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Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-Level Meeting
Contributions of disarmament demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector
reform (SSR) to peacebuilding and sustaining peace

7 December 2021
Chair’s Summary

1. On 7 December, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an ambassadorial-level meeting
on DDR and SSR chaired by H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek, Chair of the PBC. The purpose of
the meeting was to discuss the contributions of DDR and SSR to peacebuilding and sustaining
peace with inputs from representatives of Côte d’Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the
Congo (DRC), drawing on the separate and unique experiences in the two countries.

2. In his opening remarks, the Chair underlined the political nature of DDR and SSR and, by
extension, the importance of embedding DDR and SSR in a wider political strategy. National
ownership, he said, should be an overarching guiding principle of SSR and DDR. Indeed,
international support to DDR and SSR processes should be coherent and aligned with the actual
needs and priorities of the country concerned, context-specific and adjusted to local needs and
realities, he added. He stressed the importance of sustained resources for DDR and SSR which,
he said, are critical to their success.

3. Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions
indicated that UN assistance to DDR and SSR was being deployed in increasingly complex
and regionalized conflict environments. This meant, he said, that DDR and SSR required
greater political engagement, better coordination and integration, effective strategic
partnerships as well as adequate, predictable and sustained financing. He further noted that
DDR was no longer synonymous with linear, post conflict, nned fin@伀M����M tက̀Der pregrnrks,㈃စကp䝥怅瀀
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strategy; the organization of provincial meetings on peace and security; and the preparation of a
roadmap for peace.
6. Ms. Jennifer Oreta, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Ateneo de Manila
University noted that there was no “one size fits all” DDR program. Different contexts necessitated
different approaches, she said. While peace processes and peace agreements settle conflicts between
state and non-state armed groups, they do not automatically settle conflicts between and among
groups in society. She stressed that DDR processes should: 1) be context specific and gender
sensitive; 2) people centered; 3) promote human rights and humanitarian law; 4) promote
accountability and transparency; 4) be holistic and sustainable; 5) participatory and inclusive; and
6) respect the rule of law. Drawing on her experience in taking stock of good practices in promoting
gender-responsive DDR processes, she added that DDR needs to be gender-responsive to make a
positive contribution to peace and stability in conflict-affected communities. She stressed the
importance of taking into account the different gendered roles of men, women, boys and girls and
the urgent need to enable the contributions of women ex-combatants and women peacebuilders and
to strengthen women’s roles as community leaders and peacebuilders.
7. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:  The Commission indicated that DDR and SSR must be anchored in national ownership and
be locally designed and led. Such processes should be implemented and planned in line
with national priorities, bearing in mind each country’s unique context and historical
experience. In this respect, while recognizing the need for well-coordinated DDR and SSR,
the Commission acknowledged that this does not mean there should automatically be a
continuum between the two processes5㈃စ nB�ՠsemmDDnftnis anvn tmm怶eԀissigs̀ऀ�m,
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responsive DDR processes and related research and policy guidance; and encouraged the
UN to continue facilitating the exchange of experiences, including between national
authorities and women formerly associated with armed groups.
 PBC members stressed that SSR should not be confined to building State institutions but
should also be accountable to the people and protect the people. This, in turn, would
engender legitimacy by creating trust between the people and the newly established or
strengthened democratic institutions, thereby contributing to the conditions necessary for