

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

9-17 June 2016

I. Overview

1. From 9 to 17 June, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and

adopted on 27 April 2016. Reference was made to the recently adopted resolutions on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, emphasizing comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity during the Ebola recovery period.

i. The need for a more comprehensive and long-term investment in **sustaining peace**, rather than investing in peacekeeping and peacemaking alone. Making and maintaining peace is not enough. The global community needs to rethink international, regional and national peacebuilding priorities from a long-term and inclusive perspective;

ii. **Primacy of politics** to resolve conflicts must be the preferred way. There is a need to foster the political and preventive approach to enhance security instead of the use of military engagement. Ensuring the primacy of politics in all phases of the conflict cycle, from early-warning to preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. Without development, there can be no peace and security. And without peace and security, there can be no development. Beyond that, we are now realizing the value and importance of the interlinkages between peace, development and humanitarian needs; and

iii. The importance of **women and youth participation** in sustaining peace efforts. Peace is built around the meaningful inclusion and investment in women and youth. It is important to place youth employment and women empowerment at the top of the countries peacebuilding priorities as well as gender-sensitive and targeted programming.

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unlikely, concerns were raised over the intensified and resurfaced challenges during the Ebola crisis that existed before. In all the countries visited, the Ebola epidemic exposed underlying weaknesses in governance, social cohesion and infrastructure, which, in combination, contributed to the rapid spreading of the disease. Some of the challenges

9. Continued **international support and PBC engagement was needed and requested** by all the countries and the regional organizations the delegation visited and met with. This corroborates the call for the PBC to enhance its strategic partnership and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, and to focus on regional and cross-cutting issues relevant to sustaining peace as mandated by the peacebuilding resolutions. There was also a need for the PBC to strengthen its engagement with IFIs and civil society. The PBC should continue to provide an active policy forum for dialogue for all relevant actors, including regional and sub-regional, to address the wing regional and transnational peacebuilding challenges in West Africa and the Sahel region, including terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, illicit trafficking and other transnational crimes, migration and displacement of populations. These will be the guide and the basis of the work of the PBC and the next steps.

III. Country-Specific Findings

A. Visit to Liberia

10. The PBC delegation visited Monrovia from 8 to 12 June. Focusing on the three key messages of the visit, meetings and discussions centered around the priorities identified in the Statement of Mutual Commitment (SMC) on Peacebuilding in Liberia, which was

relations. Working closely with UNOWAS, regional cooperation with ECOWAS and the Mano River Union (MRU) will also be critical in strengthening cross-border security, in Liberia.

13. The PBC delegation encouraged the Government of Liberia to deliver on its commitment, and assured the national authorities, other stakeholders of its continued engagement and support to the national peacebuilding efforts in Liberia. The Chairs reassured the Liberian counterparts that the PBC will remain engaged throughout the UN transition and would focus on the identified priority areas, based on the SMC. The PBC will also need to strengthen its engagement with international financial institutions to explore opportunities for economic needs. Concerning regional and sub-regional issues, the Chair informed that conflict prevention, with an increasing focus on cross border/regional initiatives to prevent violent extremism will remain high on the PBC agenda.

B. Visit to Sierra Leone

14. From 12 to 14 June, the PBC delegation visited Sierra Leone, where discussions were jointly led by the Chair of the PBC Sierra Leone Configuration, H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, and Ambassador Kamau. This visit built on the Peacebuilding Assessment Mission (PAM II) to Sierra Leone that took place from 29 February to 8 March 2016 to examine the progress made in peacebuilding priority areas and focused on the future engagement of the PBC in the country. The parameters of the mission were defined and an agreement with national authorities was secured, based on the national peacebuilding priorities.

15. The President of Sierra Leone requested for the PBC to continue the current collaboration. He emphasized that continued support was required in three main areas: to meet the targets of the National Ebola Recovery Plan; provision of support to national institutions to ensure peaceful elections and strengthen democracy as well as the constitutional review process. Investing in sustaining peace and addressing potential drivers of conflicts in a growing population of uneducated and unemployed youth and women was important.

16. Other Ministers and interlocutors stated that the visit was timely to support the country in sustaining its current achievements. The importance of inclusive political dialogue was reiterated. They emphasized the responsibility of all stakeholders, including the political parties, in ensuring an inclusive, accountable and peaceful political process, especially in the run-up to the 2018 elections. On the socio-economic front, economic diversification, sustained economic development and improvement of the health and education systems are the now main priorities of the country.

17. Peacebuilding priorities remain to be addressed during and after the Ebola recovery period, including the strengthening of the national governance systems, the security and justice sectors, rule of law, human rights and capacity building. Recognizing

the crucial role of community engagement and social mobilization in combating Ebola, many interlocutors stressed the need for continued investment in decentralized governance, with a particular focus on the border regions. Challenges remain to be addressed, including corruption, natural resource management, basic social services, youth unemployment and enhancing transparency in managing its natural resources and addressing inequality countrywide, fiscal policy.

18. On sub-regional issues, the PBC delegation met with the Mano River Union (MRU) Secretariat located in Freetown. Discussions highlighted the important role of regional and sub-regional organizations in sustaining peace in Africa, focusing on the political, socio-economic and cross-border peacebuilding priorities. The MRU informed about the sub-regional priorities to sustain peace, including promoting education as a regional mechanism, encouraging regional/bilateral trade facilitation, enhancing border security and confidence building, and strengthening joint maritime and food security, land management and human security, particularly along the borders of the Mano River Basin. The PBC and sub-regional organizations, such as the MRU, need to continue to focus on these key priority areas with a view to putting national and sub-national strategies first and strengthening the relationship. As the next step, the Chair proposed to organize a consultation between the PBC and regional organizations to discuss the challenges and issues in the sub-region.

19. In Sierra Leone, the *Chair* is one of a trusted advocate with the broader international community, especially with respect to Member States and other international actors not directly represented in Freetown. As the PBC accompanied Sierra Leone throughout the UN transition, previous elections and the Ebola crisis, the Chairs

country through the 2018 elections, recognizing that free and fair elections and a peaceful transfer of power will be an important consolidating peace and democracy. This timeframe would be closely aligned with the 18-month National Ebola Recovery Strategy.

C. Visit to Guinea

20. The PBC visited Guinea from 14 to 16 June as part of the West Africa visit. National and cross-border peacebuilding priorities were discussed, including security sector reform, national reconciliation, and youth employment and women empowerment.

highlighted. Furthermore, decentralization is key to governance challenges, emphasized various interlocutors. There was a need for increased national focus on building inclusiveness and trust between communities and the State.

22. The PBC would continue to provide support to Guinea in addressing these challenges, as past engagements in sustaining peace have contributed to achieving significant progress in the political process, security sector reform, ,

and the Country Specific Configuration engagement and accompaniment thus far in each of the countries. While placing national and regional priorities at the forefront of the peacebuilding agenda, it is important to integrate the whole cycle of conflict- before, during and after- in order to sustain peace.

27. **Further assistance from the UN and other international partners is critical** in peace consolidation areas, including work with political parties, media, and youth; run-up to the next elections; reforms to the security and justice sectors and land reform; and meaningful engagement with local and border communities.

28. In terms of agenda countries and exit plans considered by the PBC, engaging in active consultations and discussions with those concerned is deemed critical. It is also **important to draw upon the advice of the PBC on major agreements that relate to UN mission mandates and transitions.**

29. The **priorities should evolve into and be translated into programmes and projects.** Needless to say, identified priorities and preventing contradictions in the engagement of

Annex 1. Concept Note

**-Regional Peacebuilding
opportunities in West Africa: The Road to Recovery after the Ebola**

Concept Note

Background

Three years after the start of the Ebola epidemic in December 2013, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

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through letter dated 25 November 2014. In a letter, dated 17 December 2014, the Secretary-General responded to the Commission informing that the United Nations Recovery Strategy (ERS).

The Commission continued to convene and participate in numerous meetings and Special Sessions on Ebola, including the Special Meeting of the ECOSOC on 5 December 2014, the General Assembly in February 2015, the World Bank/IMF meetings in April 2015 and the Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Experts in July 2015. The Commission consolidated its constructive relationship to keep the international attention on the Ebola crisis with an eye on the long-term peacebuilding perspective with the national stakeholders, UN agencies and peacekeeping missions, World Bank, national and regional organizations and civil society.

The Chair of the Commission travelled to the three countries affected by Ebola in April 2015, including a trip to Dakar, where the impact of Ebola on the political processes in the region as well as opportunities were identified to harness the regional approach to post Ebola recovery efforts. The Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone Configurations, respectively, also convened separately to inform and explore ways to provide further international assistance to the national and regional counterparts with the wider membership on the crisis on a number of occasions. The Liberia and Sierra Leone Configurations visited each country at the technical levels in January and February 2016 respectively, to look at the progress made in national and regional peacebuilding priorities and needs, while these countries are still recovering from the economic effects of the Ebola crisis.

As part of its effort to explore coherent strategies and approaches towards achieving sustainable peace in West Africa, the PBC held an informal meeting on -border peacebuilding cha provide an important platform for preliminary policy discussions on the regional dimensions of peacebuilding.

Despite these efforts, international attention on the three most-affected countries has dwindled significantly during the past few months, especially during the Ebola recovery phase. There is a critical need for the international community, including the PBC, to sustain and build upon the discussions and findings of the national, regional and international stakeholders in the next phase and longer-term peacebuilding perspective in order to continue to bring the three countries back to the path of recovery, sustained peace and resilience. Therefore, the PBC plans to visit West Africa in June 2016 at the Ambassadorial-level.

Objectives of the Visit

The main objective of the PBC visit is to assess how the PBC can best support the ongoing post-Ebola recovery process and long-term peacebuilding priorities from a

national and regional perspective in related countries with different UN presences on the ground.

The visit would have three specific objectives:

1. Listen and highlight national and regional recovery efforts, focusing on the political and socio-economic priorities (including governance, trust, etc. that are non-health related) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and identify remaining challenges;
2. Discuss and identify opportunities with the relevant authorities and stakeholders for further constructive engagement of the PBC and international community; and
3. Sustain attention to sub-regional peacebuilding opportunities and challenges in West Africa on the road to recovery after the Ebola outbreak, including institutional, policy implementation, state-society relations as well as effective use/allocation of resources.

Scope

The PBC visit to West Africa will not focus on the medical and health response to address the Ebola recovery period or its health-related impacts. It will build on the work and identify ways to consolidate the efforts of the national and regional actors, UN system, IFIs, international/donor community and civil society, on the long-term priority areas of the post-Ebola recovery period. The visit would form the basis of recommendations for the mission to present to PBC members on how best to ensure that all the relevant and ongoing efforts and investments made by the national actors, the UN and other global actors are coherent, mutually reinforcing and targeting peacebuilding priorities. The PBC mission would not only look into the implementation of the Ebola recovery strategies on peacebuilding generally but also better understand possibilities for support for the regional and national peacebuilding priorities.

Expected Output

A report on the national and sub-regional peacebuilding opportunities during the mid- to long term Ebola recovery period will be prepared, focusing on key priority areas, including security, local governance, political institutions, social coh1 0 itutiv1lvETBT1 0 17o.4T1 0 0 a6.5

Annex 2: List of Participants



Annex 3. Agenda of Visit

<u>LIBERIA</u>	
Wednesday, 8 June	
	Arrive
Thursday, 9 June	
9:15-9:45am	

	Coordinator	
4:30-6:00pm	Meeting with diplomatic community, PBC Members	
Thursday, 16 June		
7:30am	Depart	UN Flight
<u>SENEGAL</u>		
Thursday, 16 June		
12:00pm	Arrive	
2:30-4:00pm	Meeting with Foreign Service Officials	
Friday, 17 June		
9:00-10:30am	Meeting with Civil Society Organizations with Regional Mandate	UNOWAS
11:00-12:30pm	Meeting with Women Organizations with Regional Mandate	
3:00-4:00pm	Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal	