g Commissio	n (PBC), H.E	Mr. Guille	rmo Fernàn	dez de Soto,	co-chaired a j	the Chair of the oint meeting of ble Peace and

that implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (zero hunger), 15 (life on land), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (parnerships) could provide a good entry point for addresing the long-term drivers of pastoralist-farmer conflicts. The President emphasised the value of the ECOSOC and the PBC working together to address peacebuilding and development, and providing guidance to the UN system within their respective mandates, noting a draft ECOSOC resolution also under discussion on support to the Sahel region aiming to help address the development challenges and root causes of regional instability. The PBC Chair<sup>2</sup> reaffirmed the commitment of the ECOSOC and the PBC to accompany the region in its efforts to ensure peacebuilding and development.

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, raised concern over the increase in farmer-herder conflicts across the region, with more deaths attributed in 2018 compared with those from Boko Haram. While conflicts were not new, their frequency and deadly nature was a new trend, driven by the proliferation of small arms, the breakdown of local dispute resolution mechanisms, and the continued widespread impunity of farmer-herder conflicts. Moreover, multiple context-specific factors intensified farmer-herder conflicts: lack of resource governance, political manipulation, economic interests, the instrumentalization of ethnicreligious tensions, and population growth. These points were reiterated by several member States, particularly those from the Sahel region who stressed that transhumance remained a vital source of livelihoods for many people and had always been beneficial to both farmers and pastoralists. The DSRSG outlined the response from the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWAS), working with the whole UN family, particularly FAO, WFP, UNOCA as well as IOM, in partnership with ECOWAS, the World Bank, civil society, donors and others, to address farmer-herder challenges from a conflict prevention perspective. For example, a UN Working Group had been established to coordinate implementation of recommendations from the 2018 ECOWAS-UNOWAS joint study to address farmer-herder challenges in the region. Since an integrated and coherent UN approach was required, the role of UNOWAS was to provide strategic direction, regional analysis, coordination and awareness.

Member of

Mr. Jon Mitchell from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) introduced recent research from ODI on strengthening the response to transhumance-related challenges in the region. He first emphasised the importance of regional integration - ensuring cross-border trade, market access and mobility of livestock to mitigate environmental or security impact in any one country affecting others; transboundary animal disease control and antibiotic resistance; and cyber crime cooperation. Secondly, taking a more risk-informed approach to development and building resilience, including to the effects of climate change. Including ditchell made five specific recommendations: 1) increase the capacity of national and regional early warning systems, including critical indicators on disease, education and public health; 2) create public-private partnerships to generate insurance and financial products; 3) review regional transhumance regulatory frameworks in the light of current conflicts; 4) strengthen the value chan on livestock production and marketing; and 5)1g@eraseeresources for mitigation of the impact of climate.

Member States expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation in some parts of West Africa and the Sahel, and welcomed the preventive and mitigating actions taken so far by governments in the region, ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations and other partners on the ground. They reiterated the importance of integrated approaches to stem violence and address the long-term drivers of conflicts. Many noted the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as cross-agency programmes.

- strengthen national capacities to provide governance and rule of law, social services, and security for citizens;
- accelerate concrete action on the ground to achieve tangible results, ensuring continued monitoring and evaluation to build on good practices;
- monitor and assess the potential for transhumance-related instability in other localised regions to inform responses and prevent conflict elsewhere.

In conclusion, the ECOSOC President and the PBC Chair affirmed that the two intergovernmental entities are