



the Government on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timeline for the elections planned for October 2020.

4. H.E. Varney A. Sirleaf, Minister of Internal Affairs of Liberia, underscored that the COVID-19 outbreak had significantly affected the socio-economic dynamics in Liberia with the potential of reversing important peacebuilding gains if not contained as quickly as possible. The pandemic had exacerbated already serious economic challenges and strained the weak health care system, especially affecting the most vulnerable population. He highlighted that one of the steps taken by the Government to prevent an escalation of the situation was a roundtable discussion held on 2 April, arranged by the Ministry of Internal Affairs' peacebuilding office, with international partners and civil society to discuss how to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on peacebuilding priorities. He underlined that responding to the peacebuilding implications required collaborative efforts with the international community focusing on strengthening the health care system; promoting national reconciliation; and resuscitating the national economy, while addressing issues related to decentralization, human rights, gender-based violence, small- and medium-sized enterprises and conflict prevention.
  
5. H.E. Mary Tanyonoh Broh, National Response Coordinator for the Executive Committee on Coronavirus in Liberia, updated on her appointment on 7 April to coordinate the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date the country had 69 positive cases of COVID-19, with four recoveries and six deaths. Shōo date

situation was the opportunity to help the country build back better and stressed the importance of coordination with regards to the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. He emphasized the need for additional financial resources for the response and assured the Commission that the UN would continue to work with partners to safeguard value for money.

7. Dr. Khwima Nthara, Country Manager for Liberia, World Bank Group, commended the leadership of the Government that had earned the confidence of the population. He expressed appreciation for the rapid coordination and mobilization of the international community in the country to help the Government respond to the pandemic, especially highlighting the coordinating role of the UN and the support provided by the World Health Organization to the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute. He noted that international and bilateral partners had already mobilized financial support as well as much needed health care materials. The Country Manager underlined the importance of putting a program in place to address the economic and social impact of the pandemic that would have implications for the consolidation of peace. In this regard, he commended the Government for addressing food security, as the global supply chains that Liberia was dependent on were likely to be disturbed, and for the community-based approach that fostered local ownership. In conclusion, he reiterated the commitment of the World Bank to continue supporting Liberia together with development partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Member States, and other partners, welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

They praised the Government for the comprehensive national response and recognized the advanced coordination and cooperation among national actors and the international community. They stressed the need to build on lessons learned from the Ebola crisis, including related to the importance of communication and information to the population, and were encouraged by how the country had come together in crisis response.

They emphasized the importance of short-, medium- and long-term approaches to mitigate the socio-economic impact and preserve peacebuilding gains with a view to building back better. In addition, they called for a people-centered approach protecting the most vulnerable, while ensuring the meaningful participation of women and youth in the response. The particular situation for women related to the lockdown measures



COVID-19 pandemic would have multidimensional effects, including on the socio-economic situation, and highlighted that the crisis also offered an entry point for peacebuilding and for strengthening social cohesion. He expressed support for the Secretary-General's call for global solidarity and for developed countries to assist those less developed. In this regard, he was encouraged by the Commission's engagement in the pandemic's impact on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and highlighted the important role of the PBF to support the Government's peacebuilding priorities during this time.

12. The Chair thanked the briefers and took note of the need to continue peacebuilding efforts while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. She stressed in this regard the importance of utilizing the convening role of the PBC to bring together relevant actors, including women's organizations and civil society, to further coordination, strengthen partnerships and mobilize resources. She highlighted that many root causes of the conflict required further action, notably in the areas of national reconciliation; inclusion of women; youth unemployment; land rights; and decentralization. The Chair committed to keep the PBC updated on follow-up discussions with partners on next steps for accompanying Liberia and adjourned the meeting.