

# Peacebuilding Commission

Special meeting

26 January 2015

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

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4. Member States welcomed the presentation by Mr. Graziano da Silva and raised a number of questions on the importance of strengthening the role of the international community in reinforcing the links between food security and peacebuilding.

Briefing by UNDP on the plans for taking forward the Ebola-related recovery initiatives

5. The Chair provided a brief background on the PBC's efforts to address EVD. He recalled that, on 25 November 2014, following on the numerous PBC meetings dedicated to the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), he had (re)written a letter to the

- A politics of weak inclusion and the perception of regional preferences which strained social cohesion were seen as a primary driver of fragility of governments and states;
- At subregional level, the Mano River countries is characterized by porous borders and transnational and ethnic affinity which remain a major security challenge.

#### Impact of EVD crisis on peacebuilding and social cohesion

The epidemic affected the three economies which decreased by 3-4% in real terms and may take 5 to 10 years to return to the pre-Ebola levels. The EVD eroded governance, peace and security gains in a number of ways:

- There has been a rise in violence directly related to the outbreak and resistance of the population to State initiatives and political resentment has hardened in all three countries, fuelled by unfounded rumours, which has contributed to increased risks of tensions around upcoming elections;
- Social cohesion has been further eroded and the mistrust in the state has increased. However, there has also been a positive dimension linked to spontaneous community response actions;
- Violence has increased and school closures have led to an increase in crime;
- The space for political dialogue is shrinking and that might impact upcoming political elections in the countries.

7. Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman (Director, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support) focused his briefing on the emerging recovering strategies for peacebuilding and social cohesion. He noted that, after consulting with governments and numerous partners, the international recovery partnership identified the following recovery strategies that have emerged from initial consultations with governments and developing partners:

- Focus on systems rather than sectors: it is crucial to pay special attention to equitable access to basic service delivery, which would also strengthen the trust in governments;
- Decentralization and strengthening of local governance should be prioritized: a strong local government system, which keeps interaction with the central government as well as with local communities, is an important element for accelerating the recovery from the EVD crisis;
- Governments and partners must pay attention to trauma healing and psychosocial support;
- Establish comprehensive early warning and surveillance systems which bring together conflict, health and natural hazards early warning systems;

- Revitalize local economies for jobs and livelihoods: the three countries should establish social protection systems;
- National recovery strategies should explore opportunities to interact at regional and subregional level.

11. Member States welcome the briefing by UNDP and the Ebola Recovery Assessment it is leading. Delegation focused