

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

REMARKS TO THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

AMBASSADORIAL-

New York, 7 September 2018

In Colombia, the Peacebuilding Fund became the first contributor to the United Nations Post-Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund, helping mobilize more than \$90 million from bilateral donors for implementation of the peace agreement.

In the Central African Republic, Peacebuilding Fund support helped strengthen a UN system-wide approach to responding to peacebuilding priorities.

Beyond financing, senior United Nations leaders in the field must receive dedicated and sufficient assistance from Headquarters, including surge capacities, guidance and training.

They must have delegated authority to take calculated risks in support of national priorities – and benefit from adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

In return, senior leaders across the UN system must be held accountable for bringing the UN system and its partners together around a common strategy for sustaining peace.

We have progress to build upon.

In Sierra Leone, my Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, together with the Resident Coordinator's office, worked closely with national and regional partners to defuse tensions and encourage political dialogue during and after the presidential elections in March 2018.

In Liberia, former President Obasanjo of Nigeria was deployed as member of my High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation, complementing the sustained efforts of my Special Representatives to diffuse tensions surrounding the second round of the presidential elections in November 2017.

In these and other cases, effective leaders tapped into available capacities, such as regional political offices, Peace and Development Advisers, Human Rights Advisers, electoral experts and others. The Peacebuilding Fund has also provided valuable support.

Of course, good leadership relies on solid strategic vision.

With its bridging and convening role, the Peacebuilding Commission can support the development of such vision in national and regional contexts and marshal resources for peacebuilding priorities.

Such was the case with the development of a peacebuilding plan in Liberia, and enhancing the strategic coherence of international efforts in the Sahel.

We must do more to ensure effective transitions from one form of UN engagement to another.

Recent experiences in Côte d'Ivoire, ensuring the continuity of senior leadership across phases of UN engagement, coupled with strengthened capacity of the respective UN Country Teams.

The PBC has an important role to play. During the transition of UNMIL, for instance, a mapping of capacity of the Country Team against peacebuilding priorities was discussed with Member States through the Commission.

Allow me to also highly recommend the PBC for promoting the original (80)3036) T112)32 women in peacebuilding and adopting a gender strategy, the first of its kind .f8871 0 571 0 59

The restructuring of the peace and security pillar will bring greater effectiveness and alignment.

The Peacebuilding Support Office will have the capacity to act as a “hinge”, facilitating greater coherence across the UN.

Of course, success of these efforts will also depend on ensuring that the leadership culture is principled, inclusive, pragmatic, and action-oriented.

As part of this effort, gender parity within the UN system is an absolute priority.

Empowering women and attaining long-overdue gender parity throughout the ranks of the Organization – as we have achieved in my Senior Management Group – is of course the right thing to do.

It will also position the UN system to better support Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable peace.

None of this happens on its own. We need to back our resolve with resources.

I committed to allocate at least 15 per cent of United Nations peacebuilding funds to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

I am proud to report that the Peacebuilding Fund more than doubled this year (2014-15) to 1.4 billion dollars.