

1. On 17 December 2019 the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Chair HE Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, convened a meeting of the PBC with the following agenda: 1) the informal adoption of the PBC annual report; 2) briefing on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund; and 3) quarterly briefings by the Chairs of the PBC country configurations.

2. The Chair presented the PBC report on its thirteenth session for informal adoption by the Commission. He thanked all Member States for their constructive engagement during the negotiation of the report and noted that it represented a good reflection of the PBC's work during the year. He informed that the report would be submitted for translation and presented for formal adoption at the meeting of the PBC scheduled for 29 January 2020.

The report was informally adopted.

3. Ms. Barrie Freeman, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), recalled the achievements of the Commission under the chairmanship of Colombia in 2019, including the launch of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, the engagement with ten countries as well as strengthened regional approaches, the collaboration with regional organizations and international financial institutions, thematic discussions on south-south cooperation, women, youth, and transhumance, the implementation of the Commission's gender strategy, and the deepened advisory role of the Commission to the Security Council. She noted the good progress toward strengthening synergies between the PBC and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), including by facilitating a briefing by the Chair and Vice Chairs to the PBF Advisory Group. The PBF had benefited from suggestions and ideas from Member States, such as in the case of PBF projects in the Central African Republic, Burundi, The Gambia, and Burkina Faso. She emphasized that more can be done to reinforce linkages between the PBF and the PBC, such as dedicating an annual PBC meeting to discussions on the PBF, facilitating country-specific discussions when PBF eligibility is under consideration, and organizing joint PBC-PBF visits to relevant countries.

4. Mr. Mac Arde Fiarache, Chief of PBSO's Financing for Peacebuilding branch, thanked partners and undertlined how their investments helped "developmentalize" security issues by working closely with governments and development partners to invest in peacebuilding. He noted that 2019 is a record year with the highest amount of contributions that the PBF received since its inception. The fund had approved USD 190 million for projects in 2019 with 164 projects in 41 countries, among which there is a new Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative including support to 16 Civil Society Organizations in 20 countries. While noting that it was a record year for contributions to the PBF, the demand for PBF

support has outpaced the amount of funding received. Because of this, the Fund had to deny or delay

7 The Chair of the Sierra Leone Configuration (Canada) informed the Commission about the decision of the Sierra Leone Government to exit from the Commission's formal agenda, which was clearly