

3 May 2017

To : Members of the PBC Liberia Configuration

Ambassadorial-level meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission

Liberia Configuration, 24 April 2017

Chair's Summary

Background

On 24 April 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Liberia Configuration held an Ambassadorial-level meeting under the chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Irina Schoulgin Nyoni of Sweden to

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also support projects on preventing electoral violence, justice and reconciliation, women and youth, in addition to the cross-border project ongoing. The PBC could play an important role in mobilising political and financial support, and serve as a forum to bring coherence and coordination to the many ongoing processes in Liberia, ensuring they are mutually reinforcing.

7. Member States welcomed the peacebuilding plan as a model example and a significant milestone in support of sustaining peace. The meeting welcomed its emphasis on national ownership, and a whole-UN, multi-stakeholder approach, including with respect to (sub)regional organizations. The plan's inclusion of gender equality was welcomed. The importance of reconciliation and the strong link to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda was also emphasised. The meeting noted the important role of the PBC in supporting the peacebuilding plan, as a forum for regular briefings on progress on the plan, ensuring alignment and cohesion of disparate strategies/actors and provide sharp and focused advice. It was suggested that lessons learned on the contribution to sustaining peace of the UN system in Liberia inform Security Council mandates in the future.
8. The Permanent Representative of Liberia to the UN, H.E. Lewis Brown emphasised Liberia as a successful model for the PBC. He also stressed the serious economic stress faced by the country and the role of the PBC in sustaining international support, including in partnership with IFIs.

On the preparations for the elections

9. The Chairman of the National Elections Commission, Cllr. Jerome Kokoyah briefed on preparations to date for the elections scheduled for October 2017, including engagement with all political parties. The total elections budget was US\$43 million, with \$20 million committed by the Government, and discussions with donors ongoing. He informed that the process for drafting of electoral regulations and voter registration have already been completed and that the Interparty Consultative Committee meet regularly.. Registration of presidential candidates will take place between June 19 and July 11.

On other updates

10. DSRSG (Political and Rule of Law) UNMIL Mr. Waldemar Vrey briefed on the recent UN (DPKO and PBSO) and World Bank mission in support of the planned justice and security sector public expenditure review. The outcome of the review is intended to be ready for the incoming government in April 2018, and in support of phase 2 of the peacebuilding plan. A key contribution of this project will be to help in the prioritisation of expenditures.

11. DSRSG (Peace Consolidation) and RC, Mr. Yacoub El Hillo briefed on the UN Country Team mapping exercise and warned of the massive drop in support that will be experienced with the end of the mission. He highlighted areas in need of significant support including human rights. The DSRSG noted some of the challenges in the UN system in transition and the need for support, including in the area of asset transfer from the mission to the UNCT. The PBC, PBSO and PBF could play an important role in continuing to follow Liberia post-transition.

Conclusion

12. Ms. Mari Yamashita of PBSO reflected in conclusion on the clear expectations for the