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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Seventy-seventh year

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution [1646 \(2005\)](#), for an annual debate. The report covers the fifteenth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

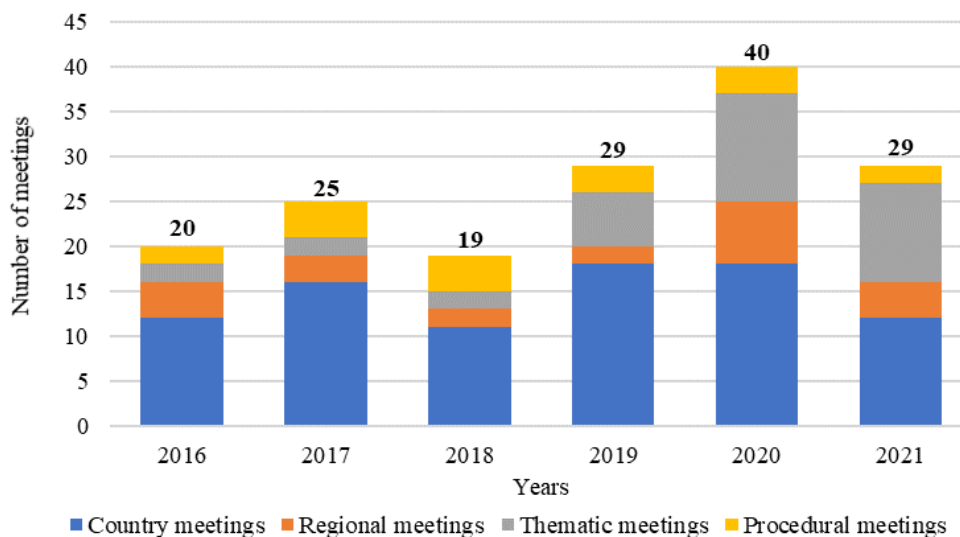
2. The report has also been prepared pursuant to identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolutions [70/262](#) and [75/201](#) and Security Council resolutions [2282 \(2016\)](#) and [2558 \(2020\)](#)), in which the Commission was encouraged to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to continue strengthening its advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts. In that regard, the structure and content of the present report reflect the work carried out by the Commission in implementing relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session.

II. Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

3. The Commission held a total of 29 meetings (27 country, regional or thematic meetings and 2 procedural ones) during its fifteenth session. The number is consistent with the overall trend of increasing engagements of the Commission since its first meeting in 2006, and in particular since 2016, as shown in figure I. Due to continuing restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the majority of the Commission's engagements in 2021 were held in a virtual format.

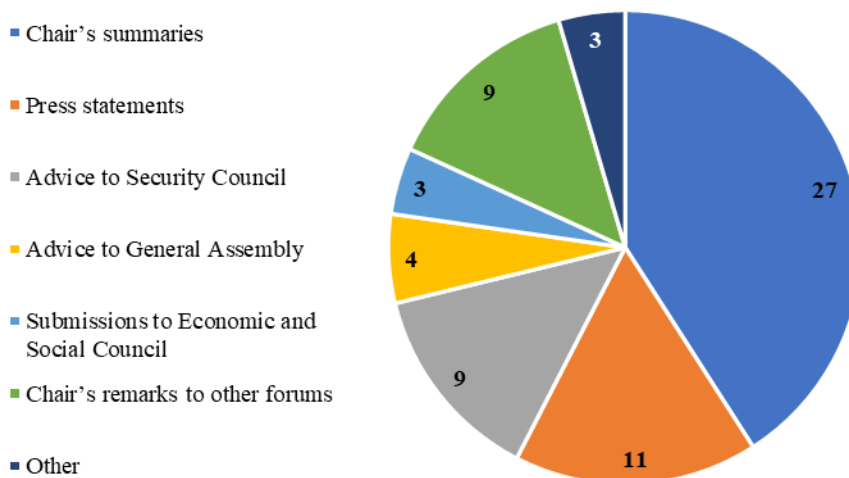


Figure I
Number of Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016



4. While there was a decrease in the number of Commission meetings in 2021 compared with 2020, the Commission produced a total of 66 outcome documents (see figure II), an increase from the previous year. This is largely due to the number of remarks and statements that the Chair was invited to give at non-United Nations forums, increasing from zero in 2020 to nine in 2021.

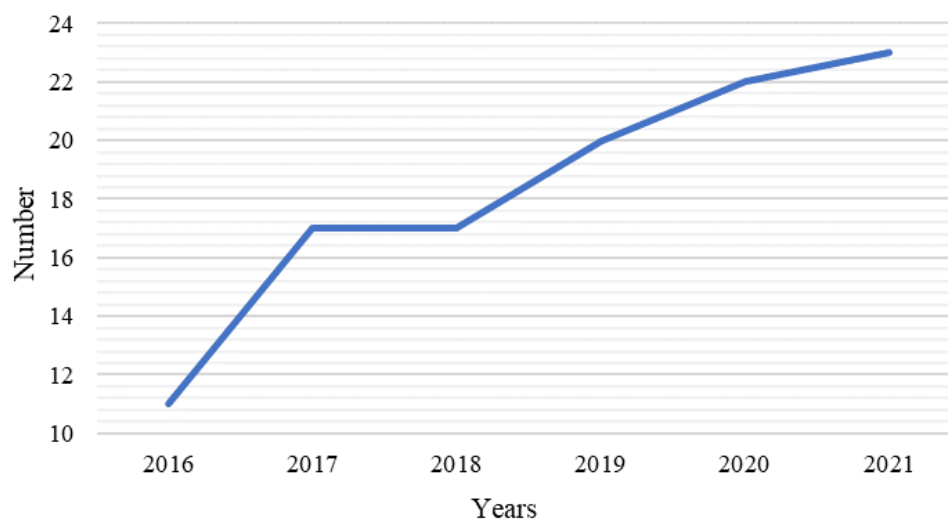
Figure II
Peacebuilding Commission outcome documents in 2021



A. Country- and region-specific engagements

5. In 2021, the Commission engaged in support of 13 separate country- and region-specific settings, including holding meetings for the first time on the Gulf of Guinea. With this addition, the Commission has engaged with a total of 23 different countries and regions since its inception (see figure III).

Figure III
Number of countries and regions engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission since 2016



6. The Commission sought to sustain support for the peacebuilding priorities of Burkina Faso, with a focus on the national reconciliation process, a top priority of the Government following the elections of 2020. The Commission condemned attacks, expressed condolences and called for international solidarity with the people of Burkina Faso, including by issuing a statement following the attack carried out on 5 June in the country's Sahel region that killed over 160 civilians, including children.

7. With regard to Burundi, the Commission's engagement focused on sustained and coherent international support for the country's peacebuilding and development. On 17 March, the Government of Burundi briefed the Commission on the country's domestic and foreign policy progress and its commitment to sustainable development towards a peaceful and prosperous future, including through engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners. The meeting brought together representatives from the United Nations and the World Bank to provide information on their support to Burundi and to discuss linkages between analytical, strategic and planning instruments, with a view to maximizing impact and coherence. On 6 July, the Chair of the Burundi Configuration convened a meeting for the Government of Burundi to brief on the overall scope, guiding principles and objectives of the new national programme for peace capitalization, social stability and the promotion of economic growth, which was aimed at operationalizing the Government's strategic priorities and was aligned with the country's national development plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting also included discussions on how relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were working in support of the national programme and addressing the needs of the country's most economically vulnerable, with particular attention to natural disasters and climate change, as well as to the sustainable reintegration of refugees and returnees. Building on the Government's presentation of the national programme to the Commission in July, as well as the interest expressed by States members of the Commission in further discussions on the role of women and youth, the Commission held a meeting on 2 November focused on youth economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in Burundi and highlighted the Government's efforts to address youth unemployment. Six Burundian young women and men briefed the Commission on the challenges to youth economic empowerment and their experiences as young entrepreneurs. Commission members welcomed their

contributions to socioeconomic development, encouraged the support of meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement and repeated the importance of inclusion to building and sustaining peace.

8. The Commission continued its engagement with the Central African Republic on its national peacebuilding priorities, holding a series of meetings on the presidential and legislative elections, the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic of February 2019, reinforcement of the synergies of the Agreement with the national recovery and peacebuilding, and strengthening of the rule of law. These meetings also served to inform written advice to the Security Council, which the Commission has been submitting annually since 2018. On 12 July, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration convened a meeting on the latest developments of the electoral process and placed an emphasis on the holding of credible, transparent and inclusive local elections, scheduled to occur in 2022, noting that this would be a critical moment for the peacebuilding process, especially for decentralization, social cohesion and resilience and sustainable development. On 21 October, the Commission issued a statement welcoming the unilateral ceasefire announced by President Faustin-Archange Touadera on 15 October, noting that the ceasefire was an important development in the implementation of the Agreement and that it would guide peace and stability efforts in the country, as identified in the priorities of the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic, adopted in September 2021 by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The statement further underlined that the initiative was a good opportunity for launching and conducting the upcoming republican dialogue, in an open transparent and inclusive manner, to help rebuild the country upon sound and solid foundations with the participation of all stakeholders. On 28 October, the Commission convened in the presence of the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic to discuss the electoral, political and rule of law situation and further inform the written advice to the Council ahead of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The Commission welcomed the Government's request for continuous engagement, noting the positive impact of the Mission's cross-pillar mandate and its advisory and bridging roles. The Commission acknowledged the overall efforts of MINUSCA in addressing peacebuilding challenges and opportunities, its support for the Political Agreement and its role in facilitating the completion of the presidential and legislative elections, as well as enhancing the rule of law, including judicial, penal and accountability mechanisms. The written advice, which was transmitted to the Council on 1 November, focused on continued support for the implementation of the Political Agreement, preparation and organization of local elections and strengthening of the rule of law.

9. On 2 December, the Commission convened its first meeting on Chad, with a focus on the ongoing political transition and the participation of a Chadian delegation led by the Prime Minister. The meeting provided the transitional Government a platform to brief on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the transitional road map and to mobilize international support. Representatives from the African Union, the United Nations, the World Bank and civil society briefed the Commission on their support to the country's transition process. Additional partners, including non-traditional donors, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, joined as observers. The meeting was well attended, including by representatives of neighbouring countries, as well as members of the Security Council and the African Union international support group for Chad. The participants recognized the country's critical regional role and called for a swift and timely return to constitutional order for regional stability. While noting the urgency of the situation, they expressed willingness to support the Chadian authorities in implementing an inclusive transition process, stressing the role of women.

Following the meeting, the Commission issued a press statement, in which the Commission called on United Nations entities to enhance integrated support to Chad in the implementation of the transitional road map. The Commission committed to supporting Chad with a follow-up meeting in 2022 focusing on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as the electoral process.

10. On 15 November, the Commission had a meeting on Colombia to review progress and challenges in the implementation of the country's Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the former Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo. The Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, the president of the Truth Commission, a member of the indigenous Multiactive Cooperative for Peace of Colombia, the chief executive officer of the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia and United Nations representatives in country briefed the Commission. Member States congratulated the Government of Colombia and its people, noting that only half of peace agreements reached their fifth year, and lauded the peacebuilding gains, including in reintegrating ex-combatants, promoting transitional justice, adopting a victim-centred approach and developing programmes with a territorial focus. While recognizing that peace consolidation was a long-term process, they took note of risk factors, calling on national authorities to ensure continuous investments in peace, including by guaranteeing adequate resources for all sections of the Final Agreement. They recognized and commended the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, the United Nations country team and the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission committed to continue supporting the efforts of the Government of Colombia in the implementation of the Final Agreement and to ensure that the gains made during the past five years were sustained, in particular in view of the 2022 electoral period.

11. The Commission continued to support the democratic transition in the Gambia by maintaining its attention to and helping to mobilize international support for the Government's peacebuilding priorities. Through a note circulated to members of the Commission and partners of the Gambia on 5 May, as well as follow-up notifications, the Chair helped mobilize support for critical funding gaps for the 2021–2023 electoral process. On 27 October, the Commission discussed progress in the transitional justice process in the Gambia and encouraged the prompt finalization of the report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and follow-up to its recommendations with international support. Following the submission of the final report to the President of the Gambia on 25 November, the Commission issued a press statement in which it welcomed the work accomplished by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and noted that the recommendations contained in the report provided a solid foundation to strengthen rule of law and fight impunity. The Commission reiterated its willingness to support, within its mandate, the implementation of the recommendations. It further stressed the need to maintain focus on critical policy, governance and institutional reforms and underscored the importance of a peaceful and transparent presidential election on 4 December in consolidating democratic gains since 2017. The Commission reiterated its commitment to continue to mobilize support for the consolidation of peace and democracy in the Gambia.

12. During its fifteenth session, the Commission mobilized support for regional peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region, including for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the context of the eradication of negative forces in the Great Lakes Region. On 12 April, the Chair of the Commission briefed the Security Council on the Great Lakes Region, highlighting the Commission's support in priority areas such as strengthening the role

of women in peacebuilding and development in the region and addressing the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through engagement with international financial institutions. The Chair indicated the Commission's readiness to support peacebuilding priorities contained in the Strategy, including support for the socioeconomic reintegration of former combatants of different armed groups. On 26 July, following briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the chief of staff of the National Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, and the Resident Coordinator in Rwanda, the Commission welcomed the development by the Special Envoy, in consultation with the countries of the region and other key stakeholders, of a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the United Nations strategy. The action plan focused on dialogue and trust; reduction of the threat posed by armed groups; sustainable and transparent natural resources management, as well as trade and investment; durable solutions to forced displacement; and regional preparedness for public health crises. The Commission welcomed the prioritization of the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth across the different components of the plan and acknowledged the contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of reintegrating former combatants repatriated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda.

13. The Commission's engagement in support of Guinea-Bissau continued to focus on challenges impeding stability and long-term development. On 29 June, the Chair of the Commission's Guinea-Bissau configuration convened a meeting to provide the Government of Guinea-Bissau, represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities, the opportunity to brief on the Government's plans and efforts to improve the socioeconomic welfare of its citizens. The Minister detailed the development objectives contained in the country's national strategy for development, employment and industrial promotion for the period 2020–2024, or *Hora Tchiga*, and in its national development plan for the period 2020–2023, and emphasized that the priorities were in alignment with Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals. Commission members commended the Government's efforts and expressed support for the successful implementation of the *Hora Tchiga*, recognizing the necessity of strategic partnerships between Guinea-Bissau, the Commission, regional bodies and international financial institutions, and of aligning support with the Government's plans.

14. The Commission continued to promote regional cooperation on stabilization, peacebuilding and sustainable development in the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin. In 2021, the Chair of the Commission attended the third meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development, held on 4 and 5 October in Yaoundé. The Forum was attended by 100 participants, including the eight governors of the Lake Chad Basin Region who are responsible for the development and implementation of the territorial action plans of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region. In his remarks, the Chair spoke about the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda and its emphasis on integrated and regional approaches to peacebuilding and welcomed the catalytic investments in the region by the Peacebuilding Fund. He emphasized the importance of inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, including the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, as well as the continued inclusion of youth in peacebuilding. The Chair reiterated the Commission's support for the inclusive participation of local communities in the stabilization, recovery and resilience efforts across the Lake Chad Basin. In his remarks to the high-level dialogue on operationalizing burden- and responsibility-sharing, organized by Egypt on 9 December in Geneva, the Chair expressed concern about intercommunal violence, conflicts between farmers and

herders and forced displacement in the Lake Chad Basin, and committed to supporting regional efforts aimed at addressing those challenges.

15. In 2021, the Commission rallied coherent international support for strengthening social cohesion and advancing the women and peace and security agenda in Liberia. In May, the Chair of the Commission's Liberia configuration held virtual consultations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and AfDB to explore key areas for investment in the context of the Commission's support to Liberia, including governance reforms, access to basic social services and the addressing of marginalization and exclusion. On 9 March, the Chair convened a meeting with a focus on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, with briefings from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Resident Coordinator (joined by the country director for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) and a representative of civil society. In a press statement issued following the meeting, the Commission welcomed the commitment of Liberia to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, including through the country's second national action plan on women and peace and security for the period 2019–2023, the national road map on rape and sexual and gender-based violence and the pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development for the period 2018–2023. The Commission encouraged the Government of Liberia in its ongoing efforts to address the underrepresentation of women in politics, including through legislation to improve the gender balance in political participation and to reduce barriers to women being elected. The Commission also encouraged the Government in further advancing its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and welcomed the support of international partners to gender equality and the empowerment of women in Liberia, including that of the Peacebuilding Fund. On 17 June, the Chair convened a meeting to discuss social cohesion and reconciliation initiatives in Liberia, with the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Resident Coordinator and a representative of civil society. The Government stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the peacebuilding challenges facing Liberia and asked for the Commission's support in mobilizing further support for addressing the drivers of instability and strengthening social cohesion in Liberia, with particular emphasis on community-based engagement, the empowering of women and youth, peaceful management of land-related conflicts, human rights and the ensuring of free, fair, transparent and peaceful 2023 presidential and legislative elections. At the request of the Government, the Commission committed to continue rallying international support for the peacebuilding priorities of Liberia, including by fostering South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as regional approaches through the Mano River Union.

16. Following the conclusion of the work of the Sierra Leone country configuration in 2020, the Commission continued to engage with the country under its flexible agenda. At the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, the Commission convened a meeting on 9 December to provide an update on the implementation of the country's peacebuilding road map, aligned with the country's national development plan. The Government, represented by the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Youth Affairs, who were joined by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and a civil society representative, briefed the Commission on the country's national youth policy and its gender equality and women's empowerment policy and their importance to the country's peacebuilding efforts. The Commission recognized the Government's efforts to advance democracy and strengthen its independent institutions, welcoming in particular the strong focus that it was increasingly placing on empowering women and youth. Commission members welcomed progress regarding the rights of women and girls and encouraged further

measures to fight sexual and gender-based violence. They noted the concern of young women and men in Sierra Leone about the country's vulnerability to climate change and related pressures on natural resources and stressed the need to empower youth green entrepreneurs. They expressed appreciation and encouraged the continued support of the Peacebuilding Fund in mitigating the risks of renewed conflict, with a focus on women and youth. The Commission committed to continue supporting the efforts of Sierra Leone to engage youth in all sectors of society and to promote the empowerment of women.

17. The Commission continued to support regional peacebuilding priorities in the Sahel, including within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its support plan. On 28 April, the Chair convened a meeting on the situation in the Sahel region and the implementation of the strategy and its support plan. Following briefings by representatives of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) and the United Nations, as well as civil society and multilateral financial institutions, the Commission expressed concern about the precarious humanitarian and security situation and conveyed condolences for the death of President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad. The Commission stressed the importance of integrated and holistic responses in the region that went beyond military means, recognized that the strategy remained the most complete road map in the arsenal of United Nations responses and took note of ongoing efforts to enhance the proactiveness and effectiveness of United Nations actions, in particular through increased cross-border investment and greater support for women and youth, including with support from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission noted the contributions of the European Union to the Liptako-Gourma Integrated Development Authority, World Bank support to the African Union Great Green Wall initiative, and the AfDB Desert to Power initiative, calling for more structural investments, including in response to climate change. The Commission also called for stronger multi-partner support to individual countries in the Sahel. On 18 May, the Chair of the Commission briefed the Security Council alongside the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the G5 Sahel Force Commander and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Chadians Abroad of Chad on the Commission's continued engagement in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel. In line with the Commission's gender strategy, the Chair delivered to the Council a message from the non-governmental organization WARAKA in the Niger on the need for additional funding for women- and youth-led civil society initiatives in the areas of trust-building, economic resilience and psychosocial support.

18. At the request of representatives of the region, the Chair of the Commission convened on 30 June the first meeting of the Commission on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. Following briefings by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, as well as experts from the International Maritime Bureau and the Interregional Coordination Centre, the Commission noted ongoing efforts to address maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea and stressed the need to help address associated human security challenges, including by providing livelihood opportunities for surging youth populations. The Commission encouraged stronger coordination among relevant actors to pave the way for further international support, including from the Commission, for the implementation of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, which was aimed at addressing all forms of illicit maritime activities in West and Central Africa. Member States asked for timely updates on efforts to strengthen the maritime architecture in the Gulf of Guinea, including on the outcome of future visits by the

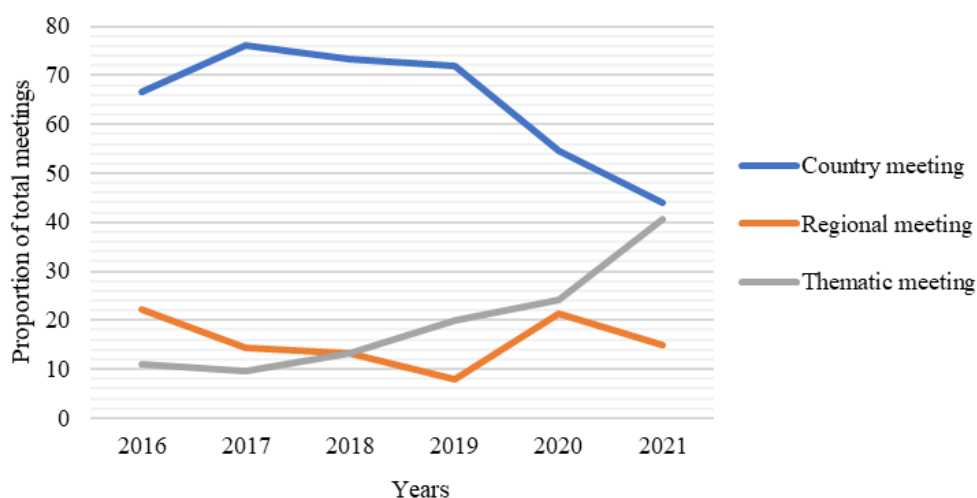
two Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. As a follow-up to that meeting, the Chair of the Commission was invited to deliver remarks at the launching of the Stable Seas-UNODC report on the cost of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, which took place on 7 December. In his remarks, the Chair acknowledged the importance of cross-regional initiatives between West and Central Africa to curb piracy in their respective maritime domains. He also recognized that capacity-building efforts must be owned by coastal countries and regional organizations and acknowledged that national authorities should be assisted in providing standardized and sustainable anti-piracy training to their own officials and, when possible, to those of neighbouring countries. The Chair noted that the Stable Seas-UNODC report offered useful recommendations on how to focus even more on coherence and impact and, in that respect, he encouraged stronger coordination among all actors concerned, which could pave the way for further support from the international community, including the Commission, for the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct.

B. Cross-cutting and thematic engagements

19. The percentage of cross-cutting and thematic engagements has increased in recent years, making up over 40 per cent of the Commission's meetings in 2021 (see figure IV). New thematic engagements in 2021 included peacekeeping and peacebuilding; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda; and mental health and psychosocial support at the expert level. The Commission's thematic engagements included a variety of context-specific cases, with a focus on sharing experiences and lessons learned and mobilizing further support for the consolidation of peacebuilding gains, including through briefings by speakers from Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and the Philippines.

Figure IV

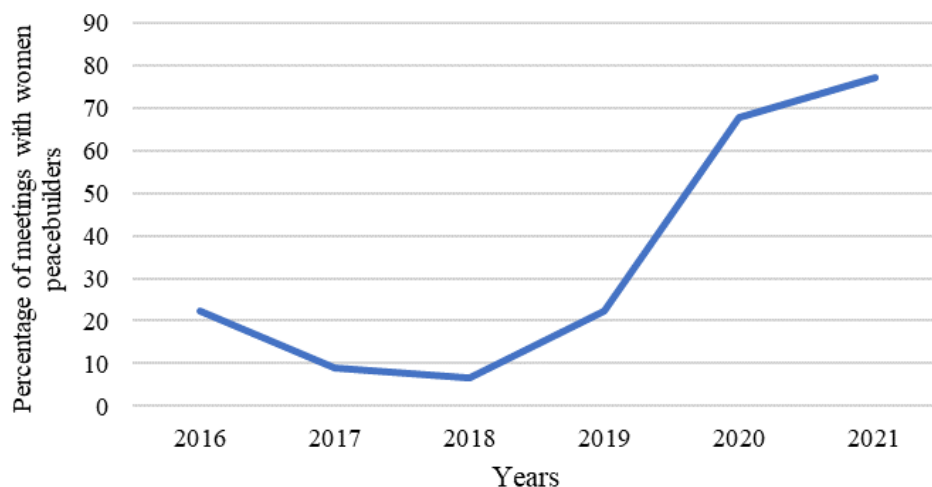
Country, regional and thematic meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2021



20. In 2021, the Commission continued to take concrete action to advance objectives related to women and peace and security, with a particular focus on enhancing the important role of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. Guided by a gender strategy adopted in September 2016 and its action plan, which was approved in February 2021, and inspired by the gender-specific recommendations in [A/74/935-S/2020/645](#), the Commission continued to deliver tangible support to

women peacebuilders,¹ including by mainstreaming gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its country and regional activities. A stocktaking exercise in the form of a written update undertaken by the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs based on data from 1 October 2020 to 5 October 2021² revealed that a concerted effort had been made during that period to increase the consistency with which gender analysis based on verified, reliable and sex-disaggregated data was reflected in the Commission’s work. Ninety-one per cent of the Commission’s outcome documents included gender references, while 43 per cent included some form of gender analysis and/or sex-disaggregated data. Eighty-nine per cent of the Commission’s documents relating to its engagement with other relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and international financial institutions promoted the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding efforts. In 2021, women peacebuilders participated in meetings of the Commission at a rate that had grown since 2016, with a dramatic increase from 22 per cent in 2019 to 74 per cent in 2021, as shown in figure V.

Figure V
Briefings to the Peacebuilding Commission by women peacebuilders since 2016



21. Consistent with its commitment to amplify the voices of women peacebuilders who participate in its deliberations and to support their efforts, the Commission more systematically brought their recommendations to the attention of the Security Council. Ninety-four per cent of the Commission’s submissions to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council contained references supporting gender responsive peacebuilding and 35 per cent referenced information provided by women peacebuilders. For example, following a meeting convened by the Chair on 13 October under the theme “Enhancing the leading role of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts”, with the participation of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Executive Director of UN-Women, the Commission included in its subsequent advice to the Security Council input that took into account the briefings made during the meeting by women peacebuilders from Bangladesh, Colombia and Mali, as well as a

¹ “Women peacebuilders”, as defined in the Peacebuilding Commission’s gender strategy, means women representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia or think tanks and women independent experts who lead and contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in countries and regions considered by the Commission.

² See www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/2021_pbc_gender_strategy_and_action_plan_written_update_0.pdf.

representative of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, whose presentation pooled together experiences from the Network, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the International Civil Society Action Network, the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. During the meeting, the Commission took stock of efforts to advance the important role of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including the development and implementation of comprehensive national action plans; quotas, where applicable under domestic laws, and other measures to promote the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace; protection needs; and adequate and flexible financing for women's organizations.

22. The Commission continued to support the critical role played by young people and youth-led organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In addition to providing a platform that allows the sharing of experiences and discussions on youth and peace and security, the Commission enhanced its engagement on youth and peacebuilding by holding country-specific meetings with a full or partial focus on the role of youth, in both Burundi and Sierra Leone. On 24 February, the Chair convened a meeting on youth and peace and security to explore ways of further contributing to the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#) and [2535 \(2020\)](#). The United Nations Envoy on Youth and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support briefed the Commission alongside youth representatives from Nigeria and the Philippines, who shared their experiences in peacebuilding. The Commission reiterated the importance of the full, effective and meaningful participation of young women and men in peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts. After the meeting, the Commission issued a press statement underscoring the importance of fostering an enabling and safe environment for youth working on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and reaffirming the principle of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding. It recognized the support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund, particularly under the Youth Promotion Initiative, and called for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for youth-led peacebuilding efforts. In preparation for the meeting and in keeping with the Commission's commitment to doing more to mainstream youth considerations into its work, the Commission approved a strategic action plan on youth and peacebuilding, which contains five focus areas to guide and monitor progress made by the Commission in support of the critical role of young women and men in peacebuilding. This resulted in an increase in the percentage of meetings at which young peacebuilders briefed the Commission, from 5.4 per cent in 2020 to 44.4 per cent in 2021.

23. On 22 October, the Secretary-General presented to the Commission his report on Our Common Agenda. His remarks focused on the recommendations contained in his report, highlighting the central role of women and youth, as well as the critical contributions of the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in pursuing those recommendations, as appropriate. He stressed the importance of investing in prevention, as well as the need to dedicate additional resources to the work of the Commission and to increase contributions to the Fund to enable both to meet increasing demand. He indicated that he would submit a concrete proposal to the General Assembly with regard to the Fund. Member States welcomed the interactive exchange with the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda. They exchanged views on ways in which the Commission could contribute to discussions on relevant components of the Agenda, within its mandate, and underscored the importance of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Member States reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the advisory and bridging role of the Commission to continue to empower women and youth peacebuilders and to keep serving as a platform for global solidarity in response to the complex global crises of the twenty-first century, in line with its mandate.

24. In 2021, the Commission continued to consider, through its national and regional engagements, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national peacebuilding objectives, including the critical role of women. In addition, the Commission strengthened its collaboration with the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, with a focus on COVID-19, peacebuilding and sustainable development. The Chair convened an informal-informal interactive dialogue with the President of the Security Council on 10 May on “Addressing root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa” and further advised the Council during its high-level open debate on the same topic on 19 May 2021. In his remarks, the Chair recalled the testimonies since the outset of the pandemic of women peacebuilders from across Africa, who had expressed concerns about the implications of the pandemic on women, including their meaningful participation in peace processes. Drawing on the second edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held in March, the Chair recognized that the pandemic had exacerbated governance gaps across the African continent, affecting the health, economic and social sectors and causing additional strains on social cohesion, with implications for the peace and security landscape, most notably through exploitation by armed groups and terrorist organizations. He echoed a key takeaway from the Aswan Forum that, in order for efforts related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace to be successful, governments must invest in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at the national and local levels while promoting inclusive governance through a whole-of-government approach.

25. On 8 July, the Chair of the Commission briefed the Economic and Social Council at its high-level political forum on sustainable development, highlighting the need to build and safeguard national capacities to fight the pandemic and to maintain attention to long-term peacebuilding and development priorities. In the subsequent ministerial declaration of the forum, ministers and high representatives stressed the importance of enhancing collaboration with the Commission in support of nationally led responses for development and the peacebuilding needs of conflict-affected countries and called for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and development. Drawing on discussions focusing on African countries at the Economic and Social Council management segment on “African countries emerging from conflict”, held on 21 July, the Chair underscored the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the countries and regions under the consideration of the Commission and called for stronger support for African Union-led post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts, including the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

26. The collaboration between the Economic and Social Council and the Commission culminated with the organization of the annual joint meeting of the two bodies on 15 December under the theme “Promoting durable peace and sustainable development in the context of recovery from COVID-19”, with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, a Deputy Managing Director of IMF, the World Bank Managing Director of Operations and private sector representatives from Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali. In a statement issued after the meeting, Member States expressed concern about the continued negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty and inequality, food insecurity, persistent armed conflicts and terrorism on efforts to build and sustain peace and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They recognized the importance of the full and meaningful participation of women and the role of youth in peacebuilding and called for more action to promote vaccine equity and increase financing. They stressed the role of United Nations system-wide coherence, international solidarity and South-South and triangular cooperation in addressing challenges related to COVID-19 and advancing the long-term goals of economic recovery, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, while protecting the planet.

They called for enhanced partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations and international and regional financial and development institutions.

27. In their 2020 resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/201](#), and the Security Council, in its resolution [2558 \(2020\)](#), noted that peacebuilding financing remained a critical challenge, and called for a high-level meeting of the Assembly at the seventy-sixth session to advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, affirming a commitment to pursuing action-oriented outcomes. They also invited the Commission to present inputs in advance for Member States' consideration and discussion at that meeting. In response, the Commission delved into peacebuilding financing issues as they pertain to its country, regional and thematic engagements. These discussions recognized the centrality of national ownership and leadership and the need for adequate and flexible funding, including for grass-roots peacebuilding initiatives, in particular those led by women and youth. The Commission also held expert-level discussions on the status of the relevant options contained in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 reports of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#), [A/73/890-S/2019/448](#) and [A/74/976-S/2020/773](#), respectively). In addition, the Chair represented the Commission in, or brought to its attention information about, a series of events led by Member States and civil society organizations with a focus on peacebuilding financing, including the high-level round table on innovative finance for peace, hosted by Colombia and Germany on 18 May; the high-level panel on financing for peacebuilding in peacekeeping and transition contexts, organized by Egypt and the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding on 28 October; the high-level discussion on good peacebuilding financing at the 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, held on 5 May; the high-level round-table dialogue on feminist solutions for impactful financing for peacebuilding, hosted by civil society organizations and UN-Women, in partnership with Ireland and Mexico, on 8 November; and the high-level multi-stakeholder interactive dialogue on the private sector's contribution to peacebuilding, hosted by South Africa and the Institute for Security Studies on 23 November.

28. The Commission's work in this area throughout the year culminated with its annual session on 29 November under the theme "Financing for peacebuilding". Following opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission, the President of the General Assembly and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, as well as representatives of AfDB, the World Bank and the private sector, an interactive dialogue, co-moderated by the Chair and the President of the United Nations Foundation, focused on progress and challenges since the Secretary-General's initial call a few years earlier for a "quantum leap" in peacebuilding financing. Member States encouraged continuing efforts to enhance United Nations coherence, building on improvements following the recent peace and development reforms. Some Commission members highlighted the need to ensure a peacebuilding lens in United Nations development and humanitarian assistance and to build stronger partnerships with relevant actors, including multilateral financial institutions, while others called for an expansion of the donor base and more innovative peacebuilding financing tools, including by further exploring blended funding mechanisms, recognizing the potential to bring more sustainable forms of funding to peacebuilding. They also called for South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as sustainable local private investment. Member States stressed the important role of peacekeepers in advancing peacebuilding in complementarity with United Nations country teams, in particular in transition contexts. They recognized the risk-tolerant and catalytic effect of the Peacebuilding Fund, and some made announcements of additional voluntary contributions. They

acknowledged the importance of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, including through additional contributions to the Fund.

29. On 15 June, the Commission held a meeting to discuss the contributions of peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, guided by statements of the President of the Security Council ([S/PRST/2017/27](#) and [S/PRST/2018/20](#)) which called for stronger synergies between peacebuilding and peacekeeping and greater collaboration between the Commission and the Council, in particular when the latter considered missions' mandates. After briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo and a World Bank representative, Commission members underlined the importance of peacekeeping operations as critical instruments in assisting host countries to develop peacebuilding capacities and welcomed the emphasis that the next phase of Action for Peacekeeping placed on further strengthening the peacebuilding aspects of peacekeeping operations and working more closely with development partners. The Commission noted that peacekeeping operations and their security presence enabled the work of other peacebuilding actors and provided political focus on peacebuilding goals and tasks that helped address the root causes of conflict. In a press statement issued after the meeting, the Commission acknowledged the importance of the transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stressed that partnerships were essential to support the implementation of the joint strategy on the progressive and phased drawdown of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to best support the Government's stabilization and peacebuilding priorities, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform efforts. The Commission encouraged further joint United Nations and World Bank assessments and programming in support of nationally defined peacebuilding and development priorities, in particular in transition settings, and recognized the critical contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund in that area.

30. The Chair conveyed the main elements that emerged from that meeting to the Security Council during its open debate on United Nations transitions on 8 September. He emphasized that strong partnerships and appropriate financing mechanisms were key to ensuring smooth transitions and avoiding relapses into conflict. In its resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#), which was adopted following the open debate, the Council strongly encouraged the Commission to facilitate the development of joint objectives and priorities prior to transitions and, in that connection, requested the Secretary-General to liaise with the Commission in advance of relevant reporting to the Council, with a view to facilitating the provision of complementary and timely advice from the Commission to the Council.

31. On 7 December, the Commission discussed the contributions of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions gave an overview of related United Nations assistance, stressing the need for stronger political engagement, coordination and partnerships. Following presentations by the Minister/Cabinet Director of the Presidency of Côte d'Ivoire and the National Coordinator of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Commission stressed that such reform should respect each country's unique context. The Commission acknowledged the reasoning behind the decision of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform as separate matters and took note of the fact that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Côte d'Ivoire was a key component of the Government's security sector reform strategy. The Commission expressed support for efforts to ensure adequate, predictable and

sustained financing for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes, so that they could effectively contribute to peacebuilding. The Commission welcomed the security sector reform programme of the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, funded by the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and encouraged continuous action to strengthen partnerships. Commission members expressed interest in discussing the recommendations contained in two forthcoming reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform.

32. In 2021, the Commission continued to place emphasis on supporting nationally owned institution-building efforts. On 17 May, the Chair convened a meeting on building and sustaining peace through institutions, with briefings from the UNDP Administrator; the Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation of Colombia; the Chief Executive Officer of the non-governmental organization Pratham, based in India; the President of the High Authority for Peace Consolidation in the Niger; and the General Secretary of the Group of Seven Plus (g7+). In a press statement issued following the meeting, the Commission expressed concern about challenges in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and preserving hard-won peacebuilding gains due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was exacerbating existing grievances and inequalities and eroding social cohesion and peace. The Commission reiterated that nationally owned and led efforts to build effective, accountable, inclusive and responsive institutions were critical to reduce vulnerability, strengthen the social contract, protect and empower people, including women and youth, and foster trust in society. It called for adequate, predictable and innovative financing for institution- and capacity-building, including stronger partnerships with the private sector. It also called for bold new mechanisms to help countries address crippling debt, which had been sharply worsened by the pandemic. The Commission reiterated its commitment to continue supporting institution-building in the countries under its consideration, including through the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and innovative approaches and solutions. South-South and triangular cooperation was recognized as a valuable approach in that regard. At the invitation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, which supports the work of the Economic and Social Council in the areas of public administration and governance, the Chair briefed on 15 April under the theme “Building strong institutions for sustainable development in conflict-affected countries”. In his remarks, the Chair recalled that institution-building had been at the heart of the Commission’s *raison d’être* since its establishment in 2005. He stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the need for more concerted efforts to advance inclusive and gender-responsive institution-building in conflict-affected countries.

33. The Commission continued to support the role of South-South and triangular cooperation throughout its country, regional and thematic engagements. Through engagement with a diverse set of non-United Nations briefers from countries under its consideration and across the global South, including national Governments, multilateral, regional and financial institutions and grass-roots women’s and youth organizations, the Commission provided a unique platform for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation. Drawing upon the Commission’s experience, in a first-time briefing to the High-level Committee of the General Assembly on South-South cooperation on 1 June, the Chair underscored the importance of leveraging South-South cooperation, one of the fastest growing forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. He highlighted that the Commission, with its unique composition and its advisory, bridging and convening roles, was well positioned to explore ways of supporting the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

III. Towards a more flexible and effective Peacebuilding Commission

A. Advisory and bridging role of the Commission

34. During its fifteenth session, the Commission continued to enhance its advisory and bridging role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In addition to having an informal coordinator for the Commission's relations with the Security Council, the Commission designated for the first time an informal coordinator to liaise with the General Assembly. In 2021, the Commission provided advice to the Assembly and the Council a total of four and nine times, respectively, through letters and formal briefings to meetings and informal interactive dialogues on country-specific and thematic issues (see sect. II). The Commission made three submissions to the Economic and Social Council focused on the countries and regions under consideration by the Commission as described above.

35. In fulfilling its advisory role, on 14 May 2021 the Commission advised the General Assembly for the first time on the agenda item on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in order to strengthen the peacebuilding perspective during the Assembly's consideration of this agenda item. In return, the Assembly, in its resolution [75/327](#), took note of that advice and encouraged the Commission to continue that good practice with a view to enhancing cooperation and synergies in support of addressing root causes of conflict in Africa. The Chair also briefed for the first time the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa on 28 August 2021, on "Implementation of the Secretary-General's reports on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa: the peace, security and development nexus".

36. The Commission recalls the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in which they reaffirmed Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), including the main purposes of the Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body, and stressed the importance of the Commission, inter alia, promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that security, development and human rights were closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities, in line with the respective competencies and responsibilities of those bodies.

37. On 15 October, the Chair of the Commission delivered remarks at the Security Council Arrria formula meeting on Haiti. The discussion focused on pan-African pathways and support for national dialogue and reconciliation. In his remarks, the Chair shared perspectives based on the role and contributions of the Commission in other contexts that benefited from inclusive approaches to national reconciliation and sustaining peace.

38. The Commission received invitations from other United Nations and non-United Nations bodies to brief on its peacebuilding work.

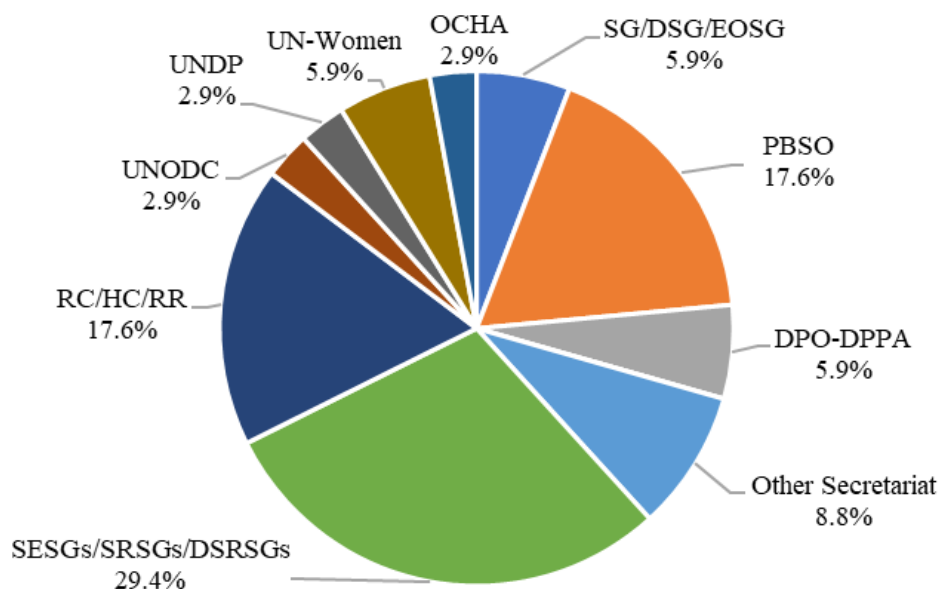
B. Promoting United Nations system-wide coherence

39. In 2021, Special Representatives or Special Envoys and Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General comprised nearly one third of all United Nations briefers at the Commission's meetings (see figure VI), demonstrating the value that the Commission places on hearing leadership voices from the field. The

percentage of Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators or Resident Representatives briefing the Commission increased from 3.6 per cent in 2020 to 17.6 per cent in 2021, indicating that the Commission is an increasingly important platform for development-focused discussions for conflict-affected countries and regions, based on national priorities. More frequent briefings from Resident Coordinators helped to enhance understanding on the important role of United Nations common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in support of national peacebuilding priorities.

Figure VI

United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings in 2021

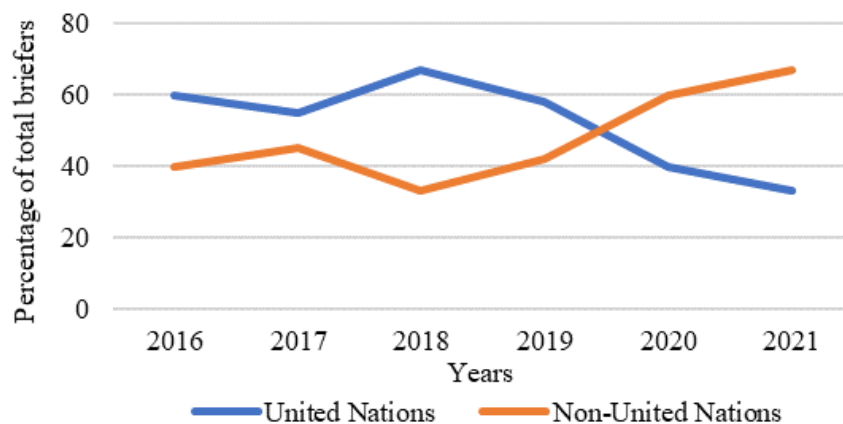


Abbreviations: DPO-DPPA, Department of Peace Operations-Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; OCHA, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; PBSO, Peacebuilding Support Office; RC/HC/RR, resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators/resident representatives; SG/DSG/EOSG, Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General/Executive Office of the Secretary-General; SESEGs/SRSEGs/DSRSEGs, Special Envoys of the Secretary-General/Special Representatives of the Secretary-General/Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

C. Fostering partnerships

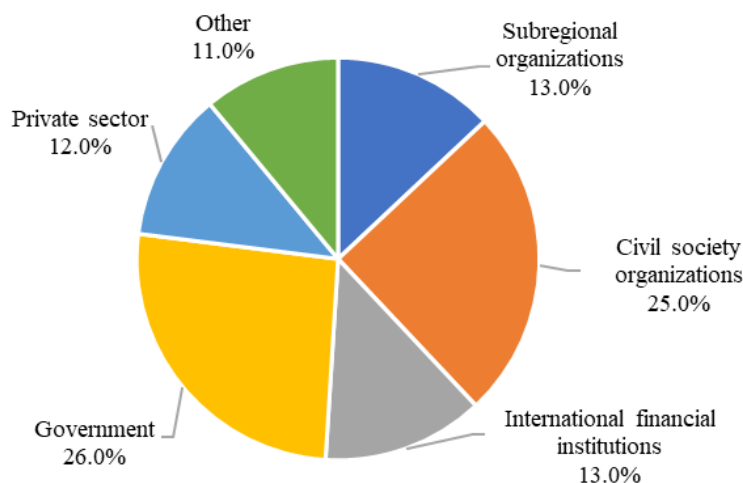
40. In 2021, the Commission solidified the trend of increased engagement with partners outside the United Nations, as shown in figure VII, with non-United Nations briefers comprising 67 per cent of all briefers at the Commission's meetings.

Figure VII
United Nations and non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016



41. In 2021, non-United Nations partners that provided briefings at Commission meetings (as shown in figure VIII) included national and local government officials; regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS, the European Union, the G5 Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea Commission; civil society organizations; international financial institutions (AfDB, IMF and World Bank); and private sector companies. The General Secretary of the g7+ was invited for the first time to contribute to the Commission’s work, during a meeting on institution-building. Representatives of academia and think tanks and independent experts also provided briefings at meetings (represented as “other” in figure VIII below).

Figure VIII
Types of non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings in 2021, as a percentage of total non-United Nations briefers



42. The Commission engaged for the first time with the World Trade Organization (WTO). On 25 March, the Chair of the Commission participated in the inaugural meeting of the Trade for Peace Network, which was launched by WTO as a platform for exchange among relevant stakeholders to explore areas of collaboration and actions, within their respective mandates, to support conflict-affected States associated with WTO accession and promote the multilateral trading system as a pathway to sustainable peace, development and economic well-being.

43. After years of encouraging and tracking support for joint United Nations-World Bank risk assessment and analysis, on 16 July, the Commission convened a meeting on macroeconomic responses to conflict settings, with a briefing by IMF on its first strategy for fragile and conflict-affected States. Member States welcomed the Fund's focus on working with partners in peacebuilding settings and recognized that more efforts were needed to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming an economic crisis in many countries.

44. African Union representatives continued to participate in country-specific, regional and thematic Commission discussions and made interventions both as panellists and from the floor. On 11 November, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Commission held their 4th informal consultative meeting during the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Awareness Week. The meeting focused on peacebuilding support for political transitions currently ongoing in Africa. In a subsequent joint press statement, Council and Commission members stressed the importance of comprehensive, coordinated and phased approaches to peacebuilding activities in Africa during transitions, taking into account countries' short- and long-term needs and the full and effective participation of women, while noting with concern the trend of relapsing transitions across the continent. They welcomed the establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and the planned meeting on climate security of the African Union Peace and Security Council. They called for more frequent exchanges between the two intergovernmental bodies and a strategic alignment of their programmes of work.

45. Given that one of the main purposes of the Commission is to bring together all relevant actors, in particular national stakeholders, in 2021 the Commission continued to encourage the important contribution of civil society, including the private sector, to all stages of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, resulting in an increased rate of participation by representatives of civil society and the private sector at its meetings. As is shown in figures IX and X below, the percentage of Commission meetings that included civil society briefers increased from 51 per cent in 2020 to 63 per cent in 2021, while the percentage of Commission meetings with private sector participation increased from 19 per cent in 2020 to nearly 30 per cent in 2021.

Figure IX

Peacebuilding Commission meetings with briefings by civil society representatives since 2016

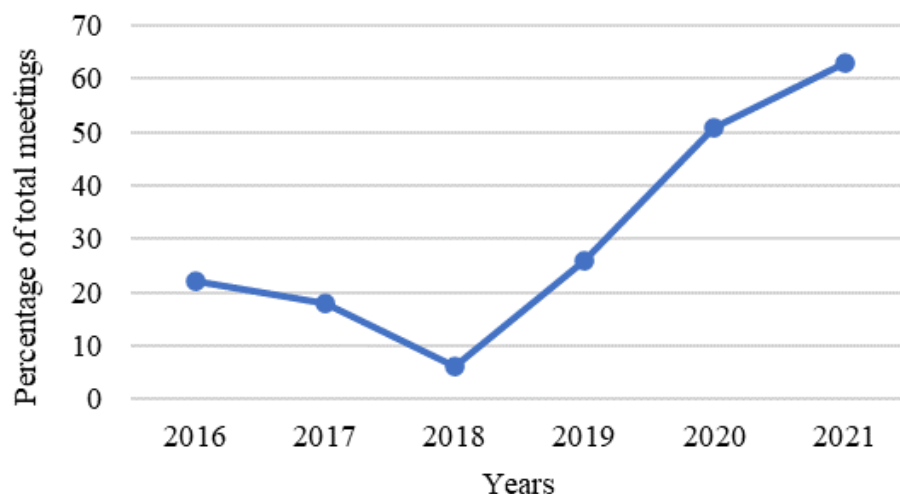
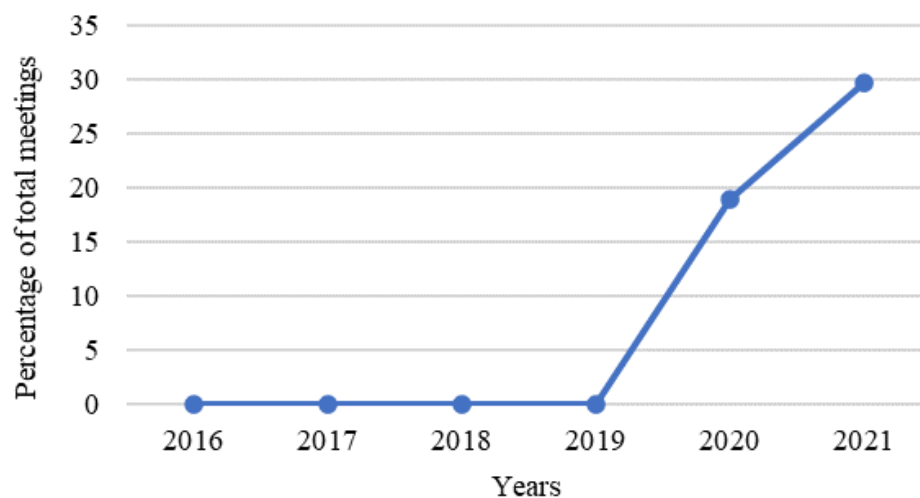


Figure X
Peacebuilding Commission meetings with briefings by private sector representatives since 2016



D. Strengthening synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

46. In 2021, the Peacebuilding Support Office continued to share with the Commission background materials and updates on the Peacebuilding Fund’s programmatic activities as those pertained the Commission’s country, regional and thematic engagements. The Chair also convened a dedicated meeting on 28 July on the work of the Fund, with a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The regular sharing of information enabled the Commission to continue to follow closely the agile positioning of the Fund in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in different contexts. In addition to keeping the Commission abreast of the evolution of the Fund’s portfolio in specific countries or areas of work, in 2021 the Peacebuilding Support Office brought to the attention of the Commission findings of the Fund’s assessments and evaluations, including a thematic review on gender-responsive peacebuilding covering the 2015–2020 period, an assessment of initiatives in Liberia on gender equality and the empowerment of women since 2013 and a mapping on mental health and psychosocial support. The Commission welcomes the Secretary-General’s invitations to countries that are eligible for the Fund’s Peacebuilding Recovery Facility to bring their peacebuilding priorities to the Commission’s attention and encourages the continuation of this good practice.

E. Rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

47. The Commission continued the review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods initiated during its tenth session, in order to make its work more flexible and effective. In that connection, the Commission, building on the recommendations contained in the annex to its report on its fourteenth session ([A/75/747-S/2021/139](#)), convened a number of expert-level consultations that culminated in the annex to the present report.

48. The Chair of the Commission initiated a practice of sharing a report on his activities on a regular basis, in the spirit of inclusivity and transparency, to keep the members of the Commission apprised of actions undertaken to fulfil the Commission's mandate and priorities.

IV. Forward-looking agenda

49. Pending follow-up requests by concerned Member States and the availability of the resources required within the Peacebuilding Support Office to meet increasing demand, the Commission is expected to engage during its sixteenth session in support of peacebuilding efforts in at least 15 country and regional contexts. These shall be detailed in the Commission's 2022 programme of work which, once approved, can be shared with the General Assembly and the Security Council to enhance the predictability of the Commission's calendar. The next session will present new opportunities for the Commission to continue implementing relevant resolutions and commitments on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a view to enhancing its support to the countries under its consideration, including by further improving its advisory, bridging and convening roles. In relation to its advisory role, the Commission will continue to provide timely and targeted input and advice to the Assembly and the Council to consistently inform relevant deliberations of the two bodies, drawing on the Commission's country, regional and thematic engagements. In relation to its bridging role, the Commission will continue to foster greater coherence in the United Nations system, including between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In this connection, the Commission will continue its collaboration with the Economic and Social Council in the areas of peacebuilding and development. In relation to its convening role, the Commission will further explore ways to foster stronger partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, with a focus on coherent support to conflict-affected countries. The Commission will continue to be guided by and to report progress in the implementation of its gender strategy and action plan, as well as its strategic action plan for youth and peacebuilding. In this respect, the Commission will continue to use its convening and advisory role to provide a platform for women peacebuilders and youth representatives from different contexts to share their experiences. The Commission takes note of the additional resources that are required to meet increasing demand for country and regional engagements.

Annex

Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

This annex contains recommendations whose objectives and outcomes have been established as good practices, and that can be addressed through an informal process. These recommendations are accompanied by relevant examples. It also includes additional action areas whose implementation can contribute to the efficiency and flexibility of the Commission. The Commission can implement all of these actions without the need to amend its provisional rules of procedure and within the mandate of the founding resolutions of the Commission, General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), as well as Assembly resolution 70/262 and Council resolution 2282 (2016). The review of the Commission's working methods is an ongoing process, and this informal document will be reviewed periodically, through the Commission's annual reports, in order to assess the added value of the recommendations to the work of the Commission.

Recommendations

1. **Leadership:** the Commission should improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Actions:

I. As mandated in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), in which the Assembly and Council encourage the Commission to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and building upon the established practice of having the outgoing Chair serve as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support for its leadership, the Commission will continue to explore ways to further strengthen the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Any informal arrangement will not prejudice the change in the membership of the Commission, which takes place every two years and will operate within regional rotation of Chairs, as spelled out in annex I to the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. The decision to endorse a candidate for each post remains a prerogative of the respective regional groups, for action by the Organizational Committee.

II. Make greater use of the Vice-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair, in the organization and conduct of Commission meetings.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** while recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission in all its configurations and meetings, the Commission should continue to consider flexible options for other forms of engagement in accordance with its mandate, including a more engaged role of the Organizational Committee.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the Organizational Committee as a platform to convene country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, in accordance with its founding resolutions. When convening regional discussions, references to country-specific situations shall be made with the consent of those countries, which shall be shared with the Members of the Committee.

II. Promote a Commission that can work in a form of "variable geometry", in which the character, focus and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis, with the consent of all countries considered and with the consent of its member States, in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility, as well as

its mandate to assist Governments partnering with the Commission with their peacebuilding priorities, as appropriate.

III. Strengthen the convening role of the Commission by inviting additional partners to participate in its meetings. Such partners, to be invited with the consent of the country considered and that of the Commission's member States, may include Member States that are not members of the Organizational Committee, representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, including youth and women's organizations, and, where relevant, the private sector.

3. **Role of the membership:** the Commission has a very diverse membership, bringing together seven members from the General Assembly, seven members from the Security Council, seven members from the Economic and Social Council, five members from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and five members from the top 10 financial contributors. Therefore, a stronger and more coherent engagement of all members of the Commission will further enhance its efficiency.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the perspectives of the organs that elect or designate the members of the Commission: in addition to country-specific interests, Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to bring the perspectives of those bodies into the deliberations of the Commission. For example, members can offer advice on the working methods of their constituencies and can highlight relevant ongoing thematic issues in their respective organs that will add value to the work of the Commission and reinforce synergies between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, while respecting the mandate of each body. Members elected from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and the top 10 financial contributors are also encouraged to reinforce the synergies of those constituencies with the Commission.

II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the Commission on priority areas that are relevant for the work of their respective organs or groups and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This will add to the visibility of the Commission and enhance clarity on the work of the Commission. Similarly, establishing a predictable workplan (see recommendation 4 below) and summarizing results on a regular basis can lead to a more regular flow of information between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

III. Members of the Commission are encouraged to actively engage and support the work of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, while avoiding duplication of work and enhancing the idea of one Commission.

IV. The Commission could explore the possibility of appointing informal coordinators for its relations with General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking into consideration regional rotation, based on examination of the experience of appointing an informal coordinator for the relations with the Security Council. The appointment of informal coordinators for relations with troop-contributing countries and financial contributors could also be considered.

4. **Workplan:** a more predictable and longer-term workplan that would allow broader participation of Member States at the meetings of the Commission.

Actions:

- I. The Commission is to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report and reflecting the Commission country-specific, regional and thematic priorities. The workplan should include a provisional annual calendar. In the middle of each month, the Chair will circulate the provisional calendar for the following month with a view to receiving inputs and suggestions from members of the Commission. Additional previously unscheduled meetings could be added, if required, with adequate lead time.
 - II. The workplan is to take into account the relevant calendar of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, particularly when it comes to activities where the advisory role of the Commission may be sought, such as when requested by the Security Council to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates (see [S/PRST/2017/27](#)). In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.
 - III. The workplan is to include more regular engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.
 - IV. The workplan is to include specific focused meetings at which diverse countries (Peacebuilding Fund recipients and/or applicants) share their national peacebuilding plans.
 - V. The date and theme of the Commission's annual session are to be decided well in advance in order to encourage Member States to participate with capital-based representatives.
 - VI. Visits to the field are to be reflected in the workplan; concept notes of visits should be circulated at least one week before the date of the visit.
5. **Bridging role:** General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#) stress the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and, inter alia, in serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities. The resolutions also recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Actions:

- I. The Commission is to better utilize its membership to strengthen its links with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (see also actions 2.I and 2.II) to efficiently address issues regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- II. Dialogues between the Chair of the Commission and the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be sought, as necessary, as well as informal meetings of the Commission with those bodies.
- III. In connection with the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, in addition to its engagement so far, when invited to brief the Council it should prepare its briefings by aligning its workplan with relevant Security Council meetings (see action 3.II). The activities of the Commission in preparation for these briefings may include internal thematic discussions in

anticipation of issues to be discussed in the Security Council, visits to the field, including, when invited by the Council, joint visits with the Council to advance peacebuilding perspectives and the organization of meetings to engage with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. In addition to such formal briefings, the Commission could provide its advice in writing and through informal interactive dialogues, as appropriate.

IV. Through this advanced preparation, and the uniqueness of the Commission's convening power, it can have sustained interactions and enhance its efforts to provide the Security Council with substantive advice, upon request, for example, in matters relating to the synergies between security and development. The advisory role of the Commission to the Council is recognized, in particular, in the context of the Council's consideration of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, during which the Commission, is uniquely positioned to provide clear, realistic, applicable and qualitative, peacebuilding perspectives to the Council, if requested. Similarly, regular exchanges between the Commission and other subsidiary organs of the Council should be further enhanced.

V. The Commission is to advocate a coherent, predictable and traceable use of resources for peacebuilding activities, including with international financial institutions, and for innovative financial instruments

VI. The Commission should also continue to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations, with appropriate emphasis on activities undertaken on the ground.

6. **Synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund:** while preserving the independence of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, look at ways to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund and to ensure that Member States remain informed on the ongoing projects of the Fund.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular when peacebuilding priority plans are discussed.

II. The Commission is to invite the Chair and the members of the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund to meetings of the Commission, when relevant.

III. Regular briefings by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the activities of the Fund at the meetings of the Commission and more regular circulation of Fund documents to the Commission would be useful.

IV. The Commission is to convene an annual meeting to be informed on the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and increase the visibility of the Fund.

7. **Preparation, format, conduct and outcome of Commission meetings:** meetings of the Commission should be prepared well in advance with a view to ensuring substantive discussions and facilitate concrete outcomes. A balance between transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations must be ensured when deciding if a meeting should be open or closed. The Commission, in all its meetings and formats, and with the consent of Member States, should enhance inclusivity and ensure that participation reinforces an integrated Organizational Committee and the concept of a unified Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Support Office is to continue to ensure that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place.

Ensure that there is a balance between time allocated to presentations by briefers and to interventions from the floor, with a view to promoting interactive discussions.

Actions:

- I. The Commission should make greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.
 - II. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will circulate a concept note at least one week before the date of the meeting.
 - III. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with the countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed.
 - IV. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will ask briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.
 - V. In the conduct of the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will remind briefers to limit their interventions to no more than three to five minutes. The Chair will also encourage speakers from the floor to limit their interventions to no more than three minutes.
 - VI. When inviting participants from the floor to speak, the Chair, upon advice from the Secretary, will prioritize countries from the region and give due consideration to protocol and order of registration.
 - VII. In addition to Chair's summaries, the Commission is to consider relevant documents to strengthen the outcome of its meetings. These should include, as appropriate, press statements and letters to be agreed upon by the Commission. To strengthen national ownership, particular importance when considering outcome documents shall be given to input provided by the country and/or region under consideration.
 - VIII. Documents to be approved by the Commission are to be circulated early enough to allow Member States to provide input and suggestions.
8. **Visibility and communication:** there is a need to address the lack of awareness, both within and outside the United Nations, about the work of the Commission and on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Actions:

- I. The Commission is to explore ways to increase the visibility of its open meetings, in particular high-level events such as the annual session, to attract more attention from the media. For example, the Commission could consider issuing press releases, as appropriate, after such events.
 - II. The Commission is to explore ways to increase ongoing activity on the Internet and on social media with regard to all of its meetings and country visits.
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