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findings and consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts.

7. The Commission discussed the findings and recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts at a number of informal meetings. On 29 September, the Government of Sweden, the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation convened a ministerial-level panel discussion entitled "Champions for a new approach to peacebuilding", highlighting "sustaining peace" as the core activity of the United Nations. On 30 and 31 October, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Peacebuilding Support Office co-organized an informal retreat at the ambassadorial level with the participation of the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials. The retreat, whose theme was entitled "Realizing the potential of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture: the 2015 review and beyond", offered an opportunity for members of the Commission to discuss the 2015 review, including key issues such as the centrality of sustaining peace, the role of the Commission in bringing intergovernmental and operational coherence to the United Nations, and the need for increased and more predictable financing for peacebuilding, including for the Peacebuilding Fund. In addition, the recommendations contained in the report influenced the work of the Commission during its ninth session. The Chair actively worked to implement the recommendations pertaining to partnership with regional actors and the adoption of more flexible modes of operation in the Organizational Committee.

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8. Building on the first-ever annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (held in 2014) on "Sustainable support for peacebuilding: the domestic and international aspects", the second annual session of the Commission was organized, on 23 June 2015, to discuss "Predictable financing for peacebuilding: breaking the silos". The discussion was time a S o 2 nd d Foicloselyon

Resolution in Africa, on the theme "Preventive diplomacy in Africa: the role of the African Union and its cooperation with the United Nations", at which the Chair spoke on behalf of the Commission.

16. With regard to country-specific activities, the Commission played an active and important role in fostering the provision of coherent regional support to the authorities of Guinea-Bissau for addressing the most pressing national priorities. The Government of Guinea-Bissau demonstrated ownership in setting the agenda for development with a long-term vision by developing Terra Ranka, a 10-year national development strategy focused on improving governance and access to basic services, eradicating poverty and promoting economic prospects. This was launched at the international partners' conference on Guinea-Bissau, organized in Brussels in March, reinforcing a positive outlook in respect of the country's comprehensive peacebuilding priorities. Along with the support of the Commission, \$10 million in catalytic financing was allocated by the Secretary-General at the event from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Government's leadership generated trust among the members of the international community, including neighbouring countries, which translated at the Brussels conference into an unprecedented mobilization of 1.2 billion euros.

17. The commitment and determination of international partners in respect of supporting the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau in a coordinated manner was tested during the three-month impasse following the President's dismissal of the Government of the Prime Minister, Domingos Simões Pereira, in August. In this connection, the Peacebuilding Commission fully supported the mediation roles of ECOWAS and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) in aligning the region behind a settlement in favour of

had fruitful discussions with the Minister of Defence of Uganda, Crispus Kiyonga, who was charged by the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, to lead the EAC mediation process. In Dar es Salaam, the Chair exchanged views with the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania on the situation in Burundi. As a follow-up to his regional visit, the Chair held consultations with the World Bank and IMF in Washington, D.C.

21. In the Central African Republic, following the Bangui forum, several recommendations were adopted, identifying the short- and medium-term priorities of the transitional authorities. The Commission's Central African Republic configuration continued to encourage useful discussions among all key stakeholders with the intention of framing political consensus within the context of those priorities. In this vein, the Commission has promoted coherent efforts to strengthen national ownership and regional alignment with respect to medium- to long-term peacebuilding objectives. At the high-level meeting on the Central African Republic, convened by the Secretary-General on 1 October 2015, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Salaheddine Mezouar, delivered a speech on behalf of the members of the Central African Republic configuration, in which he highlighted the Commission's engagement in support of the transitional political process in the country. The meeting presented an opportunity for key stakeholders, including from the subregion, to reaffirm their commitment to the Central African Republic and the restoration of long-term peace and stability in the country.

22. Furthermore, both the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and United Nations representative in the International Mediation on the crisis in the Central African Republic, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) were invited by the Commission to brief the Central African Republic configuration on several occasions. They shared with the members their valuable insights on the situation on the ground. The Commission was also active in raising awareness on the lack of funding, particularly for the elections. In this context, Peacebuilding Fund financing was allocated in support of the Bangui forum, building on regional mediation, and funds were also allocated, exceptionally, in support of the elections process at a time when lack of funding was the key obstacle.

23. The Commission consolidated its constructive relationship with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in fulfilling its mandate in Guinea, accompanying both the electoral process and the post-Ebola recovery efforts. The Chair of the Commission travelled to the three countries affected by Ebola in May, and included a trip to Dakar, where the impact of Ebola on the political processes in the region and opportunities to harness the regional approach to post-Ebola recovery efforts were discussed with the Special Representative.

24. Furthermore, the Special Representative of the Secretary- ? mention m, build

statements by the configuration. During her trip to Guinea from the end of May to the beginning of June, the Chair of the Guinea configuration met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. They reinforced each other's messages on the urgency of a consensus on the pending issues which were critical to a peaceful conduct of the presidential elections. The Guinea configuration of the Commission expressed its support for the agreement reached in August and, later, for the holding of the presidential elections in October in a peaceful manner.

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Committee. In this regard, the Commission, upon the Chair's return from his visit to West Africa, convened a special session on 14 April. At this special session, the Uni

platform which brought together government representatives, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat/United Nations Office for West Africa, UNDP and the United Nations country team, including the Resident Coordinator a.i. The discussion facilitated a re-examination of a coherent strategy for the Commission's engagement during Sierra Leone's recovery and progress in the post-United Nations mission drawdown.

31. The Commission continued to explore ways to strengthen the advisory function with regard to and improve interaction with the General Assembly and the Security Council. It pursued three tracks in its relations with the Council, consisting in: (a) the fourth informal interactive dialogue co-organized by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Commission; (b) a periodic stocktaking, at the expert level, coordinated by Malaysia; and (c) formal briefings to the Council on country-specific and thematic issues.

32. The informal interactive dialogue between the members of the Security Council, the Chairs of the Commission and the countries on its agenda was held on 25 June. The meeting, to which the Deputy Secretary-General was also invited as a briefer, offered an opportunity to discuss practical ways of strengthening the future role of the Commission in support of the Council. Particular emphasis was placed on its advisory role once the Council has mandated a peace operation, during the drawdown and transition of a mission and beyond the lifespan of a mission. The meeting highlighted the nature of the Commission's advisory role with respect to the Council, which was centred on enhancing efforts aimed at preventing lapses and relapses into conflict. By providing context-specific and tailored advice, the Commission could ensure that national priorities were factored into the Council's mandate design and implementation. The convening role of the Commission was also underlined, it being noted that, by bringing together the members of the Security Council, the Commission could ensure that national priorities were factored into the Council's mandate design and implementation. The convening role of the Commission was also underlined, it being noted that, by bringing together the members of the Security Council, the Commission could ensure that national priorities were factored into the Council's mandate design and implementation.

49. Addressing the peacebuilding-related implications of the Ebola crisis represented another way in which the Commission can be engaged. The continued interaction among the Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone configurations throughout the Ebola crisis, under the leadership of the Chair of the Commission, had constituted an important platform, from the outset of and during the crisis, for discussing and raising international awareness on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on long-term peacebuilding.

50. The Commission further consolidated existing practices of meetings in different formats according to the content and scope of the issues being discussed. In some configurations, discussions at the technical level were used to prepare for ambassadorial-level meetings. The Commission also used informal settings to iron out issues and mobilize specialized inputs in the preparation of ambassadorial-level policy meetings.

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51. In November, the Commission convened a meeting on young people's role in sustaining peace, which provided an opportunity for Member States to exchange views on recent developments in the field of youth and peacebuilding, stemming from the thematic debate on the role of youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace, organized by Jordan during its presidency of the Security Council in April 2015, and the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, held in Amman in August 2015 and co-organized by the United Nations and partners from civil society organizations. At the meeting, the Commission was briefed by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth on the outcomes of the Global Forum and the importance of recognizing the active role that young women and men play in building sustainable peace in their countries, often with little recognition or support. A young woman from Liberia, representing a youth-led peacebuilding organization, expressed her views on the challenges for young peacebuilders as they strove to secure a place at the peace table and achieve recognition as strategic partners rather than as members of implementing organizations, and on the continued lack of accessible funding for grass-roots youth ? Yo n

of political institutions as being the specific challenges of institution-building, the

immediate health crisis and find a long-term response to the Ebola outbreak. The latter was achieved through the collective and joint efforts of the Chair of the Commission and the configurations of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

57. The next reporting period for the Commission will coincide with the implementation of the comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture led by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Commission will consider the practical ways in which it could implement the recommendations and decisions reflected in any of the resolutions that may be adopted in this regard by the Assembly and the Council. At the same time, and without prejudging the outcome of the review, the Commission will continue to pursue several important work streams which could further strengthen its country-specific and policy-related engagements.

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58. Following the completion of the intergovernmental phase of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Commission, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, will reflect upon how h4eÒ e o of

60. The Commission will continue to place particular emphasis on engaging and collaborating with regional actors in policy-related and country-specific activities.

