

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Burkina Faso
15 July 2022
Chair's summary

1. On 15 July 2022, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on Burkina Faso to brief on the country's transition priorities and discuss opportunities to pursue and support national reconciliation. The Commission was briefed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabé abroad, the Minister of State to the President, in charge of Social Cohesion and Reconciliation. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, the Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to the United Nations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the UN Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso also made remarks.
2. In her opening remarks, the Chair of the PBC noted that the latest report the Secretary-General on West Africa and the Sahel had highlighted the deepening security crisis in Burkina Faso. She recalled that following the coup in January 2022, the Commission had, through its advisory to the Security Council, expressed its support for ongoing efforts to establish transition institutions and underlined the importance of a timely return to constitutional order through an inclusive process and a transparent transition calendar. She indicated that the Commission had reiterated its intention to ensure continuous engagement in coordination with Burkina Faso's regional and international partners, to help mobilize recalibrated support to effectively address the country's peacebuilding challenges, in line with national priorities, and in support of the people of Burkina Faso.
3. **Ms. Olivia Ragnagnewendé ROUAMBA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabés Abroad**, noted that the recent events that had affected the democratic process in Burkina Faso had been caused by the absence of a proper response to the security crisis over the last six years. She underscored the impact of the deteriorating security situation on populations in the country and the sub-region of the Sahel. She acknowledged the need to consolidate the state authority and restore trust between the Government and the people as part of the response to the current situation. She noted that the Transitional Government had set the objectives of consolidating rule of law and to guarantee individual and collective freedoms. She expressed hope that political dialogue initiated by Transitional Government would lead to return to normal constitutional order in Burkina Faso. In this regard, she noted that Transitional Government would make every effort to organize free, inclusive and transparent elections in a timely manner. She called on bilateral and multilateral partners, particularly the members of the Peacebuilding Commission to support implementation of the Transition Action Plan of Burkina Faso in line with the timeline agreed

with ECOWAS at the summit of 3 July, and to continue to help the Government respond to the precarious humanitarian situation. The Minister also welcomed the initiative of the Chairperson of the African Union and the Secretary-General to conduct a joint AU-UN strategic assessment of the security in the Sahel, which would help strengthening the international response to the security crisis in the sub-region.

4. **Mr. Yero BOLY, Minister of State to the President, in charge of Social Cohesion and Reconciliation**, recalled that the multidimensional crisis facing Burkina Faso had resulted in the loss of many lives, caused large internal displacement and led to the closing of schools and health services in the affected region. He noted that, in view of the limitations of the traditional military solutions in addressing the current crisis, his country had concluded that it was necessary to resort to endogenous mechanisms aimed at building peace and promoting traditional values. In this regard, the Transition Authorities had decided to create local dialogue committees for the restoration of peace, with the main objective to promote, in parallel with military operations, local initiatives of dialogue between the sons and daughters of Burkina Faso with a view to creating an environment conducive to a sustainable return to peace and security. He underscored that social cohesion and national reconciliation were one of the major priorities of the Transition Authorities. Three separate strategies had been developed to guide social cohesion, national reconciliation and to prevent radicalization and violent extremism within communities. The cumulative amount for the implementation of their action plans is estimated at US\$194 million. He further recalled that the Government had initiated the Emergency Program for the Sahel, “Programme d’Urgence pour le Sahel – Burkina Faso” (PUS-BF), in 2017 to respond to the crisis with the overall objective to contribute to the consolidation of resilience, security, social cohesion and peace. While thanking the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for their support, the Minister noted the need to strengthen government ownership in the implementation of some projects and to ensure that communication on projects funded by the PBF considers the lead role of the Government. He underscored the importance to better coordinate the support provided by partners to ensure complementarities and synergy of actions.
5. **Mr. ANNADIF Khatir Mahamat Saleh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel**, expressed concerns about the growth of terrorism and violent extremism in the region and the overall deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation. He reaffirmed the critical need to revive regional efforts to resolve the crisis. Referring to the establishment of the local dialogue mentioned earlier by Mr. BOLY, he welcomed the transition timetable and the agreement to lift sanctions reached with ECOWAS. He noted that the implementation of a transparent and well-managed transition was essential to achieving peace through order and popular confidence. The SRSG thanked the UN Country Team for its efforts on the ground and recalled the UN Secretary General's recent visit to the Sahel, where the issues of inflation, energy and the food crisis, worsened recently by the war in Ukraine, were highlighted as alarming emerging issues. He stressed the importance of strengthening the

local, regional and international response to address the challenges mentioned and called for resources commensurate with the situation.

6. **Mr. Mahama Mumuni Kappiah, Permanent Observer of ECOWAS** to the UN updated on the organization's engagement and efforts to address the crisis in Burkina Faso. He underscored that ECOWAS had diligently engaged in discussions with the new authorities with a view to ensuring respect for the basic principles of the community and accompanying Burkina Faso to constitutional rule within a reasonable time frame. He referred to four extraordinary summits of ECOWAS Heads of State between February and June 2022 and noted the decision to appoint H.E Mahamadou Issoufou, former President of the Republic of Niger, as Mediator for Burkina Faso. He further noted that the Ordinary ECOWAS Summit held on 3 July 2022 enabled ECOWAS and the Burkinabe Transitional Government to reach an agreement on the duration of the Transition, set for 24 months from 1 July 2022. ECOWAS accepted Burkina Faso's proposal to set up a joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism with ECOWAS to support the transition process. He noted that ECOWAS had mobilized financial resources to support the security sector's efforts in the region, including Burkina Faso, and opened discussions for an agricultural and food program to support the humanitarian efforts. The Permanent Observer reiterated ECOWAS' renewed and strengthened support to the election process and invited partners and friends of Burkina Faso to help the country with the resources required by the implementation of the transition plan.

7. **Ms. Barbara MANZI, UN Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso**, expressed her hopes towards the resolution of the crisis in the country and commended the people of Burkinabe for demonstrating a remarkable resilience. She highlighted that the Action Plan of the Transition Authorities, which includes fighting terrorism, responding to the humanitarian crisis, improving social and economic governance and national reconciliation and social cohesion, were aligned with the core of peacebuilding work. She noted that progress in these priorities required inclusion and participation of all strata of the society, in particular women, youth and internally displaced people. She underscored the need for a coordinated response, both at country and regional levels, to counter the spread of insecurity and violent extremism towards the southern neighboring countries of Burkina Faso. She noted that such efforts should go beyond military interventions and include a proactive fight against illicit financial flows to curb the source of financing for armed groups and should also encompass efforts to ensure respect for human rights, and bolster good governance, access to services and livelihood opportunities. She noted that the Peacebuilding Fund's support had been critical, providing catalytic resources to help advance reconciliation, trust building, social cohesion and security sector reform, and to support conflict management around access to and use of natural resources, including through cross-border interventions with Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Togo. She finally encouraged continuous dialogue between the Transition Authorities, the

Burkinabe society and the country's partners, including through the Peacebuilding Commission.

8. **Ms. Elizabeth SPEHAR, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support**, expressed solidarity with the Burkinabe people facing a difficult security, socio-economic and humanitarian situation. She noted that protracted insecurity had detrimental long-term effects on the country's peacebuilding and development trajectory, its macro-economic stability, the resilience of the population, and on its social fabric. She welcomed the Authorities' commitment to a rapid transition and return to constitutional order and to continue addressing the numerous socio-economic challenges. She further welcomed the decision on a timeline for the Transition agreed with ECOWAS on 3 July. She noted that openness towards broad and inclusive dialogue as a means for consensus building on issues of national interest, including on tackling the security crisis facing the country as well as national reconciliation, is equally important. She reiterated the UN Secretary-General's support to Burkina Faso in its efforts to restore constitutional order, strengthen democratic governance and for the agreement reached on the transition with ECOWAS. She assured of PBF's readiness to consider rapid and timely support to the transition process, through for example, inclusive dialogue efforts and initiatives for the prevention of electoral violence for the elections. She highlighted PBSO's capacities to provide integrated support to the Resident Coordinator and the UN agencies, funds and programmes, working with the authorities through the PBF and the Humanitarian Development Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility, as well as political engagement accompaniment through the PBC.
9. Member States welcomed the briefings and made observations in their interventions. Member States and other participants who took the floor are Morocco, the EU, Sweden, Egypt, Kenya, Canada, South Africa, Germany, Portugal, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, Japan, India, France, Costa Rica, Brazil, The Gambia, The Netherlands. The following summarizes the main observations made:
 - They expressed concerns about the deteriorating situation in the country, particularly the impact of the terrorist threats and activity on the stability and security of the country and the Sahel region. Discussions underscored the gravity of the security, political and humanitarian challenges facing the country and the need to address them urgently.
 - They noted the impact of the crisis on the population, causing internal displacements, food insecurity, human rights violations, and their effects on the social fabric. As these factors reinforce the risks for instability in the country, they underscore the need to increase and support inclusive dialogue between Burkinabe authorities, and its people, including youth and women, in order to reinforce social cohesion, especially in the context of the country's strategy on national reconciliation and social cohesion.

- They welcomed progress in the transition process and efforts by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to address the situation in Burkina Faso, including the outcome of the ECOWAS Ordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of 3 July and the on-going engagements of the ECOWAS Mediator for Burkina Faso. They encouraged Burkina Faso to swiftly implement the transition timetable and to ensure a peaceful and inclusive transition process.
- They acknowledged the need to accompany a timely transition and support ECOWAS's efforts in this regard. They noted that initiatives aimed at promoting peace in the country and to achieve the objectives set by the Transition Plan should continue to be supported.
- They called on the United Nations entities to enhance integrated support to Burkina Faso in the implementation of the transition timetable, and to support the regional and subregional efforts in this regard. They urged international and regional partners to reinforce their support to efforts aimed at combating violent extremism, which leads to terrorism and insecurity, and at restoring social cohesion and stability in the country. The members of the PBC also called for continued support to address poverty, hunger and other development challenges faced by Burkina Faso to ensure longer term stability in the country.
- They welcomed on-going support by the PBF to Burkina Faso in its peacebuilding efforts in-country and at cross-border levels.

10. In closing the meeting, the Chair welcomed the briefings of the Burkinabe Representatives and thanked them for their active engagement with the PBC during the meeting. She reiterated the commitment of the PBC to continue accompanying Burkina Faso in its peacebuilding efforts, including dialogue, social cohesion, national reconciliation. She called on partners to sustain much needed support to Burkina Faso during and after the transition. The Chair informed members that this was her last meeting as Chair of the PBC; in this regard she made a few personal reflections on the work of the PBC and encourage PBC members to continue advance the work and role of the Commission.