
The Permanent Mission of
EGYPT
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Briefing by
H.E. Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN,
in his capacity as the
Former Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission
to
The General Assembly
02 September 2022

Mr. President,

I am pleased to brief the General Assembly on the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session under Egypt's chairmanship.

Egypt has assumed the PBC chairmanship in the wake of the successful conclusion of the third comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture. Throughout 2021, the Commission, in line with mandates contained in the twin resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, has led efforts towards the operationalization of the review outcome as contained in the 2020 twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, including through exploring avenues to strengthening the PBC's advisory, bridging and convening roles, with particular focus on enhancing the impact of peacebuilding at the field level.

In this connection, it gives me great pleasure to report to you that the Peacebuilding Commission has achieved considerable progress across the following areas in 2021:

1. Expanding the scope of the PBC's geographic and substantive focus:

In 2021, The Commission has engaged in support of 13 country- and region-specific settings, including holding meetings for the first time on the Gulf of Guinea and the transition in Chad. With this addition, the Commission has engaged with a total of 23 different countries and regions, which is the highest since its inception, and consistent with the overall trend of increasing engagements of the Commission.

The Commission's thematic engagements, which made up 40% of its meetings, considered new themes, including interlinkages between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, DDR and SSR, the Secretary-General's Common Agenda, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

Additionally, the Commission produced a total of 66 outcome documents. These included remarks delivered at non-UN fora such as the Aswan forum and Stockholm Forum, increasing from zero in 2020 to nine in 2021.

2. Strengthening the PBC's advisory and bridging roles:

The Commission has further expanded and strengthened its relations with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council through the designation of informal coordinators for the

Commission's relations with these bodies, and better alignment of their programmes of work, in addition to having the Commission providing advice 9 times to the Security Council, and 4 times to the General Assembly, in addition to making 3 submissions to ECOSOC.

To mention a few, in 2021, the Commission advised the Security Council for the first time on the Great Lakes region, and the General Assembly on "causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". The commission also briefed the ECOSOC during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Moreover, throughout its engagements, the Commission continued to convene all relevant UN stakeholders with a view to improve coordination and avoid the fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

3. Fostering effective partnerships in peacebuilding:

The Commission solidified the trend of increased engagement with partners outside the UN, with non-UN briefers comprising 67 % of all briefers at the Commission's meetings. This included national and local government officials; regional and sub-regional organizations; civil society organizations including youth representatives; international financial institutions; private sector companies and Representatives of academia, think tanks and independent experts.

Moreover, the Commission engaged for the first time with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and joined its "Trade for Peace Network" which aims at facilitating the accession of conflict affected countries to the WTO.

The Commission also held the 4th informal consultative meeting with the AU Peace and Security Council, which called for more frequent exchanges between the two intergovernmental bodies and a strategic alignment of their programmes of work.

4. Advancing the discussion on financing for peacebuilding:

Recognizing peacebuilding financing as a critical challenge, the Commission advanced the discussion on financing with a view to assess the status of options introduced by the Secretary-General since 2018, in addition to exploring other possible options. The Commission's work throughout the year culminated with its annual session and the submission of the PBC's letter to the General Assembly which encouraged the latter to consider all

financing options, including voluntary, assessed and innovative sources of funding. We look forward to the successful conclusion of the recently launched intergovernmental negotiations to translate Member States' commitments into concrete actions.

5. Advancing the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas:

The Commission adopted action plans on both agendas, and continued to take concrete action to enhance the important role of women and youth in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

I would like to share some statistics drawn from a stock taking exercise conducted last year. It revealed that a concerted effort was made during 2021, with 91% of the Commission's outcome documents promoting the importance of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding, in addition to a significant increase in women's participation in meetings of the Commission from 22 % in 2019 to 74 % in 2021. It has also shown that the Commission continued to amplify the voices of women and brought their recommendations to the attention of the Security Council.

Similarly, the Commission has recorded a significant increase in the participation rate of youth who briefed the Commission, from 5.4% in 2020 to 44.4% in 2021.

6. Promoting recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic:

In 2021, the Commission continued to consider, through its national and regional engagements, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national peacebuilding objectives, in addition to mobilizing the international support and attention to build the most needed human and institutional capacities in line with the nationally identified peacebuilding priorities.

In conclusion, the Peacebuilding Commission, as an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peacebuilding efforts, continued to play a critical role in enhancing effective multilateralism through positioning itself as a platform for global solidarity and coordination in response to the growing demand for peacebuilding support.

I thank you.