

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 2 July 2020 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission** addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council.

This letter and its enclosure will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2020/645.

2 July 2020

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Excellencies,

In accordance with the Terms of the Reference of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture¹ endorsed in October 2019, I wish to share with the General Assembly and the Security Council the main elements that have emerged from a series of consultations that the Peacebuilding Commission convened, and which were open to all Member States of the United Nations, relevant parts of the UN system, civil society representatives, and independent experts, with a view to contribute to the formal phase of the review. Drawing from critical peacebuilding priorities in the Commission's country-specific, regional and thematic engagements since the adoption of resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) on the Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, and building on the primacy of national ownership in peacebuilding processes, whereby the responsibility for building and sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, the consultations focused on peacebuilding in UN transition contexts, women's role in peacebuilding, and the importance of institution building, UN system-wide engagement, financing, and partnerships for peacebuilding, taking also into consideration the fast-evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for peacebuilding. In view of the COVID-19 outbreak, the majority of the consultations were conducted virtually.²

Effective support in UN transition contexts

Areas of progress

Since 2016, the UN has increased support for planning, leadership, and the resourcing of transition processes, through *i*) recent UN reforms, which have helped the organization to respond in more tailored and coherent ways to transition priorities and challenges; *ii*) the joint project on transitions of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Development Programme and the Development Coordination Office, which has improved cross-pillar collaboration in transition contexts;

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and *iii*) the Secretary-General's Planning Directive issued in 2019 for the development of consistent and coherent system-wide UN transition processes. The UN has also developed new

¹ https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/suggested_tors_for_the_2020_review_-_final1.pdf

² <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/psc-meetings-2020-review-0>.

approaches to supporting peacebuilding priorities in transition contexts, including through peacebuilding activities supported by peacekeeping operations, when mandated, in partnership with UN country teams and other actors, and the opening of a new Peacebuilding Fund window for transitions.³ In Darfur, for example, in cooperation with the UN country team and international and national actors, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) supports State Liaison Functions, in the areas of rule of law, human rights, livelihoods for displaced populations, and immediate service delivery for internally displaced persons.

The Security Council has requested that transition processes be guided by nationally-owned exit strategies as well as broad peacebuilding plans, as was recently the case with the UNAMID and UNIOGBIS transitions. The PBC provided advice to the Security Council and helped mobilize international support and resources around national peacebuilding priorities before, during and after transitions, as recently demonstrated in its support to the transitions of Liberia and Sierra Leone. For example, the PBC provided a platform to discuss UN country team capacities to support peacebuilding priorities in Liberia after the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) drawdown, contributing to the creation of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help support the transition. It has also supported more actively the engagement of women and youth in national efforts to build and sustain peace and has advocated for women and youth to meaningfully participate in peacebuilding efforts during transitions.

Outstanding challenges

In the absence of adequate and predictable funding, countries still face the risk of going over a “financing cliff” as funding for peacebuilding drops precisely at a moment when national authorities and communities assume increased responsibilities for security and peacebuilding. This could be further complicated if the peacebuilding related activities of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, where mandated, are not adequately resourced. In many cases, improved coordination among all parts of the international community is still needed when supporting countries in transition. Often, macroeconomic risks, financial stability, and development priorities are not properly considered when making security risk assessments.

Partnerships between national actors and international, regional and sub-regional organizations, bilateral donors, and International Financial Institutions are not always strong enough to sustain political and financial support to national peacebuilding efforts. National and local actors, particularly women and youth, are not always engaged in a meaningful way in the development and advancement of national peacebuilding priorities. The readiness of national security institutions to take over the mission security responsibilities is not always properly taken into account. The drawdown of large peacekeeping missions often means the closure of field offices in vulnerable communities on the periphery, with most United Nations Country Team activities

³ In 2019, 30 percent of PBF investments were in transition settings, including in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia and Sudan, contributing to continuity in addressing peacebuilding and development challenges.

headquartered in capitals or large regional population centers. In times of transition, there is a risk that protection gaps and challenges faced by civilians can be further exacerbated.

Recommendations

National ownership and leadership, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, should continue to be at the heart of all efforts that aim to support UN transitions. The international community should continue to focus on partnering with national and regional actors to strengthen national capacities and institutions. Joint analysis and planning and coherent implementation, with peacebuilding integrated in all stages of UN engagement in a country, is essential. Those efforts should be underpinned by a multi-stakeholder accountability framework that measures success in terms of impact rather than outputs. Partnerships with civil society, including women and youth led organizations, could assist to adequately measure impact on the ground. Strengthening engagement with national authorities and local communities, as appropriate, particularly in border regions, can also help ensure that protection efforts are upheld during transition.

The PBC, in accordance with its mandate, could help improve transitions, including by encouraging the generation of early, inclusive, and comprehensive preparations for transition processes, to set in place realistic conditions for durable peace and mitigate the risk of relapse. The Commission can provide space to harness the views of national and local authorities, countries involved in the provision of technical cooperation, civil society organizations, relevant parts of the UN system, including Agencies, Funds and Programmes, regional organizations, International Financial Institutions and, where relevant, the private sector, and to reflect their analysis of priorities, challenges, and risks in its advice to the Security Council, as appropriate. This is particularly relevant when the Council is in the early stages of formulating a Mission's mandate. In pursuing this objective, the Commission will further explore good practices and guidance provided by countries and the UN system in relevant peacebuilding mandate areas. It will also promote meaningful participation of women and youth in the context of transitions processes. The Commission also stands ready to support the Security Council in considering the elements identified in PRST/2017/27 and S/PRST/2018/20 related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as the transition needs identified in Security Council thematic resolutions concerning a number of peacebuilding related areas, such as rule of law and security sector reform, when reviewing the mandates and configuration of peacekeeping missions and special political missions. In that regard, we welcome the intention of the Council to seek the advice of the Commission during the formation, review, and drawdown of mandates.

Women's participation in peacebuilding

Areas of progress

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the United Nations and Member States have adopted and strengthened policies and tools to ensure that women are included in all peace processes and reiterated commitments through numerous statements and resolutions. Relevant UN entities operating in the field have committed to consult with women's civil society organizations, as appropriate, to inform their analysis, planning, programming and implementation and reporting. The PBF has also played an important role: in 2019, 40 per cent of all Fund investments supported gender aspects of peacebuilding, a first for any United Nations fund. In countries where the PBC has engaged, women-led organizations have been playing an increasingly important role in designing and implementing peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives. In Burundi, for example, a women's mediation network was created in 2015 with support from PBF to help address tensions at the community level. In Guinea-Bissau, the Women's Council, also supported by the PBF, held two National Forums for Women and Girls for Peace, where women discussed pressing issues affecting peace consolidation in Guinea-Bissau and demonstrated the capacity of local women to mobilize around and advocate for common peacebuilding goals.

The PBC has committed to advancing the full, effective, and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, including by supporting women's leadership role in peacebuilding, by engaging with women's peacebuilding organizations, by holding dedicated meetings, and by working closely with regional and sub-regional organizations. The Commission's adoption of its gender strategy in 2016 represented a step forward in fostering greater attention to the gender dimension of peacebuilding, in guiding the PBC to a more regular engagement with women peacebuilders, particularly from civil society organizations, and in strengthening the gender components of the PBC's advice to the Security Council.

Outstanding challenges

Women in certain country-specific contexts continue to face gender-based discrimination and structural barriers to equal opportunities for participation in decision making and peacebuilding processes, including in conferences, and meetings organized by the UN, and a substantial lack of funding for women's organizations. Furthermore, the gender dimensions are often considered as an afterthought when they should be an integral part of conflict analysis and planning that feeds into peacebuilding strategies. Threats and violence targeting women impede women peacebuilders' ability to carry out their work. It is important to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not reverse progress in gender equality, women's empowerment, and the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

Recommendations

Structural change requires harnessing experiences of women and girls from all strata of society, including the most marginalized, to break cycles of deeply entrenched gender stereotypes across societies and cultures and a shift from siloed implementation of policies related to women, peace and security and the participation of youth in peacebuilding. Women should be an integral part of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts at all levels of society, and initiatives that aim to enhance women's role in political and socio-economic processes and peacebuilding initiatives should be encouraged and supported. The crucial work of women peacebuilders at national and local levels needs to be better supported through strategic partnerships and greater collaboration between the UN and civil society actors, as appropriate, and steps should be taken to facilitate safe and enabling environment for the work of women peacebuilders. UN entities operating at country level must deliver on their commitment to consult with women's civil society organizations to inform their analysis, planning, programming and implementation. There should also be more systematic monitoring from Member States of the implementation of their own National Action Plans (NAPs) on women, peace and security. Adequate funding for women-led peacebuilding organizations and networks is important. The PBF Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) should continue to advance the WPS agenda through targeted support to women peacebuilders, and other stakeholders should follow through with their own commitments. Efforts to address negative impacts of COVID-19 in peacebuilding should give due consideration to the protection of women's rights and to women's empowerment.

The Commission commits to enhancing implementation of its gender strategy, by more systematically including women and representatives of women's groups in its meetings, streamlining gender dimensions of peacebuilding in its country-specific and regional activities, and its analysis and advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular during the review of mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions, as appropriate. In implementation of its gender strategy, the Commission will also support the creation, adoption and enforcement of legal frameworks that outlaw domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence at large, end impunity regarding such violence. The Commission is currently exploring ways to foster a greater accountability for implementation of its gender strategy, including the use of gender disaggregated data to track progress in its different peacebuilding areas. The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), together with UN Country Teams, should continue to explore ways to improve stocktaking of women peacebuilders' messages from the field, including by compiling and sharing good practices with PBC Member States on a regular basis.

Institution building

Areas of progress

Institution building covers a wide range of institutions, including security and judicial systems as well as economic and social systems that enable the delivery of services at both national and local levels. Successful institution building at national and local levels, within the framework of the rule of law, and strong institutions help to reduce vulnerability, protect and empower people, and build trust. With PBF support, and based on national ownership, national and local

stakeholders have contributed to strengthening national and local institutions, including UN support to national efforts to build effective and accountable security institutions in The Gambia and Burkina Faso. Such efforts played an important role in addressing conflicts, supporting political transition and promoting stability.

For its part, the Peacebuilding Commission has been strengthening its advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally-owned and led institution building efforts in the countries under its consideration. The Commission has placed emphasis on capacity building and exchange of good practices with concerned governments and national authorities.

Outstanding challenges

Persisting challenges for building resilient, inclusive and responsive institutions are being complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which poses considerable risks to hard-won peacebuilding gains around the world. The pandemic may undermine social cohesion, strain the capacity of governance institutions, increase risks of instability, and exacerbate underlying tensions. The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted the importance of long-term funding and technical support to strengthen public institutions. Support for institution-building must contribute to the implementation of the commitments of Agenda 2030 in an integrated, indivisible and balanced manner. It is worth noting, for example, that only 18 per cent of all conflict-affected countries are on track to meet the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals related to unmet basic needs.

Lack of coordination between different international partners in the field who work on capacity development for national and local institutions continues to be a problem. Within the UN, gaps remain between identifying political and programmatic objectives and the actual design, resourcing and implementation of context-specific programmes that could effectively respond to nationally identified priorities and goals and the outcomes of conflict analyses and needs assessments. This is further complicated by the fact that sustainable financing for peacebuilding remains a challenge over the long term, including in the area of institution building.

Recommendations

The multilateral system needs to come together to provide technical support to build stronger, resilient, inclusive and responsive institutions. This need has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires effective global response to build back better. This is particularly important in conflict-affected contexts where state capacities are weak and often socio-economic investments have not been prioritized. Where so mandated, peacekeeping and special political missions should be given the means to implement peacebuilding related activities aimed at supporting building national and local institutions and capacities. Building national and local institutions for basic service delivery such as healthcare, education, water and sanitation; security, law enforcement and justice systems; effective and accountable rule of law and security institutions; and tax collection; are among the priorities for strengthening trust between the people and the state. The PBC has a vital role to play in promoting a balance between responding

to immediate challenges and ensuring that technical and financial support is available over the longer term.

Nationally-owned efforts for institution building, when requested, require technical support from a diverse range of UN entities and other multilateral and bilateral partners with expertise and experience in respective areas of institutions. Such external support needs to be coordinated and coherent to bring maximum results. It is important to continue investments in cross-border and regional programming, as well as programmes aimed at building and strengthening national and local institutions and human capacity development. The UN must continue to work to bridge the gap between policy objectives and programme design, which hinders coherent, impact-driven and sustained system-wide engagement in support of building national institutions. Through its advisory and bridging role, and by leveraging its convening power to bring relevant actors on board, the PBC can foster a more balanced UN approach to supporting nationally-owned institution-building efforts over the short, medium and long-term, considering good practices and UN norms and policies of different peacebuilding areas. In the wake of related UN reform processes, more should be done to ensure that UN field presences are fully equipped with necessary expertise to help build stronger institutions in a coherent manner. The PBC could more systematically share best practices in institution building.

System-wide support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Areas of progress

Progress has been made by UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in aligning their country strategies with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, national priorities and the SDGs. In addition, the PBF has fostered greater coherence and collaboration within the UN system, particularly in cross-border situations. There have also been efforts by UN entities to examine their contributions to peacebuilding and sustaining peace within their mandates, notably the Food and Agriculture Organization's elaboration of a new corporate framework to support sustainable peace in the context of Agenda 2030. Steps have also been taken by all concerned UN entities to strengthen field-driven joint and integrated peacebuilding analysis, including through an expanded cadre of Peace and Development Advisers and regional specialists, which constitutes an important tool to institutionalize cross-cutting and joint peacebuilding approaches and strategies.

Outstanding challenges

It is too early to discern impact of these UN reforms in performance of UN Country Teams, and overall impact on efforts to build and sustain peace on the ground. Moreover, there do not seem to be metrics in place to track performance and impact at country level, or the extent to which the new Common Country Assessments and Cooperation Frameworks are leveraging peacebuilding approaches.

Lack of predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding activities remains a challenge for more joined-up UN approaches in the field. While PBF-supported projects now involve a broad range of UN entities in the field working jointly to address conflict risks, peacebuilding activities remain under-funded. More needs to be done to shift peacebuilding into the bloodstream of UN activities in the field.

Recommendations

Recognizing that an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, security and development actors, within and outside of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, and the Charter, is critical to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and essential for improving respect for human rights, gender equality, empowering women and youth, strengthening the rule of law, eradicating poverty, building institutions, and advancing economic development in conflict-affected countries, it is important to continue cross-pillar support to UN peacebuilding activities in the field, while acknowledging that each pillar has its intrinsic value and specific mandate. In this connection, PBSO has an important role to play in supporting effective interface among relevant UN entities. The role of UN Resident Coordinators as well as clear definition of responsibilities and coordination modalities between different UN field entities that are present in the same region are indispensable. The forthcoming Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) that will guide United Nations operational activities for development into the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs offers another opportunity to continue strengthening UN cooperation and coordination, with due respect to mandates. The peacebuilding architecture could play a larger role in offering valuable insight into causes of conflict and possible ways to address them, including threats posed by hate speech and xenophobia.

At the country level, more work is needed to join up UN efforts on the ground. The CCA process needs to be driven by shared strategic goals, rather than simply bringing disparate activities into a joint matrix. Going forward, it will be important to follow up on whether and how improved analysis and planning efforts have enhanced the system's ability to deliver on the ground. The PBC could serve as a convener and platform for such discussions. The Commission's strengthened bridging role with General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC, including through the designation of informal PBC Coordinators for each of these bodies, similar to the informal coordinator between Security Council and PBC, could help support these efforts.

Financing

Areas of progress

Various actors take part in the operational activities related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, drawing on diverse sources of funding including bilateral donors, UN trust funds, international financial institutions, private sectors, donations, etc. The objective should be to maximize the aggregate amount and efficiency in spending financial resources. The PBF has proven to be an indispensable tool in support of enhanced UN efforts in peacebuilding and

sustaining peace. With timely and risk-tolerant support for nationally-led efforts to build and sustain peace, the PBF has consistently encouraged conflict responsive, coherent, and integrated UN assistance in the field. More recently, it made timely adjustments while integrating the new risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic into its programming. PBF has also piloted new approaches to explore innovative sources of funding. For example, a PBF project in Colombia is supporting seven private-sector investments in conflict-affected areas through blended finance mechanisms, including credits and guarantees. The PBF continues to explore non-conventional funding sources as a way to diversify funding sources and broaden partnerships.

The Peacebuilding Commission has continued to help mobilize resources for peacebuilding priorities in different contexts around the world. For example, following a meeting on Burkina Faso in March 2020, the PBC actively tracked bilateral and multilateral commitments in support of the government's priority action plan (*matrice d'actions prioritaires*, with a cost estimate of US\$ 202,783,684). More recently, the Commission adjusted its work plan to systematically examine the consequences of COVID-19 on peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries and how the multilateral system can help ensure conflict-sensitive responses to COVID-19.

Outstanding challenges

Peacebuilding is currently underfunded, financing of peacebuilding is unpredictable and lacks a sustained approach and increased coordination is needed. Financing for peacebuilding activities remains insufficient and heavily dependent on a small group of traditional donors to provide voluntary and extra-budgetary funding. Broadening and diversifying the donor base is of utmost importance. Despite important contributions from several Member States, including some new partners and a growth in multi-year contributions, funding for peacebuilding activities remains limited, including contributions to the PBF, which does not yet meet current demand and is far from reaching the Secretary-General's goal of \$500M per year. There are concerns that a global economic contraction due to COVID-19 will further undermine efforts to mobilize funding for the PBF, even as demand for its support has outpaced supply. Member States could further collectively consider the Secretary-General's proposals for ensuring predictable and sustained financing of UN peacebuilding activities, including further exploration of innovative financing. Lack of financing for peacebuilding could hamper efforts by conflict-affected countries to attain the SDGs.

Funding for women-led and youth-led peacebuilding organizations, particularly at the local and grassroots level is important, as the PBC also flagged in its advice to the Security Council on women, peace and security in 2019 and on youth, peace and security in 2020.

Recommendations

Member States should remain committed to ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing of peacebuilding efforts and the donor base for peacebuilding should be broadened and diversified. It is also important to provide the necessary means to peacekeeping and special political missions for the critical peacebuilding related activities that they conduct, where

mandated. Assistance from international partners, as well as the private sector, where relevant, should be further encouraged. Increasing contributions for the PBF remains a critical objective, while continuing to strengthen accountability and transparency, and Member States that have not contributed to the PBF could consider doing so. Member States need to further discuss the options formulated by the Secretary-General for ensuring predictable and sustained financing of UN peacebuilding activities. Innovative financing for the PBF, which could preserve its flexibility and nimbleness, should be further explored, including options for blended financing as a vehicle for mobilizing private capital. The UN is encouraged to further strengthen its efforts to communicate impact, benefits and leveraging effects of financing for peacebuilding.

In pursuing adequate, predictable and sustained financing of peacebuilding efforts, Member States could examine additional options aimed at reducing fragmentation of the various funds to increase efficiency in the use of peacebuilding funds in the broader context, in cooperation with host government and International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank. Funding streams should be brought together in the spirit of “good peacebuilding donorship” in order to enhance coherence and coordination, and funding for peacebuilding activities could be more regularly tracked. Possibilities for coordination among UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as various funds related to peacebuilding should be further explored. Diversified international assistance can help mitigate the risk for otherwise reluctant commercial investors in conflict-affected contexts to mobilize new financing sources.

Funding to support the meaningful participation of civil society, particularly women-led and youth-led peacebuilding organizations, as appropriate, remains important, in accordance with national peacebuilding priorities.

Partnerships

Areas of progress

The pursuit of partnerships between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs, civil society and the private sector has intensified in the last years. Building on the Joint Statement of the PBC and the World Bank in 2017, the UN and the World Bank have focused more strategically on support for field partnerships in conflict-affected countries, notably in Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic. A joint United Nations-World Bank Group study ‘Pathways for Peace’ was published in 2018 and in 2019 the World Bank took steps to institutionalise its peacebuilding engagement through its new ‘Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) strategy.’ The PBF has also helped to strengthen partnerships on the ground on the basis of shared data, analysis and field collaboration. In response to the possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding, the PBF created a fast-track mechanism to support timely joint UN/WB risk analysis. Common effort is especially important in this regard.

The revitalization of the Africa Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRDR) Policy is an important step towards effective continental ownership of peacebuilding and

sustaining peace, while the joint UN–AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the UN-AU MoU on peacebuilding support remain important tools for coordination and coherent UN support to the AU. The fact that one of the key objectives of the new PBF Strategy for 2020-2024 is strengthening the UN’s strategic cooperation with regional organizations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as appropriate, is a helpful development. In addition, trilateral cooperation between the United Nations, regional/sub-regional organizations and IFIs has proved to be particularly helpful, including in support of Burkina Faso, where, at the request of the government, an effective UN-African Development Bank (AfDB)-EU partnership has been supporting nationally owned priorities in the regions most affected by insecurity. In The Gambia, an international advisory group was established with support of PBF by the United Nations, EU, AU, ECOWAS to coordinate assistance to security sector reform. The Peacebuilding Commission has also supported strategic partnerships for peacebuilding, including through strengthened engagement with the World Bank and recent engagements with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), G5 Sahel, the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in addition to strengthening its existing engagement with the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the European Union.

With regard to partnerships with civil society, the development by the UN of system-wide community engagement guidelines is a positive step that will help the organization to engage in a more systematic manner with local peacebuilding organizations, in coordination with national authorities, which are essential actors for successful peacebuilding processes.

Outstanding challenges

There is room to further strengthen strategic and operational partnerships between the UN and national authorities with a view to increase support to national peacebuilding efforts, including at the local level. While there is broad recognition that the most effective partnerships are those established locally with national peacebuilders, there is a gap between rhetoric and practice. It is important for the UN system and its partners to prioritize national ownership and development of national and local capacity in conflict-affected countries.

While the UN and the World Bank continue to operationalize their 2017 partnership, joint programming and peacebuilding assessments should adhere to nationally-defined peacebuilding and development priorities, as well as to commitments and terminology agreed upon by Member States at multilateral discussions.

Recommendations

Partnerships between national stakeholders, the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, IFIs, bilateral donors, civil society and the private sector, where relevant, should be further strengthened to advance complementarity and coherence among various international, regional, national, and local actors in support of nationally identified peacebuilding priorities. It is

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important to identify practical ways to advance synergies and complementarities between different financial mechanisms of the UN and the AU, and to translate the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhancing Partnership on Peace and Security into joint, coordinated and coherent actions. In this regard, it is important to enhance coordination between the UN entities and the AUC-PCRD, which is recognized by the AU policy organs as a primary instrument in support of national ownership of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts on the continent. There is also need to strengthen collaboration between UN and the African Development Bank (AfDB), with a view to fast-track Africa's development and peacebuilding priorities. The PBC will help to pursue these objectives by leveraging its bridging and convening roles.

There is a need to look into ways of meaningfully integrating recommendations and action-points contained in existing regional and sub-regional frameworks and initiatives in matters pertaining to peacebuilding in order to avoid duplicity of work and reinforce national ownership, and coherence of action, bearing in mind each country-specific context. Incorporating regional perspectives as appropriate, reflecting regional diversity and ensuring regional balance in the work of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture is critically important. There is room to continue explore South-South and Triangular cooperation in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The involvement of private sector and development institutions, where relevant, as partners in building and sustaining peace is also important. Beyond considering the private sector as a source of funding for peacebuilding, the private sector could be seen as a partner in conflict-affected countries, one that can support entrepreneurial action in communities and lead to a common vision of society.

There is room to further strengthen strategic and operational partnerships between the UN, regional and national stakeholders with a view to increase support to peacebuilding efforts at the national and local level, including meaningful participation of women and youth led organizations. The PBF could prioritize innovative and targeted projects to encourage community resilience and social cohesion, including against domestic violence, gender-based violence, hate speech, and xenophobia.

Excellencies, I kindly ask you to circulate this letter to the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council and to issue it as an official document.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Marc-André Blanchard
Chair
Peacebuilding Commission