

Informal interactive dialogue - 19 June 2017

Members of the Security Council; the PBC Chairs; countries on the agenda; Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria

Joint summary of key outcomes by the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

The annual informal interactive dialogue (IID) among the members of the Security Council, members of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) chairs' group and countries under consideration by the PBC, as well as countries in the Sahel, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria was held on 19 June 2017. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and senior representatives of DPA, DPKO, and UNDP were also invited to attend. Against the backdrop of PRST/2017/2, where the Council encouraged further progress by the United Nations system and its partners towards the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the IID provided an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to discuss regional peacebuilding challenges on the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. Throughout the discussions, Member States highlighted the following issues:

- The IID represents an opportunity to take stock of the work of the PBC in response to PRST/2017/2 which emphasized the convening role of the PBC in mobilizing international support, in collaboration with UNOWAS, for implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). The IID is timely as: i) the PBC Chair and the ASG for Peacebuilding Support have just returned from Chad, where they participated in a meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel; and ii) the Security Council will soon consider the Secretary-General's report on UNOWAS' activities.
- The Sahel and Lake Chad Basin face complex and multidimensional challenges that not only touch upon political and security dimensions, but also humanitarian and development ones. These include transnational and cross-border challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism, illicit trafficking and other transnational crimes, weak institutions, climate change, migration, and displacement of populations.
- In order to address the root causes of conflict in the region, the international community must adopt a coherent and holistic approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, while simultaneously strengthening its partnership with national authorities.

- If peace is to be sustained, a people-centered approach is essential, with attention to governance and inclusion, particularly of youth and women.
- The United Nations system should enhance its capacity to address cross-border challenges. In the case of the Sahel, the trend in financing showed a focus on national programs, rather than regional, and mostly on security. In this connection, the Peacebuilding Fund was recognized as one of the few tools in the UN to undertake cross-border programming. A delegation proposed that the PBC could update the Security Council, by the end of 2017, on a number of pilot projects where the UN system has responded to cross-border threats in the region, in line with the four priority areas identified by the Ministerial Coordination Platform.
- In view of its inclusive nature, and recalling the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the PBC has a unique role to play in bringing together the countries concerned, relevant UN actors, regional and sub-regional organizations, and international financial institutions with a view towards enhancing coherence and bridging across political, development, and humanitarian issues.
- The Council can also benefit from the advisory role of the PBC, particularly on issues that go beyond the political and security dimension, including in countries undergoing transitions.