

**Ambassadorial-level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Institution Building  
17 May 2021**

1. On 17 May 2021, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held a virtual ambassadorial-level meeting on “*Building and Sustaining Peace through Institutions*”, convened by the Chair H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees (Egypt).

institutions that will invoke confidence and trust, improve service delivery, address key challenges like climate change, and better manage and mitigate multidimensional risks. To help prioritize and focus, the Administrator outlined a Call to Action in three critical areas: (i) ramping up collective efforts to build effective, accountable, inclusive and resilient national and local institutions, using innovative mechanisms and technology such as *e-services* guided by the UNDP Digital Strategy; (ii) supporting institutions to become more people-centered, integrate a gendered approach including through use of the recently launched UNDP Gender Seal for Public Institutions, and boost participation of youth; and (iii) increasing access to adequate and predictable multi-year low-

the ‘School for All’ program developed by the Japanese Development Agency in partnership with governments to address the learning crisis in multiple African countries, TaRL has been integrated as a good practice and currently reaching large-scale programming in Niger and Madagascar. Similarly, during COVID-19, combining human and digital resources, Pratham was ensuring collective action across India to keep every child in school and learning well while sharing such solutions with global partners. In its work with communities, Pratham was committed to empowering young mothers and youth to take charge, including through Catch Up and Second Chance interventions.

6. Brigadier General Mahamadou Abou Tarka, the President of the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) in Niger, stated that the country struggles in the face of droughts, terrorist activity, and wide-spread poverty. He explained that deteriorating desertification reduces agricultural land which, combined with rapid population growth, increases food insecurity, and exacerbates pre-existing tension between farmers and herders. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated existing conflict drivers, caused severe socioeconomic, political and security repercussions, and worsened the humanitarian situation in the Sahel region, including in Niger. He expressed grave concern about persisting security and humanitarian challenges in border areas. He mentioned that HACP, the only national institution with such a mandate in the Sahel region, promotes and supports non-military measures for conflict resolution and stability. These include political dialogue, but also initiatives that aim to build local community resilience. These include activities that aim to support alternative livelihoods for young people to prevent them from being recruited by terrorist groups. The High Authority also promotes civil-military collaboration and supports local justice systems. In that regard, the Brigadier General expressed appreciation for UN support for peace and development in Niger, including with PBF contributions, and made a plea for more direct technical and financial support for national and local-level government initiatives that aim to enhance resilience.

7. Mr. Helder da Costa, the General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, emphasized the importance of perspectives from fragile and conflict-affected countries that have hosted peacekeeping, political and humanitarian missions and ongoing contextualized international support to them in state building and strengthening institutions beyond the timeframe of the missions to ensure protection of hard-won gains. He underscored that capable institutions were a prerequisite to sustaining peace and stability and no matter how

8. Participants welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

Institution building and inclusive governance, both a means and an end, lie at the core of preventing conflict, strengthening social cohesion, building and sustaining peace, and accelerating progress towards achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 16.

They reiterated that nationally owned and led effort

They acknowledged the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Fund to institution building in conflict-affected countries and catalyzing follow-up investments. They called for adequate, predictable, and sustained financing for institution and capacity building, drawing upon domestic and international public and private sectors. They also called for bold new mechanisms to help countries address crippling debt which has been sharply worsened by the pandemic.

9. Responding to the interventions and questions, the UNDP Administrator underscored the importance of aligning all external peacebuilding support with the “reality of within.” In this context, he highlighted three fundamental contradictions and dilemmas that the PBC may wish to consider in order to better address the downward spirals and missed opportunities in the countries under its consideration: (i) need for