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Initiative should continue to advance the women and peace and security agenda through targeted support to women peacebuilders, and other stakeholders should follow through with their own commitments. Efforts to address the negative impacts of COVID-19 in peacebuilding should give due consideration to the protection of the rights of women and to the empowerment of women.

The Commission commits to enhancing implementation of its gender strategy, local institutions by more systematically including women and representatives of women's groups in its meetings and by streamlining the gender dimensions of peacebuilding in its country-specific and regional activities and in its analysis and advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular during the review of mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions, as appropriate. In implementation of its gender strategy, the Commission will also support the creation, adoption and enforcement of legal frameworks that outlaw domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence at large and end impunity regarding such violence. The Commission is currently exploring ways to foster a greater accountability for implementation of its gender strategy, including the use of gender-disaggregated data to track progress in its different peacebuilding areas. The Peacebuilding Support Office, together with United Nations country teams, should continue to explore ways to improve stocktaking of women peacebuilders' messages from the field, including by compiling and sharing good practices with Peacebuilding Commission Member States on a regular basis.

Institution building

Areas of progress

Institution-building covers a wide range of institutions, including security and judicial systems, as well as economic and social systems that enable the delivery of services at both the national and local levels. Successful institution-building at the national and local levels, within the framework of the rule of law, and strong institutions help to reduce vulnerability, protect and empower people and build trust. With Peacebuilding Fund support and based on national ownership, national and local stakeholders have contributed to the strengthening of national and local institutions, including United Nations support to national efforts to build effective and accountable security institutions in Burkina Faso and the Gambia. Such efforts played an important role in

only 18 per cent of all conflict-affected countries are on track to meet the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals related to unmet basic needs.

Lack of coordination between different international partners in the field who work on capacity development for national and local institutions continues to be a problem. Within the United Nations, gaps remain between identifying political and programmatic objectives and the actual design, resourcing and implementation of context-specific programmes that could effectively respond to nationally identified priorities and goals and the outcomes of conflict analyses and needs assessments. This is further complicated by the fact that sustainable financing for peacebuilding remains a challenge over the long term, including in the area of institution-building.

Recommendations

The multilateral system needs to come together to provide technical support to build stronger, resilient, inclusive and responsive institutions. This need has been amplified by the COVID-

In addition, the

such discussions. The Commission's strengthened bridging role with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, including through the designation of informal Peacebuilding Commission coordinators for each of these bodies, similar to the informal coordinator between the Security Council and

and field collaboration. In response to the possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding, the Fund created a fast-track mechanism to support timely joint United Nations-World Bank risk analysis. Common effort is especially important in this regard.

The revitalization of the African Union post-conflict reconstruction and development policy is an important step towards effective continental ownership of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, while the joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the United Nations-African Union memorandum of understanding on peacebuilding support remain important tools for coordination and coherent United Nations support for the African Union. The fact that one of the key objectives of the new Peacebuilding Fund strategy for 2020–2024 is strengthening United Nations strategic cooperation with regional organizations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as appropriate, is a helpful development. In addition, trilateral cooperation between the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions has proved to be particularly helpful, including in support of Burkina Faso, where, at the request of the Government, an effective partnership between the United Nations, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union has been supporting nationally owned priorities in the regions most affected by insecurity. In the Gambia, an international advisory group was established with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund by the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to coordinate assistance for

