

I thank you for convening today's meeting.

I wish to express our appreciation to Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek, the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN for presenting the annual report of the 15th Session of the Peacebuilding Commission, in his capacity as the Chair of the Commission in 2021.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

In 2022, peacebuilding needs have mounted in many dimensions in different regions. Conflicts, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerating global challenges such as food insecurity, energy crisis and financial crunch all pose serious risks on the peacebuilding gains that the Commission has been supporting to achieve for years, through implementation of its mandate.

To ensure our work results in tangible support to national and regional peacebuilding priorities, this year the Commission has

challenges and priorities identified by and specific to those countries and regions. At the thematic front, a meeting on Youth, Peace and Security was convened and preparation is underway for other thematic meetings including on Women, Peace and Security and peacekeeping, among others.

The Commission has continued to prioritize in all its interactions. In this regard, before organizing the meetings, the Commission has engaged with an array of relevant national and regional stakeholders to ensure that the PBC responds to the real needs on the ground.

For instance, ahead of the meeting on the Sahel, the PBC, with the support from DPPA held extensive consultations with representatives of the Sahel and its international partners. Building on FAO and IOM cross-border initiative on transhumance in the Sahel region, which has been implemented with PBF's support under the auspices of UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the meeting created an opportunity to generate additional political, technical and financial support to address the specific peacebuilding challenges in that region. Similarly, the meeting held at the request of Pacific Islands Forum witnessed participation by the Pacific countries and other relevant stakeholders from the region. The Commission heard their unique peacebuilding challenges, including those accelerated by the negative impacts of climate change and inadequate financial support to developing countries in addressing them.

The Commission continues to promote inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, including by engaging with a greater number of local actors, particularly women and youth briefers. The percentage of national and local actors who briefed at the PBC meetings is 43%. Participation rate of women briefers in the PBC meeting so far has been 80% and the participation rate of young peacebuilders 60%. We are committed to maintaining the trend throughout the year.

Greater attention to has remained a priority for the Commission this year. So far, the Commission has given due attention to promote integrated, strategic and coherent approaches to peacebuilding and placed emphasis on synergies with the PBF. In June, the Commission held a meeting with the Chairs of the Country Specific Configurations on the progress achieved and upcoming activities. The Commission also received updates on PBF activ

BT#2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 117.17 570.65 Tm0 g0 G(.)-9()-78(B)14(u)- Tm 25696 841.9

The Commission has been pursuing with regional and sub-regional organizations and with international and regional financial institutions. So far this year, a wide variety of partners, including the African Union, the European Union, African Development Bank, ECOWAS, Lake Chad Basin Commission, G5 Sahel, Pacific Islands Forum, and the Pacific Community, participated in the meetings of the PBC.

ECOSOC on financing for SDGs in Africa. The Commission also made contributions to ECOSOC during its High-Level Political Forum, Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and meeting on Kimberly process.

Before I conclude, I wish to add a few words on

Building on the encouraging results of the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, there is scope to further deepen its advisory role to the General Assembly particularly in the context of the current efforts to revitalize the work of the General Assembly and its increasing role in addressing the root causes of conflicts. The Commission acknowledges the need to better align the programmes of work of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission, especially in areas where the mandate of the Commission complements that of the General Assembly.

This year, the Commission for the first time formally shared its Programme of Work with the General Assembly immediately after its adoption in March. This has been a major step towards institutionalization of the advisory relations between the PBC and the General Assembly. The Commission's Programme of Work could potentially be an effective tool for exploring complementarities between the agendas of the Assembly and the Commission. As such, the PBC Chair this year has participated in the High-Level Dialogue on the theme "The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority for the United Nations System" convened by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission also appointed South Africa as its informal coordinator for the General Assembly, as a new practice established only last year. In addition to the informal coordinator, the members of the Peacebuilding Commission who are elected from the General Assembly as well as the countries that have engaged with the PBC can play a significant role in advancing the PBC's advisory role to the Assembly and in increasing the PBC's visibility and impact among the broader UN membership.

Finally, more regular dialogues between the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission both in a formal and informal setup would go a long way in strengthening the relations between the Assembly and the Commission; these meetings could also possibly be included in the annual agenda of the Commission and the Assembly's work.