

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Sahel region and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)

14 October 2020

1. On 14 October, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held a virtual Ambassadorial-level meeting on the Sahel region and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). The meeting was convened by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, Chair of the PBC. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the recent developments and trends in the Sahel, to update on the status of implementation of UNISS, and mobilize further support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.
2. The Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Ms. Giovannie Biha, informed that the UN, in line with the priorities of the UNISS, has been

Chad, Mali and Mauritania, are potentially eligible to the Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), which supports national strategies for conflict risk mitigation. He emphasized the importance of ensuring close cooperation between peacebuilding, humanitarian and development actors in the Sahel, to strengthen regional coordination between the actors in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali and to make sure that development and humanitarian efforts are aligned with the broader peacebuilding agenda.

4. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, outlined challenges and opportunities in the implementation of UNISS and its support plan and stressed the need for strengthened partnerships between international, regional and sub-regional actors. She highlighted activities under the three pillars of UNISS, security, governance, and resilience. On security, UNDP has been working with UNODC to address the proliferation of small arms and al6 C2W*nBTF1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 151.94 661.18 Tm0 g0 G()JTETQ0

6. The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Mr. Oscar Fernández-Taranco, stressed the need to ensure that women, youth and the displaced are not left behind in efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in regions most affected by conflict and violence. He underlined that financing for the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery in the G5-Sahel countries provides an opportunity to act on the

The Commission recognized the need for stronger support for the implementation of the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Program, which now also includes activities to help address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan also includes additional confidence building measures between military and security forces and the population, an important priority for women in the region.

The principles of national ownership and leadership were highlighted, together with a focus on strengthening governance processes through institutional and capacity building.