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission