

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on The Gambia

27 October 2021

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1. On 27 October 2021, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on The Gambia. The meeting was held on a virtual platform and chaired by H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek, Chair of the PBC. The objective of the meeting was to Update the PBC on the transitional justice process, including the work of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) and other interrelated reform processes, as well as preparations for the presidential election. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek commended the Government of The Gambia for progress in the areas of reconciliation and rule of law as well as efforts towards economic development. He thanked PBC members for their attention to his appeal in May 2021 to help meet the funding needs for The Gambia's 2021-2023 Electoral Process. He underscored the importance of sustaining coherent international support to the country's national reconciliation and transitional justice efforts and noted Egypt's bilateral support for sustainable development and peacebuilding in The Gambia, including through technical assistance and the work of the Cairo Centre.
2. H.E. Mr. Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Gambia, reiterated the Government and the people's appreciation of PBC support since 2017. He provided an update on work underway related to the electoral process, including in preparation of the presidential election scheduled for 4 December 2021, to be followed by the legislative and local elections on 22 April 2022 and 13 May 2023, respectively. He noted that preparations for the presidential election were on target, including in terms of voter registration which was completed with no appeal or objections received on the voters' list. He emphasized that this would be the first major election since the democratic transition and thanked the country's partners, including the UK Government, for supporting a series of dialogues aimed at promoting peaceful

for Victims of Human Rights Violations were setting up a victims-led taskforce for the drafting of legislation to create a Victims Compensation Fund to succeed the TRRC Reparations Committee. The Government had already committed resources in the draft 2022 Budget Estimates, to be utilized as part of the reparations fund. Minister Jallow updated on other interrelated reforms and legislative processes, highlighting the “Access to Information Bill”, the “Persons with Disabilities Bill”, and the “Anti-corruption Bill”. He informed that his Ministry had reviewed and advised on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, to be tabled before the National Assembly by an elected representative. He explained that, if passed, The Gambia’s National Assembly would see a significant increase in the number of women representatives as well as representatives of persons with disabilities. On the Security Sector Reform, the Minister noted that while the objectives set out in the SSR agenda at the dawn of the transition had not been fully met, considerable milestones had been achieved, including the development of the National Security Policy, the SSR Strategy, and the National Security Strategy. He further indicated that the National Vetting and National Counter-Terrorism Strategy Implementation Plans had been launched in December 2020. Minister Jallow concluded by

4. Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, noted that since the last presidential election in

attention in support of her country's efforts to improve social justice and equality, promote social cohesion and healing, and build sustainable peace. She warned against the risks of structural inequalities, deep mistrust, and political divisions along ethnic and religious lines, which she characterized as the legacy of the former regime. She stressed the importance of ensuring timely follow-up to the TRRC recommendations and suggested to consider mechanisms such as an infrastructure for peace

