

PBC Ambassadorial-level meeting

Update on the Peacebuilding Fund and quarterly report by CSC Chairs

28 July 2021

1. On 28 July 2021, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an Ambassadorial-level virtual

investments mostly focused around the PBF windows: (1) women and youth empowerment; (2) cross border and regional peacebuilding; and (3) support to UN transitions. He added that the Secretary-

5. In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Fernandez-Taranco underscored that the PBF is a strategic tool to help translate the UN reforms into practice. He recalled that, since the 2016 review of the peacebuilding architecture, peacebuilding is no longer a post-conflict phase but a part of the peace continuum and it happens before, during and after a conflict. The allocation of PBF funds reflects that approach, with support for projects which address the different phases of a conflict. Transitions, and in particular the drawdown of a peacekeeping operation, represent a critical phase for national governments and for the UN. In this regard, the PBF is a unique tool in the UN system to support national governments during transitions, especially helping them and UNCTs avoid a financial cliff. In connection with the relevance of prevention, the ASG referred to the joint UN-World Bank study **Pathways for peace** noting that a key result of the study was to highlight that not only prevention saves lives but it is also cost-effective, noting that prevention can save between 5 and 70 billion dollars around the world. He also stressed that requests for PBF support are channeled through Resident Coordinators, hence helping them enhance UN coherence in the field. He noted that financing remains an issue and reiterated that, moving towards the GA High-level meeting, Member States should look into options to ensure more adequate, predictable and sustained resources. He spoke of the importance of expanding the donor base for voluntary contributions, of exploring innovative sources, but also of the need to have a discussion on assessed contributions. In this regard, he informed that a concrete proposal on the use of assessed contributions could be expected in the near future.

6. The Chief of the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch in DPPA-PBSO, Mr. Marc-Andre Franche, provided additional information on the work of the PBF in transitions. He referred to the **Integration Review** which highlighted the contributions of the Fund in transition settings while highlighting the challenges posed by limited resources. He noted that the Fund is providing about 22% of its funds to transitions and added that the PBF is working with DSRG/RC/HC offices with a view to helping them strengthen their absorption capacities and allow for more programming in that area. He reaffirmed the PBF Mental Health and Psychosocial Support work with Resident Coordinators, he referred to the SG report on the evolution of the RC system where pooled funds such as the PBF are critical tools to foster integration and coherence.

Quarterly report by the Chairs of the PBC Country-configurations

7. The Chair of the PBC Burundi Configuration (Switzerland) informed of the arrival in New York of the new Permanent Representative of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga, and his cooperation with the Commission. She noted that, during earlier discussions, they both agreed on the importance of a visit to Burundi to meet with the authorities and a broad range of interlocutors from Burundian society and public life, as well as international partners. She recalled that the Commission met on 17 March to learn about the priorities of the Burundi government for

evaluation of its Burundi portfolio for 2014-2020 and the in-depth situational analysis by Interpeace and emphasized building synergies between the PBF and the PBC. The Chair further recalled the meeting of 6 July that provided an opportunity to learn

engagement of the Liberian government and was pleased that CSOs and women-led organizations have a strong voice. She informed that the Commission included gender equality, reconciliation, COVID-19 response and recovery, and preparations for elections in 2023. She closed by reiterating the Commission political accompaniment and ensuring sustainable peace in Liberia, and expressed hope for the visit in the fall, either virtual or in-person.

10. The Chair of the PBC Central African Republic Configuration (Morocco) updated that the Commission held an expert-level and an ambassadorial-level meeting on 10 June and 12 July respectively to discuss the political, security and humanitarian situations in country. She noted that both meetings reaffirmed the Commission during the electoral period, in helping to mobilize support to MINUSCA and the electoral process. She recalled that CAR was able to hold presidential and legislative elections, despite increased violence, and that authorities plan to hold local elections by the end of 2021 or in early 2022, the first in 30 years. She underscored that the local elections will further require an estimated \$10 million. The Chair updated that the expert-level meeting focused on progress made in the electoral process, the importance of continued support by all partners including the PBF and neighboring and regional countries, and concern over the misinformation campaign against MINUSCA and increased human rights violations in country. She underscored that at the 12 July Ambassadorial-level meeting, there was a high-level presence by several government ministers and briefers included the MINUSCA SRSG as well as the Head of the National Election Authority. The meeting focused on the need to revitalize the peace agreement; concerns about increased humanitarian needs as well as renewal and its support to local elections and security sector reform. She noted that member states welcomed the Commission coordination and coherence in international support to CAR. They also expressed support for political dialogue and the strengthening of reconciliation efforts, denounced hate speech and condemned violence and human rights violations. She closed by informing that the Chair hopes to visit the country before November, in order to submit timely and well-informed recommendations to the Security Council.
11. The Chair closed the meeting thanking ASG for Peacebuilding Support and the Chairs of the PBC Country-configurations for their briefings.