

Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council

20 December 2022

Inputs for the PBC Chair's remarks

Thank you for inviting me, in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, to participate in this Arria Formula meeting. I would like to commend Kenya for convening this meeting on the important topic of “Transitioning from Conflict and Fragility into Peace Through Sustainable Development.”

In recent decades the proliferation of armed conflict, the adverse effects of climate change and, more recently, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed the most affected countries further off track from meeting the SDGs and exacerbated existing conflict drivers in Africa and elsewhere. Countries furthest from achieving human development are typically those affected most by violence and fragility. The best means of building and sustaining peace is sustainable development, which is why the interdependence of peace and development is at the core of the 2030 Agenda. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace require strong partnerships and nationally-owned solutions, even more so in a transitional period when a United Nations mission completes its mandate, leaves or is reconfigured.

United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions remain among the most effective tools to promote and maintain international peace and security. However, the period of transition presents high risks. A loss of focus and funding can jeopardize progress and increase the risk of relapse into crisis.

The vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a comprehensive approach to support countries and to address the root causes of conflict and crises. The UN system and its partners need to prepare early on to accompany and support host countries in addressing transition challenges as the UN reconfigures on the ground. This has been highlighted in Security Council resolution 2594 (2021), which was the first ever standalone resolution on UN transitions.

Resolution 2594, among other provisions, emphasizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council strongly encouraged the Commission to facilitate the development of joint

objectives and priorities prior to transitions and welcomed the provision of complementary and timely advice from the Commission to the Council.

National ownership is critical in transition processes as their success hinges on national ownership, leadership and political will from the host country. National actors should be engaged throughout the lifetime of a mission in creating a common vision for a desired 'end state' and how it will exit the country.

I would also like to underline the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and involvement of youth in peacebuilding efforts. It has been proved that when women and young people are meaningfully engaged in peace processes including in transition settings the outcomes are usually more lasting and sustainable.

Strong partnerships between the United Nations and other organizations, including regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, can benefit countries in transition. The sustained engagement of these partners can help avoid a sudden drop-off in political and financial support following the departure of a peacekeeping or political mission.

Systematic alignment, integrated approach, timely coordinated response, and leveraging comparative advantages of the Agencies, Funds, and Programmes are critical to achieve long-term sustainable peace and development. In this regard, joint analysis, strategies, plans, and programmes, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, are effective points of convergence in moving towards more coherent approaches. The Peacebuilding Commission bring together a wide range of actors from within the UN and beyond help achieve policy coherence, aid effectiveness and conflict prevention on the ground.

The Peacebuilding Fund, working in synergy with the Commission, contributes by fostering cross-pillar collaboration and coherent approaches to advance peace priorities. The PBF has a strong record of supporting transition contexts when UN configurations change, such as when peacekeeping draws down. Anchored in the principle of national ownership, the Fund supports national peacebuilding efforts through the United Nations development system: the Resident Coordinator and the Agencies, Funds and Programmes. The Peacebuilding Fund supports a wide range of SDGs that promote building peaceful societies.

The Peacebuilding Commission has seen that a transition from a violent past to a path to sustainable development, while rarely linear, is possible; first and foremost through the efforts of the people of the countries themselves, but with sustained support from the international community. Several countries which have undergone a transition have both benefited from the accompaniment of the PBC and sustained support from the PBF, and their experience illustrates this incontestable truth: peace creates development opportunities and development can prevent conflicts and consolidate peace and security.

Thank you.