

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Transitional Reform processes in The Gambia

23 November 2020

1. On 23 November, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held a virtual Ambassadorial-level meeting on the ‘Transitional Reform processes in The Gambia’. The meeting was convened by the Chair of the PBC, H.E. Mr. Bob Rae. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the progress in the constitutional review, transitional justice, security sector reform, and other processes affecting good governance, and to identify how best the PBC can continue to support The Gambia’s peacebuilding priorities. In his opening remarks, the Chair noted that, since the last PBC meeting on The Gambia in June, there had been significant developments, including challenges in adopting a new constitution, the resumption of the public hearings of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC), progress towards the adoption of the Security Sector Reform Strategy and early preparations for the next electoral cycle.
2. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara, expressed the government’s commitment to creating an enabling environment which encourages constructive feedback by all constituents and permits vigorous engagement of the country’s active civil society. The Minister underscored the importance of regional strategies to address organized crime, trafficking, terrorism and violent extremism. He recognized the crucial role of the PBF, particularly the Fund’s support to initiatives that aim to empower young women and men to play leading roles in democratic processes. He also welcomed PBF support for the prevention of violence and hate speech, which is in alignment with The Gambia’s priority areas of democracy, transparency, rule of law, and economic growth for sustainable peace and development.
3. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Mr. Dawda peace

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review and transitional justice processes. She echoed concerns of the civil society over the rejection of the

(TANGO) and encouraged further international support to help empower young women and men who are in the frontlines of peacebuilding work on the ground, and who have so far played a critical role in the transitional reforms. They also emphasized that support for their work has become all the more important in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.