

24 January 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

I thank the President of the ECOSOC for convening this special meeting on *Social and economic measures to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity* and inviting me in my capacity as the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission to deliver these remarks.

The adverse effects of insecurity, economic and social instability, growing poverty, deepening inequalities, climate change and frequent disasters, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to the exacerbation of conflict. This has posed serious risks and threats to social cohesion, and undermined the peacebuilding gains achieved and pushing countries considered by the PBC off track from meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

In view of these challenges, the role of Peacebuilding Commission in supporting national efforts towards sustaining peace cannot be overemphasized, especially in light of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which stressed the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that security, development, and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Based on the Commission's engagements, I wish to share the following observations:

First, I would like to underline the imperative to address the root causes of conflicts and crises, as well as the importance of promoting sustainable and inclusive development, to build and sustain peace. The best means for peaceful, just and inclusive societies is sustainable development, which is why the interdependence of peace and sustainable development is at the core of the 2030 Agenda. We look forward to further intergovernmental discussions on this in the context of relevant initiatives of the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda.

The vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a comprehensive approach to support countries to address the root causes of conflicts and to ensure an inclusive approach to development with a view to leaving no one behind. Such an approach may aid in preventing atrocity crimes. In this regard, economic and social measures are critical elements in contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as they help to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, support national reconciliation and social cohesion, and move States towards recovery, reconstruction and sustainable development.

Second,

To this end, the Commission's country and region-specific engagements have addressed a wide range of nationally-owned and -led priorities, including support for economic empowerment, good governance, rule of law, and the promotion of inclusive participation in peace processes, which in return are intended to support efforts aimed to improve social cohesion, trust in societies.

Third, I want to emphasize inclusivity

peacebuilding and development was reiterated. The AFPs, within their respective mandates, need to adapt and respond to local contexts while strengthening national ownership and leadership through active engagement of all actors across the society.

I thank you.