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14 September 2018

Excellencies,

I wish to formally extend an invitation to all Members of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to participate in the Commission's Annual Session, which will take place on Monday 12 November 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The theme for the Annual Session is: "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel region". The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed will address the opening segment.

The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) reaffirmed the role of the PBC to serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, and to bring a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts. The Security Council Presidential Statements S/PRST/2017/2 and S/PRST/2018/3 emphasized the importance of the convening role of the PBC in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners with the view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). In this regard, the upcoming Annual Session is an important opportunity for the Commission to explore ways to enhance coherence in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel region.

All Member States of the Peacebuilding Commission

As stipulated in the agreed modalities (see annex to A/68/729 - S/2014/67), I wish to emphasise that Member States are strongly encouraged to ensure "participation of capital-based senior officials at the highest possible level, including directors/directors general, State secretaries or ministers, as appropriate".

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

Dr. Ion Jinga Chairperson

Peacebuilding Commission