

**Remarks by**  
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**The Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict**  
**Prevention and Resolution in Africa**

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Mr. President and Excellencies,

I thank you for this opportunity to brief the Security Council’s Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, on a topic of particular importance which is “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.”

This meeting is timely as it comes few months after the PBC has successfully submitted its very first advice to the General Assembly in May 2021 on the SG’s report and GA’s Resolution 74/302 on “Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”. Fulfilling the PBC’s advisory role to the General Assembly, particularly in relation to the aforementioned subject, was among my chairmanship priorities, and I am delighted to note that the GA has benefited from this advice during its consideration of this agenda item.

This development represented a further opportunity for the PBC to advise the General Assembly on practical means for the UN system and the African Union to collaborate in support of the AU’s evolving effort

and ownership of its Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRDR), as well as its structural prevention policies and efforts. The PBC is strategically placed to provide advice to the Security Council and relevant working groups, and we encourage members of the Council and the Ad Hoc Working Group to turn to the PBC for advice when it comes to aspects of peacebuilding. Considering the closely intertwined nature of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and resolution, and the important work done by the PBC on the very subject matter of this working group, enhancing the PBC's engagement with the Working Group may provide added value.

Excellencies,

Upon my assumption as the PBC Chair, I indicated that the PBC will pursue an impact-oriented approach anchored in exploring avenues leading to strengthening the PBC's advisory, bridging and convening roles with particular focus on championing the need for all actors engaged in peacebuilding to prioritize "impact" as a result of their respective engagements in support of national peacebuilding objectives.

To realize this objective, the PBC has been convening relevant stakeholders and partners with a view to enhance coherence and maximize the effectiveness and impact of peacebuilding efforts, including through advancing a regional and holistic approach to building and sustaining peace. In the Sahel, for example, the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) has sought to close the gaps between humanitarian needs and development imperatives through increased cross-border investments. The PBC has also been devoting its attention to cross-border initiatives to prevent the spill-over of terrorism from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to littoral states, increasing the understanding and investments in addressing transnational challenges. Through the PBC engagement with the Sahel region, representatives of affected countries have highlighted that building climate resilience can be conducive to peacebuilding, and underlined the need for further support to address the combined effects of land degradation, reduced and erratic rainfall, and lack of sufficient funding, all of which complicate national and regional efforts to manage

natural resources effectively and to ensure resilient pastoralism and sustainable farming.

The PBC engagement with the Great Lakes considered cross-border initiatives as a way to promote sustainable peace and development in the region, especially through the catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Fund, for example through PBF support to reintegrate former combatants repatriated from the DRC to Rwanda. During its recent meeting on the Great Lakes on 26 July, the PBC welcomed this project and called for partners to increase support to the region's efforts of demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and to the implementation of the UN strategy for the region.

The PBC has also held a dedicated session to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, during which it highlighted the heavy human and economic costs piracy inflicts in the region and beyond, and emphasized that sustainable crime prevention in the Gulf of Guinea requires a holistic, development-centered approach that addresses the plight of communities and aims to provide them with decent livelihoods.

Building on the work the PBC has been doing to promote an integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding, especially in Africa, I wish to share some reflections for the consideration of members of the Security Council:

1. Coherence and synergies within the United Nations system and with relevant partners is critical to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development. This is particularly relevant in regions, whose multifaceted challenges can only be addressed through a comprehensive and multidimensional approach that addresses root causes of conflict. In this regard, , the Commission has provided its advice to the Council on how to address the peacebuilding challenges of the Sahel, the Great Lakes region, and during the renewal of MINUSCA's mandate.
2. Partnerships with International Financial Institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations are also critical to strengthen the inputs

of the PBC to the Council. The PBC is uniquely placed to bring together relevant partners, especially the African Union, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and bring their respective contributions to peacebuilding to the attention of the Council. Recent PBC meetings on Burkina Faso, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia have benefited from updates by the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the IMF. During our recent PBC meeting, we were briefed by the IMF on their first Fragility and Conflict-Affected States (FCS) Strategy, aimed at strengthening the Fund's macroeconomic policies in conflict-affected settings, many of which are in Africa. The briefing provided a basis for PBC's comments on the IMF's FCS Strategy and for our future engagement with the IMF.

3. Enhancing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women should continue to be at the heart of our peacebuilding responses. We also need to continue to strengthen the role and inclusion of youth in peacebuilding responses. Recognizing the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding, the PBC has recently adopted action strategies to strengthen its implementation of the women, peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas.
4. The PBC has been demonstrating its important role in facilitating mutual learning and exploring ways to effectively address challenges regarding institution-building, including public service delivery, in its country, regional and thematic engagement. Taking the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2021/562) into account, the PBC will further explore how lack of effective public service delivery as a conflict driver could better be addressed and provide advice to the Council, as appropriate.

Mr. President,

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the PBC adjusted its programme of work and served as a demand-driven platform to discuss ways in which to mobilize context-specific, coherent and coordinated international support for national and regional efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in countries under its consideration and build back better from the pandemic, with a focus on countries and regions in Africa.

Moving forward, the PBC will continue to consult with the Ad Hoc Working Group on to explore ways to enhance an informal exchange of views on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and identify opportunities for coordinated and coherent action in support of nationally led responses to development and peacebuilding needs in conflict-affected countries.

I thank you.

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