

# **Peacebuilding Commission Informal Meeting on the Situation in the Sahel**

**6 March 2017**

## **Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion**

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On 6 March 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting to address the situation in the Sahel, in response to the Security Council Presidential Statement of 20 January 2017 (S/PRST/2017/2). The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Chair of the PBC.

1. The Chair opened the meeting recalling that the Security Council Presidential Statement of 20 January 2017 (S/PRST/2017/2) emphasized the convening role of the PBC in mobilizing international support, in collaboration with the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), for implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). He noted that, despite positive political developments in West Africa, the situation in the Sahel remained precarious due to security, development and humanitarian challenges. He recalled that while several national, regional, and international efforts had been underway to address those challenges, there was also the need to further enhance coordination and collaboration among all relevant actors.
2. In this context, the Chair welcomed the opportunity for the PBC to convene a variety of stakeholders in the region, including countries of the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), African Union (AU), G5 Sahel, European Union (EU) and United Nations actors at both headquarters and in the field.
3. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr.

challenge in a coordinated manner. He pointed out that the Nouakchott Process to promote regional cooperation and the recent decision of the G5 Sahel countries to establish joint forces to fight terrorism were important steps in this regard. He noted that the AU would provide political support for the region through the establishment of the joint forces and the Ministerial coordination platform for the Sahel.

5. The Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel, Mr. Najim Elhadj Mohamed, pointed to the high



with UNOWAS and Member States to further support UNOWAS in the implementation of UNISS. He will also convene further meetings to mobilize