of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

2. The report has also been prepared pursuant to identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolutions 70/262 and 75/201 and Security Council resolutions 2282 (2016) and 2558 (2020)), in which the Commission was encouraged to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to continue strengthening its advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts. In that regard, the structure and content of the present report reflect the work carried out by the Commission in implementing relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session.

3. The Commission held a total of 29 meetings (27 country, regional or thematic meetings and 2 procedural ones) during its fifteenth session. The number is consistent with the overall trend of increasing engagements of the Commission since its first meeting in 2006, and in particular since 2016, as shown in figure I. Due to continuing restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the majority of the Commission's engagements in 2021 were held in a virtual format.

Figure III

6. The Commission sought to sustain support for the peacebuilding priorities of Burkina Faso, with a focus on the national reconciliation process, a top priority of the Government following the elections of 2020. The Commission condemned attacks, expressed condolences and called for international solidarity with the people of Burkina Faso, including by issuing a statement following the attack carried out on 5 June in the country's Sahel region that killed over 160 civilians, including children.

7. With regard to Burundi, the Commission's engagement focused on sustained and coherent international support for the country's peacebuilding and development. On 17 March, the Government of Burundi briefed the Commission on the country's domestic and foreign policy progress and its commitment to sustainable development towards a peaceful and prosperous future, including through engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners. The meeting brought together representatives from the United Nations and the World Bank to provide information on their support to Burundi and to discuss linkages between analytical, strategic and planning instruments, with a view to maximizing impact and coherence. On 6 July, the Chair of the Burundi Configuration convened a meeting for the Government of Burundi to brief on the overall scope, guiding principles and objectives of the new national programme for peace capitalization, social stability and the promotion of economic growth, which was aimed at operationalizing the Government's strategic priorities and was aligned with the country's national development plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting also included discussions on how relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were working in support of the national programme and addressing the needs of the country's most economically vulnerable, with particular attention to natural disasters and tetural dis^ isgad n me urc Ό ucally vub avm

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Following the meeting, the Commission issued a press statement, in which the Commission called on United Nations entities to enhance integrated support to Chad in the implementation of the transitional road map. The Commission committed to supporting Chad with a follow-up meeting in 2022 focusing on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as the electoral process.

10. On 15 November, the Commission had a meeting on Colombia to review progress and challenges in the implementation of the country's Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the former Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo. The Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, the president of the Truth Commission, a member of the indigenous Multiactive Cooperative for Peace of Colombia, the chief executive officer of the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia and United Nations representatives in country briefed the Commission. Member States congratulated the Government of Colombia and its people, noting that only half of peace agreements reached their fifth year, and lauded the peacebuilding gains, including in reintegrating ex-combatants, promoting transitional justice, adopting a victim-centred approach and developing programmes with a territorial focus. While recognizing that peace consolidation was a long-term process, they took note of risk factors, calling on national authorities to ensure continuous investments in peace, including by guaranteeing adequate resources for all sections of the Final Agreement. They recognized and commended the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, the United Nations country team and the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission committed to continue supporting the efforts of the Government of Colombia in the implementation of the Final Agreement and to ensure that the gains made during the past five years were sustained, in particular in view of the 2022 electoral period.

11. The Commission continued to support the democratic transition in the Gambia by maintaining its attention to and helping to mobilize international support for the Government's peacebuilding priorities. Through a note circulated to members of the Commission and partners of the Gambia on 5 May, as well as follow-up notifications, the Chair helped mobilize support for critical funding gaps for the 2021–2023 electoral process. On 27 October, the Commission discussed progress in the transitional justice process in the Gambia and encouraged the prompt finalization of the report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and follow-up to its recommendations with international support. Following the submission of the final report to the President of the Gambia on 25 November, the Commission issued a press statement in which it welcomed the work accomplished by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and noted that the recommendations contained in the report provided a solid foundation to strengthen rule of law and fight impunity. The Commission reiterated its willingness to support, within its mandate, the implementation of the recommendations. It further stressed the need to maintain focus on critical policy, governance and institutional reforms and underscored the importance of a peaceful and transparent presidential election on 4 December in consolidating democratic gains since 2017. The Commission reiterated its commitment to continue to mobilize support for the consolidation of peace and democracy in the Gambia.

12. During its fifteenth session, the Commission mobilizethnc mi mimthnc mi mimthncn uireport to ing pr

of women in peacebuilding and development in the region and addressing the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through engagement with international financial institutions. The Chair indicated the Commission's readiness to support peacebuilding priorities contained in the Strategy, including support for the socioeconomic reintegration of former combatants of different armed groups. On 26 July, following briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the chief of staff of the National Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, and the Resident Coordinator in Rwanda, the Commission welcomed the development by the Special Envoy, in consultation with the countries of the region and other key stakeholders, of a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the United Nations strategy. The action plan focused on dialogue and trust; reduction of the threat posed by armed groups; sustainable and transparent natural resources management, as well as trade and investment; durable solutions to forced displacement; and regional preparedness for public health crises. The Commission welcomed the prioritization of the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth across the different components of the plan and acknowledged the contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of reintegrating former combatants repatriated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda.

13. The Commission's engagement in support of Guinea-Bissau continued to focus on challenges impeding stability and long-term development. On 29 June, the Chair of the Commission's Guinea-Bissau configuration convened a meeting to provide the Government of Guinea-Bissau, represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities, the opportunity to brief on the Government's plans and efforts to improve the socioeconomic welfare of its citizens. The Minister detailed the development objectives contained in the country's national strategy for development, employment and industrial promotion for the period 2020–2024, or *n dœ* , and in its national development plan for the period 2020–2023, and emphasized that the priorities were in alignment with Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals. Commission members commended the Government's efforts and expressed support for the successful implementation of the *n dœ* , recognizing the necessity of strategic partnerships between Guinea-Bissau, the Commission, regional bodies and international financial institutions, and of aligning support with the Government's plans.

14. The Commission continued to promote regional cooperation on stabilization, peacebuilding and sustainable development in the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin. In 2021, the Chair of the Commission attended the third meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development, held on 4 and 5 October in Yaoundé. The Forum was attended by 100 participants, including the eight governors of the Lake Chad Basin Region who are responsible for the development and implementation of the territorial action plans of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region. In his remarks, the Chair spoke about the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda and its emphasis on integrated and regional approaches to peacebuilding and welcomed the catalytic investments in the region by the Peacebuilding Fund. He emphasized the importance of inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, including the ful ustainabeb ʇ geP e ʃ l

measures to fight sexual and gender-based violence. They noted the concern of young women and men in Sierra Leone about the country's vulnerability to climate change and related pressures on natural resources and stressed the need to empower youth green entrepreneurs. They expressed appreciation and encouraged the continued support of the Peacebuilding Fund in mitigating the risks of renewed conflict, with a focus on women and youth. The Commission committed to continue supporting the efforts of Sierra Leone to engage youth in all sectors of society and to promote the empowerment of women.

17. The Commission continued to support regional peacebuilding priorities in the Sahel, including within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its support plan. On 28 April, the Chair convened a meeting on the situation in the Sahel region and the implementation of the strategy and its support plan. Following briefings by representatives of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) and the United Nations, as well as civil society and multilateral financial institutions, the Commission expressed concern about the precarious humanitarian and security situation and conveyed condolences for the death of President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad. Thté #] t # " h onnté T

two Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. As a follow-up to that meeting, the Chair of the Commission was invited to deliver remarks at the launching of the Stable Seas-UNODC report on the cost of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, which took place on 7 December. In his remarks, the Chair acknowledged the importance of cross-regional initiatives between West and Central Africa to curb piracy in their respective maritime domains. He also recognized that capacity-building efforts must be owned by coastal countries and regional organizations and acknowledged that national authorities should be assisted in providing standardized and sustainable anti-piracy training to their own officials and, when possible, to those of neighbouring countries. The Chair noted that the Stable Seas-

representative of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, whose presentation pooled together experiences from the Network, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the International Civil Society Action Network, the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. During the meeting, the Commission took stock of efforts to advance the important role of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including the development and

24. In 2021, the Commission continued to consider, through its national and regional engagements, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national peacebuilding objectives, including the critical role of women. In addition, the Commission strengthened its collaboration with the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, with a focus on COVID-19, peacebuilding and sustainable development. The Chair convened an informal-informal interactive dialogue with the President of the Security Council on 10 May on "Addressing root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa" and further advised the Council during its high-level open debate on the same topic on 19 May 2021. In his remarks, the Chair recalled the testimonies since the outset of the pandemic of women peacebuilders from across Africa, who had expressed concerns about the implications of the pandemic on women, including their meaningful participation in peace processes. Drawing on the second edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held in March, the Chair recognized that the pandemic had exacerbated governance gaps across the African continent, affecting the health, economic and social sectors and causing additional strains on social cohesion, with implications for the peace and security landscape, most notably through exploitation by armed groups and terrorist organizations. He echoed a key takeaway from the Aswan Forum that, in order for efforts related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace to be successful, governments must invest in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at the national and local levels while promoting inclusive governance through a whole-of-government approach.

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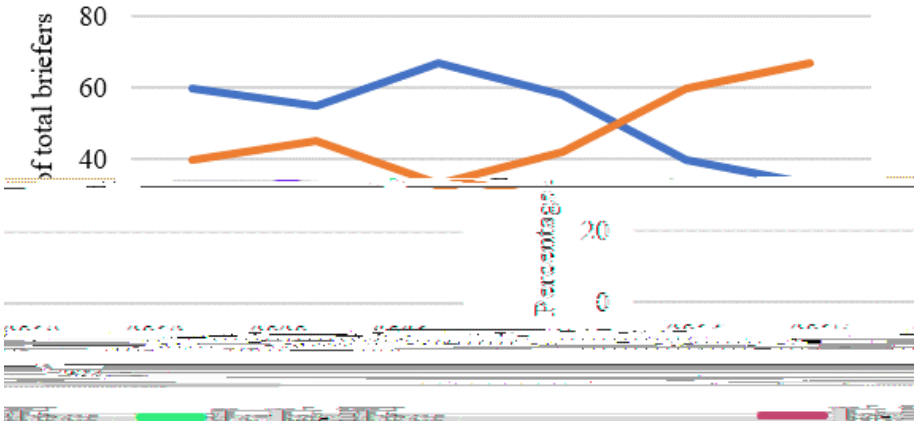
sustained financing for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes, so that they could effectively contribute to peacebuilding. The Commission welcomed the security sector reform programme of the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, funded by the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and encouraged continuous action to strengthen partnerships. Commission members expressed interest in discussing the recommendations contained in two forthcoming reports of the Secretary-General to

percentage of Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators or Resident Representatives briefing the Commission increased from 3.6 per cent in 2020 to 17.6 per cent in 2021, indicating that the Commission is an increasingly important platform for development-focused discussions for conflict-affected countries and regions, based on national priorities. More frequent briefings from Resident Coordinators helped to enhance understanding on the important role of United Nations common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in support of national peacebuilding priorities.

Figure VI

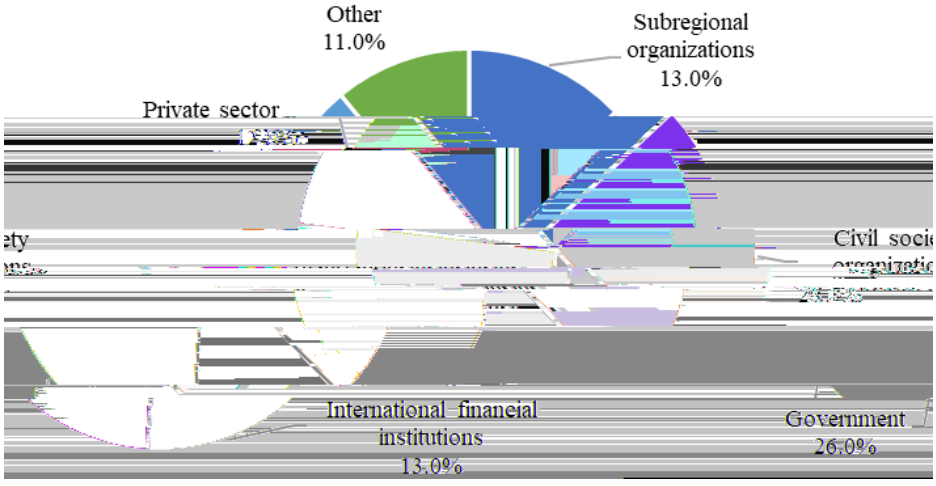
nare e o: DPO-DPPA, Department of Peace Operations-Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; OCHA, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; PBSO, Peacebuilding Support Office; RC/HC/RR, resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators/ resident representatives; SG/DSG/EOSG, Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General/ Executive Office of the Secretary-General; SESGs/SRSGs/DSRSGs, Special Envoys of the Secretary-General/Special Representatives of the Secretary-General/Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UN-

Figure VII



41. In 2021, non-United Nations partners that provided briefings at Commission meetings (as shown in figure VIII) included national and local government officials; regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS, the European Union, the G5 Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea Commission; civil society organizations; international financial institutions (AfDB, IMF and World Bank); and private sector companies. The General Secretary of the g7+ was invited for the first time to contribute to the Commission's work, during a meeting on institution-building. Representatives of academia and think tanks and independent experts also provided briefings at meetings (represented as "other" in figure VIII below).

Figure VIII



42. The Commission engaged for the first time with the World Trade Organization (WTO). On 25 March, the Chair of the Commission participated in the inaugural meeting of the Trade for Peace Network, which was launched by WTO as a platform for exchange among relevant stakeholders to explore areas of collaboration and actions, within their respective mandates, to support conflict-affected States associated with WTO accession and promote the multilateral trading system as a pathway to sustainable peace, development and economic well-being.

43. After years of encouraging and tracking support for joint United Nations-World Bank risk assessment and analysis, on 16 July, the Commission convened a meeting on macroeconomic responses to conflict settings, with a briefing by IMF on its first strategy for fragile and conflict-affected States. Member States welcomed the Fund's focus on working with partners in peacebuilding settings and recognized that more efforts were needed to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming an economic crisis in many countries.

44. African Union representatives continued to participate in country-specific, regional and thematic Commission discussions and made interventions both as panellists and from the floor. On 11 November, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Commission held their 4th informal consultative meeting during the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Awareness Week. The meeting focused on peacebuilding support for political transitions currently ongoing in Africa. In a subsequent joint press statement, Council and Commission members stressed the importance of comprehensive, coordinated and phased approaches to peacebuilding activities in Africa during transitions, taking into account countries' short- and long-term needs and the full and effective participation of women, while noting with concern the trend of relapsing transitions across the continent. They welcomed the establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and the planned meeting on climate security of the African Union Peace and Security Council. They called for more frequent exchanges between the two intergovernmental bodies and a strategic alignment of their programmes of work.

45. Given that one of the main purposes of the Commission is to bring together all relevant actors, in particular national stakeholders, in 2021 the Commission continued to encourage the important contribution of civil society, including the private sector, to all stages of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, resulting in an increased rate of participation by representatives of civil society and the private sector at its meetings. As is shown in figures IX and X below, the percentage of Commission meetings that included civil society briefers increased from 51 per cent in 2020 to 63 per cent in 2021, while the percentage of Commission meetings with private sector participation increased from 19 per cent in 2020 to nearly 30 per cent in 2021.

Figure IX

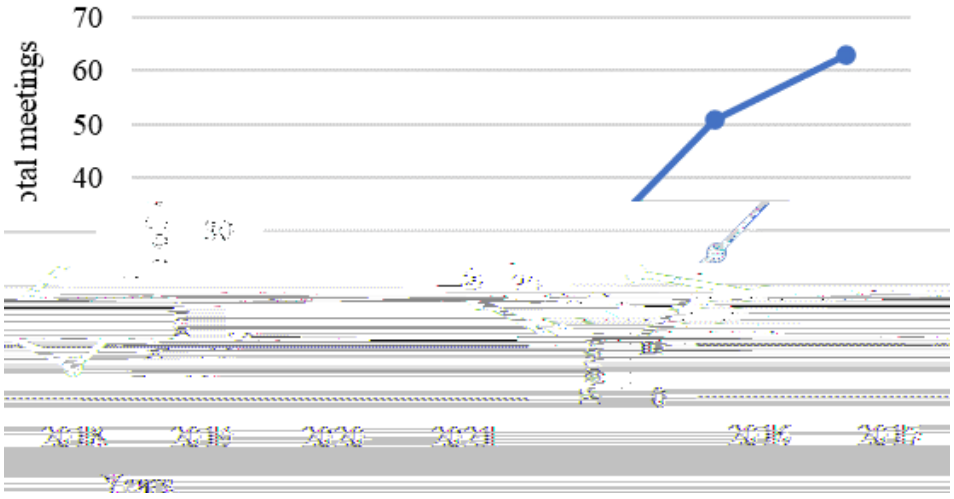


Figure X

46. In 2021, the Peacebuilding Support Office continued to share with the Commission background materials and updates on the Peacebuilding Fund's programmatic activities as those pertained the Commission's country, regional and thematic engagements. The Chair also convened a dedicated meeting on 28 July on the work of the Fund, with a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The regular sharing of information enabled the Commission to continue to follow closely the agile positioning of the Fund in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in different contexts. In addition to keeping the Commission abreast of the evolution of the Fund's portfolio in specific countries or areas of work, in 2021 the Peacebuilding Support Office brought to the attention of the Commission findings of the Fund's assessments and evaluations, including a thematic review on gender-responsive peacebuilding covering the 2015–2020 period, an assessment of initiatives in Liberia on gender equality and the empowerment of women since 2013 and a mapping on mental health and psychosocial support. The Commission welcomes the Secretary-General's invitations to countries that are eligible for the Fund's Peacebuilding Recovery Facility to bring their peacebuilding priorities to the Commission's attention and encourages the continuation of this good practice.

Ensure that there is a balance between time allocated to presentations by briefers and to interventions from the floor, with a view to promoting interactive discussions.

:

I. The Commission should make greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.

II. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will circulate a concept note at least one week before the date of the meeting.

III. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with the countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed.

IV. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will ask briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

V. In the conduct of the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will remind briefers to limit their interventions to no more than three to five minutes. The Chair will also encourage speakers from the floor to limit their interventions to no more than three minutes.

VI. When inviting participants from the floor to speak, the Chair, upon advice from the Secretary, will prioritize countries from the region and give due consideration to protocol and order of registration.

VII.