

**Peacebuilding Commission Virtual Consultation on the
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture:**

Institution Building and System-Wide Engagement for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

22 May to 2 June 2020

1. From 22 May to 2 June 2020, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an electronic consultation on institution building and system-wide engagement for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The consultation was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of the PBC. The objective of the consultation was to inform the formal phase of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture and provide input for the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the 2020 review, the consultation was open to all UN Member States. Due to restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation was convened in a virtual format with briefings and statements uploaded to a dedicated webpage.
2. In his opening remarks, the Chair informed the Commission that the consultation focused on two important yet

affecting especially the most vulnerable in conflict-affected areas. The Administrator stressed that the UN needed to stay ahead of the curve and outlined three calls to action in this regard: i) the inconsistent investments in Sustainable Development Goal 16 must be addressed as millions of people continued to live in exclusion, which undermined public service delivery and economic development, while highlighting that the pandemic offered an opportunity to build stronger institutions by supporting crisis management capacity; ii) the UN must work in a close and coherent manner on the ground in the wake of several reform processes, ensuring that centrally driven policy and programmatic activities trickle down to joint action at country level; and

He further underlined that the FAO was making substantial contributions to sustaining peace by reducing hunger, supporting vibrant rural economies, supporting inclusive local institutions and sustaining people's livelihoods and making them more resilient by helping people better manage resources such as land and water. The Director General underscored that efforts for building and sustaining peace were critical for the fulfillment of the FAO's mission and especially highlighted the support received from the PBF that had helped the FAO work more effectively in this area, notably on cross-border pastoralism and natural resource management. He concluded by stressing that the FAO was an important pillar in the UN family's efforts for a more

coherence, including by undertaking analysis on cross-border issues, providing advice to UN country teams and convening regional stakeholders. The

They agreed that strengthening national ownership through building national and local institutions and capacities was a central principle around which all other peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts revolved. Inclusive, accountable, effective and democratic institutions were central in promoting sustainable development and Agenda 2030.

They recognized that a system-wide approach was needed to effectively support institution building, as each institution rarely fell under the mandate of one single UN entity but benefited from contributions and expertise from multiple agencies, funds and programmes. They suggested to better mainstream institution building throughout PBC work, including in its thematic strategies.

They underscored the need for joint context-specific analysis of conflict drivers and risks

regional and sub-regional organisations often constituted key entry points for engaging with local, national and regional actors for peace. They emphasized that the PBC should facilitate dialogue with all segments of society and that its network of partners must be widened to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society and local actors.

They recognized the PBF as the most agile and rapid tool for peacebuilding and conflict prevention at the UN's disposal and urged for stronger alignment between priorities addressed in the PBC and the projects financed by the PBF to enhance consistency between political aims and actions on the ground.

They recognized the significance of predictable, adequate and sustainable financing to enable a fully integrated system-wide approach to deliver on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and underscored the need to demonstrate good peacebuilding donorship in this regard.

They emphasized the importance of fostering synergies between peacebuilding and peacekeeping and stressed the need to ensure that peacekeeping missions were well-equipped to serve peacebuilding and sustaining peace objectives during the entire life cycle of an operation, including for assisting in building and strengthening local and national institutions.

They highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic as a game changer and a stress-test for the peacebuilding architecture that risked exacerbating existing drivers of conflict and generating new tensions. They further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had shed light on the need to support state capacities in fragile countries to deliver quality public services to all – including health care – and underscored the role of the PBC in accompanying countries in strengthening institutions when building back better and sharing best practices.

They underlined the need for an inclusive approach in identifying national priorities and highlighted the role of the UN and other partners in supporting nationally and locally led processes aimed at facilitating dialogue among national and local stakeholders, with a special focus on women and youth.

Several member states called on the UN to make use of the full potential of its human rights instruments in its activities throughout the system and encouraged the peacebuilding architecture to make further progress on the inclusion of human rights mechanisms to facilitate better early warning capacities, information and knowledge

sharing as well as joint analysis of causes of conflicts and possible ways to address them.