

E celle cie , dea c lleag e ,

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to all of you, members of this Commission, for the collaboration and support I have enjoyed throughout my term as Chair of the PBC in 2018. I wish to thank, in particular, Germany and the Republic of Korea for their support as Vice-Chairs, and Brazil, Canada, Morocco, Sweden and Switzerland for their work as Chairs of Country-specific Configurations.

I was privileged to take the mantle at an exciting moment for peacebuilding and sustaining peace within the United Nations in general, and more specifically for the PBC. Building on the review of the peacebuilding architecture review adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on 27 April 2016, and thanks to the dynamic engagement of its membership, this Commission has continued to diversify its working methods to enhance its role and impact on country-specific, regional and cross-cutting peacebuilding challenges.

It has been an honour for me to lead this Commission's flexible engagement in support of peacebuilding in The Gambia, which started in early 2017 at the request of the Government. Our collaboration with The Gambia, grounded on the principle of national ownership and leadership, is an excellent illustration of the ways Member States can use the PBC platform in support of their national peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

The work of the Commission through its sustained engagement with Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leon also deserves high praise. In addition to bringing coherence to UN system-wide and international efforts to build and sustain peace in these

encourage this body to further align its calendar of work with that of the Council.

I was impressed seeing the results of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) when visiting a PBF funded project at the border of Chad and Cameroon, attending the 6th meeting of the *“Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel”*, in Chad, witnessing the launching of the *Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission* in The Gambia, and participating, in Senegal, to the launching of the Study on *“Pastoralism and Security in West Africa*

