

Written submission

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on West Africa and the Sahel

25 July 2023

Building on its continued support of peacebuilding in West Africa and the Sahel, including its latest engagement on the Sahel in June 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission encourages the Security Council to consider:

1. Welcoming the holding of elections in several countries in West Africa and the Sahel.
2. Acknowledging the work of the United Nations in West Africa and the Sahel, including through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the Peacebuilding Fund in advancing peace, security and development in the region, including through cross-border and local initiatives.
3. Continuing to encourage the countries undergoing political transitions to strengthen collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional and international bodies for the timely return to constitutional rule.
4. Recognizing the urgent need to address the root causes of conflicts and drivers of instability, and ensuring democratic consolidation and good governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality, sustainable development, and inclusion of civil society for lasting results.
5. Expressing concern over the spread of transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, noting the efforts of regional countries on countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, calling upon the international community to step up support to the region and countries in the region for addressing transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in a coordinated way, including capacity support and institutional training, and underscoring the importance of encompassing simultaneous pursuit of progress on security, democratic governance, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, reconciliation and human rights in order to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies in West Africa and the Sahel.
6. Encouraging UN and regional partners, especially ECOWAS, AU, and G5 Sahel, to pursue further cooperation on peacebuilding efforts in the region.
7. Advocating for projects and programmes aimed at socio-economic development to address the vulnerabilities of the Sahel and contributing to the stability of the area through the implementation of United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).
8. Stressing the importance of providing adequate socio-economic and decision-making opportunities for youth as a critical way to achieve sustainable peace.

9. Calling upon all stakeholders, in particular Governments and political parties, to promote legislation and ensure the effective implementation of existing instruments on women's empowerment and gender equality.
10. Reiterating its call for the need to address the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, drought, desertification, land degradation and to tackle challenges in the field of access to energy as well as food insecurity, encouraging the international community, particularly the developed countries, to scale up action and support, including finance and capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and reduce their vulnerability to climate change, encouraging the international community to provide additional support to the countries of West Africa and the Sahel for enhancing adaptive capacities and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks in the region, in line with existing commitments and equally accessible for all, and further calls on the international community and United Nations to support regional and subregional dialogues, initiatives and cooperation to take meaningful actions to adapt to or mitigate challenges posed by climate change and environment degradation, including as peacebuilding efforts, while acknowledging the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement as the primary intergovernmental frameworks for negotiating the global response to climate change.
11. Encouraging the international community, through the Peacebuilding Commission, to provide political support and advocate for consistent financing of peacebuilding efforts in West Africa and the Sahel and acknowledging the important role of the Peacebuilding Fund and its specific contributions to projects in the region.