

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Sierra Leone Configuration

Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 23 May 2018, H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of the Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an ambassadorial level meeting to receive an update from Hon. Alie Kabba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Sunil Saigal, United Nations Resident Coordinator, on the peacebuilding priorities of the new Sierra Leone government, and discuss the ways in which the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) can support these.

Mr. Tom Ven, Europe Union Ambassador in Sierra Leone (via VTC), Ambassador Adikalie Foday Sumah, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Marc-André Franche from the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) also briefed the configuration.

Meeting Summary:

1. **In his welcoming remarks, the Chair** congratulated Minister Kabba for his appointment and through him, President Julius Maada Bio on his election and inauguration. He commended the government, opposition and the people of Sierra Leone for the successful presidential, parliamentary and local council elections and the peaceful transfer of power, especially given how close the results were. He commended the UN for its role in providing support during some of the critical moments in the electoral process. He particularly recognized the role that Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) has played in managing some of the tensions during the election and post-election period, in close cooperation and coordination with

and the formal inauguration ceremony taking place on 12 May. The President had already addressed the Parliament and a new Government was already at work for the benefit of the country with a new Chief Minister to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of

critical accompaniment and advocacy role during the electoral process. He reaffirmed the PBF's support to the new government's priorities, and reported that the PBF had approved last year a \$3 million project to support conflict prevention efforts in the lead-up to the elections, focusing on peace advocacy, election security, and early warning and response.

7. Touching upon how the PBC can support Sierra Leone in the post-electoral period, Mr. Franche highlighted three potential areas of involvement:
 - Ensuring that various stakeholders active in Sierra Leone, including international financial institutions and particularly the IMF, conduct their activities in a conflict-sensitive manner, relying on an analysis of risks and opportunities in the present context.
 - Focusing on ways to ensure secure and equitable access to land ownership and control over natural resources, including through lending support to efforts for the reform of the land tenure system.
 - Supporting national reconciliation efforts, including through supporting efforts to address ethnic-regional tensions, with a particular focus on youth.

8. **Ambassador Sumah** thanked the Peacebuil

ensuring this particularly through engaging with partners such as the World Bank and the IMF;

- Underscored that the Sierra Leone example demonstrated the value of partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, and the critical role the UN regional offices played in conflict prevention;
- Commended the government's focus on fiscal discipline and the prioritization of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

10. In response, **Minister Kabba** commended the emphasis on the land tenure issue, particularly as diversifying the economy and focusing on agriculture was one of the priorities of the government. On national reconciliation, he agreed that inclusive approaches, instead of “zero sum games”, would be needed to ensure a harmonious political environment in the future. He confirmed that official trips had been made around the country to engage different political factions and different party corners. He underscored that Sierra Leone was a collective project, and all sides should be given the space to contribute to it.

11. **The Chair** thanked the members for their support and suggestions. He added that while the conversation had been forward-looking, it would be useful to have the opportunity to reflect on the

5.75 Tm0 g0bs()-39570 612 792 reW*nBTETQUTJETQ.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBTF