

PBC Ambassadorial meeting on Gender Responsive Social Protection Systems and Access to Public Services in Peacebuilding Contexts: Connecting local women’s perspectives with global policies and priorities”

20 March 2019

Chairperson’s summary of the Discussion

1. On 20 March 2019, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an Ambassadorial-level meeting on the side of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) on “Gender Responsive Social Protection Systems and Access to Public Services in

decision making processes. In this connection, she briefed on the efforts and initiatives of the Government of Kenya to strengthen women's empowerment, participation and leadership. Women in Kenya are encouraged to participate in the design of reforms including those in the education sector, security sector, national conflict early warning and early response systems and in formulating policies and strategies to reduce inequality. Recently, the President of Kenya issued an executive order related to coordination and implementation of national government security programmes that included training on conflict mediation at the grassroots level. As a result of this initiative, a total of 200 women were trained as mediators and are active across 34 conflict-affected counties. .

5. **Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women** explained the connection between the theme of CSW63 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including how social protection systems can create and contribute to inclusiveness in societies. Ms. Regner highlighted that, despite what is known about the positive impact of

implementation processes, including those in support of social protection and public service delivery.

- Member States highlighted specific priority sectors in conflict-affected contexts that adversely affect women: education, health, access to gender-based violence related services and protection and security sector institutions. Reform in these areas require good policies, capacity and financing, and in this regard some Member States voiced commitments to continue investing in these sectors
- Some Member States called for another progress assessment of SCR 1325 for its 20th anniversary in 2020. They suggested that the PBC contribution to the progress study could be in the form of a review of the implementation of the Gender Strategy. Such a review could help strengthen monitoring and reporting against the strategy and contribute to overall increase of the effectiveness of the strategy.

10. In conclusion, the Chair stated that the PBC meeting on the CSW63 priority theme highlighted the importance of women, gender equality and inclusivity. He further commended the role of the PBC in tackling the social protection subject as a demonstration of the Commission's growing dynamism and ability to discuss various issues of importance to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.