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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its thirteenth session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution [1646 \(2005\)](#), for an annual debate. The report covers the thirteenth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2019.

2. The report has also been prepared pursuant to identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#)), in which the Commission was encouraged to review its provisional rules of procedure through its Organizational Committee, as well as to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

3. In that regard, the structure and content of the present report reflect the work carried out by the Commission in implementing relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and the priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its twelfth session. The report also reflects activities that the Commission undertook in implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/276](#) and Security Council resolution [2413 \(2018\)](#), in which the Commission was invited to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)).

II. Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

A. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: opportunities and challenges

4. Throughout the reporting period, the Commission addressed an increased number of country-specific, regional and thematic issues to help to maintain and draw attention to and enhance coherence in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Commission continued to use its platform to strengthen coordination, coherence,



synergies and complementarities in United Nations support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, at the strategic and operational levels and between Headquarters and the field. Through country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, Member States had the opportunity to hear from representatives of relevant United Nations entities on the coordination of their activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Country-specific situations

5. The Commission's engagement in Burkina Faso was focused on supporting the country's efforts to build and sustain peace in a rapidly deteriorating security situation in some parts of the country. In May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation briefed the Commission on the recent security incidents of an extremist and intercommunal nature, which had expanded to six regions from, initially, the borders with Mali and the Niger. He noted the high cost of efforts to restore and maintain security, indicating that 20 to 25 per cent of the national budget was now devoted to security expenditures and the demands on the Government to respond to socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and implement a development agenda. The Commission expressed grave concern over the precarious security situation, in particular in the Sahel, North and East regions, its humanitarian consequences and the impact of security expenditures on the government budget and social sectors. In September, the Commission convened a high-level meeting on the situation in Burkina Faso, chaired by the President of Colombia and attended by the President of Burkina Faso, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the World Bank Vice-President for Africa, the Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel. The Commission welcomed national and regional efforts in response to the security situation, citing the important role of ECOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel). The Commission expressed support for the prevention and peacebuilding assessment, jointly conducted by the African Development Bank, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank under the leadership of the Government, which should lead to better targeted and more coherent international support for security and rule of law, social services, local governance, resilience and social cohesion initiatives in the five regions that are most vulnerable to insecurity, the Sahel, the North, the Centre-North, the Boucle du Mouhoun and the East. The Commission reiterated its commitment to accompany Burkina Faso in implementing its long-term peacebuilding priorities, including by supporting its efforts to mobilize resources.

6. With respect to Burundi, the Commission continued to promote dialogue on socioeconomic issues and help to sustain international support for the national development plan. The Chair of the Burundi configuration outlined this focus in remarks to the Security Council on 19 February. On 6 March, the Commission met to discuss how to support the Government in implementing the national development plan and strengthening cooperation with multilateral and bilateral partners, including the World Bank. On 13 April, the Chair and the Minister of Finance participated in a high-level event on Burundi on the margins of the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C., at which partners committed to supporting the Government's efforts to tackle malnutrition. On 12 June, the Chair briefed the Commission on his visit to Burundi from 5 to 10 May, during which he had stressed the importance of ensuring that election-related activities did not lead to a slowdown in development efforts. He encouraged the Government of Burundi, political parties and other stakeholders to create conditions for peaceful, inclusive, free and fair elections in 2020. In his remarks to the Council on 14 June, the Chair encouraged further support for reconciliation and dialogue initiatives at the community level and underscored the importance of voluntary, safe and dignified return of Burundian refugees and their sustainable reintegration. During a Security Council informal interactive dialogue on 28 August, he reported on efforts to mobilize international

support for the immediate and longer-term needs of Burundians. On 30 October, the Chair briefed the Council on the Commission's engagement with Burundi. Council members underlined the important role of the Commission, in particular in ensuring the participation of women and youth in political processes, and noted their full support for the Commission to address socioeconomic issues in Burundi.

7. The Commission's engagement with Chad took place amid persisting threats to security in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin, negatively affecting the country's long-term peacebuilding priorities. The Minister of Economy and Development Planning briefed the Commission in July. He presented the efforts of Chad to foster peace and stability in the region, including through contributions to the Multinational Joint Task Force and the G5 Sahel. He underscored that security expenditures accounting for about 30 per cent of the national budget negatively impacts the Government's ability to address the needs of the Chadian people, including service delivery and socioeconomic development. He expressed appreciation for Peacebuilding Fund support to help to prevent intercommunal conflicts and build a more resilient transhumance system and highlighted longer-term priorities in the areas of good governance, rule of law, national cohesion and sustainable development, as articulated in the national development plan 2017–2021. The Commission members expressed support for the country's peacebuilding efforts, including the consideration given to gender equality, empowerment of vulnerable groups, climate change and human rights. Some members urged the full implementation of donor commitments at the 2017 Paris donors round table for Chad.

8. On the Central African Republic, the Commission helped to draw attention to the country's peacebuilding priorities after the signature of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019, in concurrence with the development of a Peacebuilding Fund package to support the implementation of the Agreement. From 13 to 15 February, the Chair of the configuration carried out a joint visit to Bangui with the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support to help to identify key peacebuilding priorities. These include heightened support for the peace agreement and the 2020–2021 electoral process, while maintaining focus on durable solutions and implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, in particular its rule of law elements. Following the visit, the Commission held two expert-level meetings on rule of law and the electoral process on 9 May and 5 September, respectively. On 14 June, the Commission was briefed by Lieutenant Commander Marcia Braga, who was bestowed with the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2019 for her work as a military gender adviser in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The Commission also convened the first joint Economic and Social Council-Peacebuilding Commission meeting on the margins of the Council's humanitarian affairs segment in Geneva on 25 June, focused on promoting complementarity between short-term humanitarian measures and longer-term efforts for lasting peace, including through working with the Council. These meetings informed the negotiated written advice that the Commission submitted to the Security Council ahead of the renewal of the mandate of MINUSCA in the Central African Republic. The advice was endorsed during an ambassadorial-level meeting of the Commission on 30 October and sent to the Council on 1 November. Moving forward, the Commission agreed to continue supporting the peace agreement, maintaining focus on electoral challenges, fostering coordination and synergies among the three United Nations pillars and supporting efforts aimed at enhancing rule of law and combating impunity.

9. The Commission held ambassadorial-level meetings on the Gambia on 15 May and 28 October. At both meetings, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Gambia updated the participants on activities and reforms in the areas of security

sector, transitional justice, constitutional review, human rights and gender equality, as well as efforts to combat corruption. The Commission noted the commencement of activities of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission in January, and recognized the delicate balance between encouraging perpetrators to come forward in the spirit of reconciliation while meeting public demand for immediate justice. The Commission acknowledged the challenge of implementing multiple reforms in an inclusive, timely and cost-effective manner and encouraged further progress on security sector reform. Commission members welcomed the efforts of the Gambia to promote human rights and gender equality, including the Government's intent to repeal all discriminatory laws by the end of the year. Commission members also welcomed the Government's appointment of women to senior leadership positions and commitment to expand the practice. The Commission reiterated its continued commitment to accompany the Gambia on its path to lasting peace and sustainable development, including through the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making and sustaining peace processes.

10. With regard to Guinea-Bissau, the Commission continued its efforts to sustain international attention on development and peacebuilding priorities. During a meeting in May, the Commission welcomed the successful holding of legislative elections in March and discussed preparations for the presidential election, as well as the planning for the transition and drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) pursuant to Security Council resolution 2458 (2019). In October, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited Guinea-Bissau to obtain first-hand accounts of the preparations for the presidential election scheduled for 24 November and further explore how the Commission could assist the country in implementing its peacebuilding priorities, as well as relevant reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Road Map for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau. The Chair met with the President, the Prime Minister and other high-ranking government officials, political party representatives and civil society members. The Chair briefed the Security Council on 10 September, reiterating the Commission's readiness to help to mobilize international support for the Government's strategic development plan 2015–2025. He also sent a letter to the Council on 31 October to inform its deliberations on political developments. On 13 November, the Commission was briefed by the Chair on his trip to Guinea-Bissau, as well as by ECOWAS and UNIOGBIS. All welcomed the coherent messaging of international and regional organizations regarding recent political developments and committed to mobilizing support for longer-term stabilization in the post-electoral period.

11. The main objective of the Commission's engagement in Liberia during the reporting period was to ensure that international support for the country was sustained and coordinated and to maintain focus on national peacebuilding priorities. In January, the Government of Liberia presented to the Commission its new five-year national development plan, the pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development 2018–2023, linking peacebuilding priorities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting was joined by a representative of the World Bank in Monrovia, as well as the African Union and ECOWAS. In June, in view of tensions and large-scale protests, exacerbated by an increasingly difficult economic situation, the Commission met to encourage inclusive, transparent and continued dialogue among all stakeholders, and to support focus on addressing the pressing economic issues and the development goals of the nation, echoing support for a United Nations-African Union-ECOWAS troika on the ground, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel. In October, the Commission met at the expert level to hear an update on the country-level political situation, development of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, designed to accelerate the implementation of the pro-poor agenda for

prosperity and development and which will begin in 2020, and work of the Peacebuilding Fund in Liberia. In accordance with the principle of national ownership, the Commission remains engaged in supporting Liberia to address peacebuilding priorities, including reconciliation and issues of social cohesion and inclusivity, as well as continuing to explore the value of regional experiences, further affirmed through the Commission's visit to the Mano River Union in November.

12. The Commission held its second meeting on Papua New Guinea in October. The meeting provided a timely opportunity for the Minister for Bougainville Affairs of the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Minister for Peace Agreement Implementation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government to brief the Commission on the two Governments' joint peacebuilding efforts with a focus on the referendum on the political status of Bougainville to be held from 23 November to 7 December, which is a central element in the implementation of the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement. The meeting helped bring international attention to the two Governments' peacebuilding priorities in light of the referendum and the critical post-referendum period, as well as to the implementation of the recently approved peace and development road map for the province of Hela to stabilize the community in the aftermath of the 2008 earthquake. Member States welcomed the demonstrated national ownership and called for continued international engagement as Papua New Guinea approaches the referendum. They also highlighted Papua New Guinea as a case study of a coherent cross-pillar approach on the ground that could serve as a model for peacebuilding and sustaining peace regionally and globally.

13. With respect to Sierra Leone, the Commission convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on 22 January to listen to the peacebuilding and development priorities of the Government in support of the new national development plan (2019–2023). The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone attended the meeting via videoconference, alongside the Resident Coordinator, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund country managers. International partners presented their respective frameworks in support of national priorities, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020–2024), the Bank's new country partnership framework (2019–2025) and the resumption of the Extended Credit Facility arrangement of the International Monetary Fund. On the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in June 2019, the Government of Sierra Leone organized a meeting entitled "Walking out of fragility: education and justice for all", focused on the progress made by Sierra Leone in terms of Sustainable Development Goal implementation and at which success stories on education and justice were presented. The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration opened the event alongside the Minister of Planning and Economic Development. The Chair emphasized that Sierra Leone exemplified good practice in successful transitions and stressed that the Commission would be ready to support Sierra Leone in its journey to lasting peace and sustainable development, as needed. During the Commission's visit to the Mano River Union countries in November 2019, the Government conveyed its readiness to exit the formal Commission agenda.

14. The Commission held its second ambassadorial-level meeting on Sri Lanka in April. The Government delegation, led by the Minister of Finance, provided an update on the country's progress in advancing peacebuilding and reconciliation and asked the international community to remain engaged. The Chairpersons of the Office of Missing Persons and the Office of Reparations presented efforts to operationalize the two institutions. The Commission welcomed the Government's co-sponsoring of Human Rights Council resolution 40/1 of March 2019. The Commission congratulated the Government for the peaceful resolution of the 52-day long

constitutional crisis and for seeking innovative partnerships with the private sector in implementing its peacebuilding priorities. On 23 April, the Commission issued a statement condemning in the strongest terms the series of heinous and cowardly terrorist attacks on Easter Sunday committed against Sri Lankan innocent civilians, with over 321 deaths and more than 500 injured, and reaffirmed its commitment in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in Sri Lanka.

Regional situations

15. On 3 May, the Vice-Chair of the Commission participated in the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel, held in N'Djamena, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The meeting, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, was attended by countries in the broader Sahara-Sahel region, as well as representatives of the African Union, the European Union and several bilateral partners. It reviewed the fragile security and political situation in the Sahel and emphasized the need to ensure well-coordinated national, regional and international efforts aimed at addressing the political, security, humanitarian and development challenges facing the Sahel region.

16. On 3 December, the Commission and the Economic and Social Council held a joint meeting on the “Impact of cross-border transhumance on sustainable peace and development in West Africa and the Sahel”. During the meeting, participants considered the multidimensional challenges facing pastoralism and transhumance while highlighting the surge in deadly farmer-herder conflicts in the region, due, inter alia, to the adverse effects of climate change, the proliferation of small arms and the breakdown of longstanding local dispute resolution mechanisms. At the meeting, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel reiterated the multiple threats to peaceful transhumance and outlined activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) in support of relevant ECOWAS efforts. A representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues stressed the need for additional support to preserve transhumance. The Overseas Development Institute shared its research findings, in which the need was stressed for better risk management to ensure enhanced resilience of pastoral and nomadic groups. Some Member States expressed concern about the spike in farmer-herder conflicts and welcomed international support for ECOWAS initiatives. They stressed the importance of strengthening capacities of Governments to provide the necessary social services and security for their citizens. Also highlighted was the need to strengthen traditional conflict mitigation practices and intercommunity dialogue with the full involvement of women and youth. Member States noted the potential of regional integration to help national efforts to address cross-border transhumance challenges in the region in consultation with the local communities and considering their needs, and called for a more integrated, coherent, coordinated and multisectoral United Nations response in view of the multifaceted and multidimensional challenges faced by the region. The Co-Chairs of the joint meeting considered the 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture as providing an opportunity to define ways to further strengthen the relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

17. On 4 December, the Commission held its annual session on regional approaches to peacebuilding in the Sahel, the Lake Chad basin and the Mano River Union. The annual session was focused on ensuring consistent Peacebuilding Commission accompaniment and advancing a more coherent, coordinated and action-oriented approach to addressing the multifaceted regional and cross-border challenges. The Commission was briefed by the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, the

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso (representing the G5 Sahel), African Union representatives, the Rector of the University of Diffa in the Niger and a youth civil society representative from Sierra Leone. Member States expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation in some parts of West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin, and noted ongoing efforts of the countries of the region to address them, including through regional initiatives under the G5 Sahel priority investment plan, as well as the recent commitment by West African Economic and Monetary Union Heads of State to contribute \$100 million to fight terrorism, with a focus on Mali and Burkina Faso. Member States welcomed the regional stabilization strategy in the areas affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin region and echoed the call by the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission for a whole of United Nations system support for the strategy. Some Member States stressed the need to involve more women and young people in efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, echoing the Economic and Social Council-Peacebuilding Commission discussion that had taken place the day before. They also welcomed the announcement of a Mano River Union group in New York that would engage the United Nations on issues of common interest, and which provided an opportunity for Peacebuilding Commission engagement in support of the subregion.

18. In support of efforts of the Mano River Union to consolidate peace dividends and enhance cross-border cooperation for security, trust-building and development, the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Chairs of the Sierra Leone and Liberia configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, carried out a joint visit to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire from 3 to 9 November.

19. In Sierra Leone, the delegation met the President, the Vice-President and several members of the Government, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Economic Development, Internal Affairs and Youth Affairs. The delegation also met with representatives of civil society, women's and youth organizations and the United Nations country team, members of the diplomatic corps and development partners present in the country. In addition, the delegation met with the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union. The delegation commended Sierra Leone for progress achieved in peace and stability since the country had first appeared on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2006. The delegation discussed United Nations support for the Government's vision for national transformation and development, as articulated in the country's 2019–2023 medium-term national development plan entitled "Education for development", launched in February 2019. The delegation underscored the importance of women's and youth participation in sustaining peace efforts and commended the President for his Government's commitment to promoting gender dimensions of peacebuilding. Recognizing the country's progress towards sustainable peace and stability, the meetings with the Government provided the opportunity to discuss and agree on the need for Sierra Leone to exit the Commission's formal agenda and to continue to engage with the Commission as and when the need arose.

20. In Liberia, the delegation met with the President, the Vice-President, ministers and members of the parliament and the judiciary. The delegation also met with representatives of civil society, women's and youth organizations, the United Nations country team, the media, ECOWAS, the World Bank and the African Development Bank and members of the diplomatic corps. The delegation encouraged the President and the Government to continue economic reform efforts aimed at addressing the fiscal and budget situation. The delegation expressed appreciation for the development of the

national development plan, the pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development, and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. In supporting the path of Liberia to lasting peace and sustainable development, the delegation underscored the importance of inclusive and transparent institutions, emphasizing the important role of civil society and women's and youth organizations and that all stakeholders should work to uphold democratic principles, national dialogue, unity and respect for the rule of law.

21. In Côte d'Ivoire, the delegation met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Development Planning. The delegation also met with representatives of the United Nations country team, civil society and women's and youth organizations. The delegation acknowledged the important role that Côte d'Ivoire has been playing, as a member of the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The visit also provided the opportunity to discuss United Nations peacebuilding support for Côte d'Ivoire, including in the areas of security sector reform, reintegration and dialogue in support of civil-military relations at the community level, women's and youth participation in political processes, social cohesion and early warning. Discussions also highlighted the need for the Government to reinforce community conflict prevention mechanisms, in particular in preparation for the 2020 elections. In Abidjan, the delegation also met with the President of the African Development Bank to discuss ways to mobilize coordinated support for the countries in the Mano River Union and Sahel regions.

22. On 11 November, members of the Peacebuilding Commission participated in an interactive dialogue with the African Union Peace and Security Council. The meeting started with opening statements by the Permanent Representative of Algeria and Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council for the month of November 2019, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration. The participants were briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support on United Nations-African Union cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Members of the Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council exchanged views on ways and means to further enhance cooperation and collaboration in support of peacebuilding efforts in Africa, in particular on cross-border peacebuilding challenges in the Mano River Union, the Great Lakes, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel, including through the ongoing operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development. At the meeting the need was emphasized to continue enhancing national ownership and to increase the meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding. After the meeting, the delegation attended a regional workshop aimed at providing a regional perspective to feed into the 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Thematic issues

23. On 20 March, the Commission convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on the sidelines of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting was focused on gender-responsive approaches to the design and implementation of social protection systems in conflict-affected settings. On 21 October, the Peacebuilding Commission held an ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss linkages between peacebuilding and the women and peace and security agenda in preparation for the annual Security Council open debate on resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). The meeting, organized at the initiative of Ireland, provided an opportunity for the Commission to continue to provide a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share experiences. The Commission agreed to report annually on the

implementation of its gender strategy and to continue to prioritize the inclusion of considerations related to women and peace and security in all its thematic and country-specific discussions and in field visits. Member States committed to holding an annual discussion on best practices on “women and peacebuilding” to feed into the Security Council’s annual open debates. In resolution [2493 \(2019\)](#) of October 2019, the Council called for the full implementation of the Commission’s gender strategy to further promote women’s participation in peacebuilding and prevention efforts and continue support for the participation of women-led peacebuilding organizations in planning and stabilization efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and recovery efforts.

24. On 11 September, the Commission convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on South-South and triangular cooperation. The meeting was organized in follow-up to the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, in which South-South and triangular cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals was encouraged. Member States shared lessons and experiences in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as both receivers and providers of support, lauding the Commission’s initiative as a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between sustainable development and peacebuilding while building on the gains of South-South cooperation for development. Member States stressed that South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding and sustaining peace must be demand-driven and respect South-South and triangular cooperation principles and must build on the ongoing reforms of the United Nations peace and security pillar. Member States encouraged the Commission to include South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding and sustaining peace in its future work programme.

25. On 11 November, the Commission held an expert-level meeting to explore the opportunities to discuss institution-building in the context of electoral cycles in peacebuilding settings. The Electoral Assistance Division briefed the Commission on the work of the United Nations system on elections and presented highlights of the report of the Secretary-General on electoral assistance ([A/74/285](#)). The meeting enabled the sharing of experiences on the creation of environments conducive to peaceful and inclusive elections in conflict-affected countries. Liberia shared its efforts to enhance inclusivity, with a focus on women and institution-building ahead of the 2017 elections. Member States noted the Commission’s long experience in supporting countries during election cycles and suggested that the topic of institution-building before, during and after electoral cycles could provide opportunities for countries to share lessons and good practices, while respecting sovereignty and national ownership of electoral processes.

26. On 18 November, at an expert-level meeting of the Commission on youth and peace and security the participants discussed opportunities and challenges for the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#). A representative of the Gambia National Youth Council presented its efforts, with United Nations support, to engage youth in the country’s multiple reforms and reconciliation initiatives. A youth representative from Kyrgyzstan presented efforts in the country to empower youth as agents of stability. Drawing from its own experiences, El Salvador stressed the need to involve the youth early in the implementation of a peace process and to ensure long-term economic opportunities and access to social services, so as to avoid the recurrence of violence. Member States welcomed the discussion and requested its continuation at the ambassadorial level. They suggested that the Commission provide inputs to the first progress report of the Secretary-General, in April 2020, on youth and peace and security, and to the 2020 Security Council open debate on the topic.

B. Towards a more flexible and effective Peacebuilding Commission

The bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

27. The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture call on the Commission to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations. In that connection, the Commission continued to explore ways to enhance its advisory role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

28. An informal interactive dialogue between the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission was held on 26 March. The meeting, which brought together Member States, regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society representatives, focused on progress made in the implementation of the 2016 resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and addressed coherence, leadership and capacities, financing and partnerships. Participants welcomed the initiative as a positive step towards strengthening the collaboration between the Assembly and the Commission, in particular in preparation for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

29. In relation to the Security Council, the Commission fulfilled its advisory functions through: (a) annual informal interactive dialogues co-organized by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Commission; (b) periodic stocktaking at the expert level; and (c) formal briefings to the Council on country-specific and thematic issues. An informal interactive dialogue was held, on 20 March, in preparation for the visit of the Council to the Sahel. The meeting offered an opportunity for the Council to receive an update on the Commission and the engagement of the Peacebuilding Fund in the Sahel, with a focus on Burkina Faso and Mali. The Chair briefed the Council on the Commission's engagement on the Sahel. He underscored the important role the Commission had played in convening a broad range of partners, including national Governments and stakeholders, to discuss and forge consensus on addressing the region's multidimensional challenges. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support gave an overview of Peacebuilding Fund investments in Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as broader Fund priorities and plans in the Sahel. He stressed that the Peacebuilding Fund was actively supporting the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its Support Plan by providing catalytic seed funding to kick-start the operationalization of the Support Plan. Members of the Council expressed their appreciation for the timeliness of the meeting and the usefulness for the Council to hear from the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office on the broader peacebuilding and development challenges of the Sahel. A number of participants underscored the importance of addressing security, development and humanitarian challenges in a coherent manner. The need for the United Nations to work in support of nationally identified priorities aimed at strengthening State institutions, empowering youth and women, and strengthening social cohesion was also underscored.

30. On 27 November, the Chair briefed the Council at an informal interactive dialogue on UNOWAS. At the meeting, the Chair briefed the Council on the findings of his recent visit to the Mano River Union and shared recommendations emerging from the Commission's engagement in West Africa and the Sahel.

31. An informal expert-level meeting was held, on 22 May, to reflect on the status and prospect of implementation of the presidential statements on peacebuilding adopted by the Security Council in 2017 and 2018 ([S/PRST/2017/27](#) and

S/PRST/2018/20). Participants, who included the members of the Commission that are also members of the Council, noted that the Commission was a critical platform for bringing broad peacebuilding perspectives to the Council, building on national needs and priorities. They noted that the advice of the Commission, particularly relevant when the Council is discussing the formation, renewal and transition of mission mandates, should build upon, and go beyond, the content of the reports of the Secretary-General, by bringing in multidimensional perspectives and a broad peacebuilding dimension. Participants also noted that the advice must be well-structured, concrete and relevant, and focused around the priorities of the Council.

32. With regard to country-specific briefings to the Security Council, and as mentioned above, the Chairs of the country configurations provided the Council with substantive updates on key national peacebuilding priorities, both orally and in writing.

33. On 18 July, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Commission, briefed the Security Council at its open debate on “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: strengthening partnerships for successful nationally owned transitions”. The Chair noted that, as reflected in the experience of Colombia, effective partnerships between the United Nations, national Governments, and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional bodies, international financial institutions, civil society and, where relevant, the private sector, were critical, in particular in transitions. He noted that in such cases, strong and coordinated partnerships between the key stakeholders involved were essential, in order to close political gaps, and gaps in institutional and financial capacity, as well as to prevent backsliding in progress in matters of peace after the withdrawal of the operations concerned. The closure of operations in Côte d’Ivoire in 2017 and Liberia in 2018, and transitions in progress in other countries, were good examples of the importance of having coherent efforts in place to support peace processes at various stages. The Chair underscored that the Commission had progressively used its convening power to promote such effective partnerships to secure sustained international support, for example in Liberia, where the Commission had provided advice to the Council on the development of a national peacebuilding plan.

34. In relation to the Economic and Social Council, as indicated above, a joint meeting with the Commission was held on 3 December to discuss the multidimensional challenges facing pastoralism and transhumance in West Africa and the Sahel region, which continued to increase regional insecurity, and the lack of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The joint meeting preceded the annual session of the Commission on the Sahel, the Lake Chad basin and the Mano River Union and built on previous joint engagements of the Economic and Social Council-Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the Security Council, in the Sahel region. Building on the good practice of the written submission on the MINUSCA mandate, key elements from the discussion were reflected in the advice of the Commission to the Security Council ahead of the renewal of the UNOWAS mandate.

35. On 24 July, the Chair of the Commission briefed the Economic and Social Council at its management segment on lessons learned from the Commission’s experience with the African countries under its consideration. He stressed that Africa was a priority focus for the Commission, and shared some lessons from its engagements in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, the Gambia, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and the Sahel region. In his briefing, the Chair reaffirmed the continued commitment of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission to discuss the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding, help to build and sustain peace in countries under the consideration of the Commission and improve coherence in the United Nations system.

Fostering partnerships

36. On 1 July, the annual Peacebuilding Commission-World Bank dialogue meeting, co-chaired by the Chair of the Commission and the Senior Vice-President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relationships and Partnerships, was held in Washington, D.C., to consider ways to strengthen the partnership between the two entities on relevant countries. The dialogue, which included a meeting with the Executive Board of Directors of the World Bank, was focused on synergies between the two institutions. Participants called for the partnership to help to leverage both the convening role and experience of the Commission and the Bank's expertise and resources for better implementation of the peacebuilding activities on the ground.

37. On 9 October, as a follow-up to the dialogue, the Commission held an ambassadorial-level meeting at which the Senior Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank presented a draft of the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence, which recognizes the centrality of partnerships, including with the United Nations, in relevant conflict-affected settings. Several Member States welcomed the continued engagement on the strategy. A key outcome of the briefing is the opportunity created for future Commission meetings to serve as a platform to gather good practices on the implementation of the Strategy by the World Bank in countries under the Commission's consideration.

38. As mentioned above, during the Commission's visit to the Mano River Union, the delegation also met with the President of the African Development Bank to discuss ways to mobilize coordinated support for the countries in the Mano River Union and the Sahel and discussed opportunities for closer collaboration between the Bank and the Commission.

Strengthening synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

39. In implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission continued to strengthen synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund by ensuring an improved flow of information from the Fund to the Commission in three ways: (a) inviting the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide updates on the work of the Fund at regional and country-specific meetings of the Commission; (b) inviting the Chair and members of the Advisory Group of the Fund to brief the Commission on the findings resulting from the meetings of the Group; and (c) inviting countries that are receiving financing from the Fund, in particular countries declared eligible by the Secretary-General, to brief the Commission on their peacebuilding priorities, progress and challenges. The experience during the reporting period was particularly positive with regard to the Sahel, where increased investment by the Fund had supported greater and broader engagement by the Commission, notably during its annual session.

40. On 25 November, the Peacebuilding Commission heard a briefing by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the Peacebuilding Fund investment plan 2020–2024. The Office noted that contributions to the Fund had doubled over the past strategic plan period (2017–2019), in response to the Secretary-General's call for a significant increase in funding for peacebuilding in general and his Peacebuilding Fund in particular. To meet growing demand, the aim of the Fund's new investment plan is to invest \$1.5 billion over five years. The Commission could play an important role in raising awareness on this funding objective, and in accompanying recipient countries. Many Member States expressed support for the direction of the Fund's new investment plan.

Early preparations for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture

41. In implementation of the 2016 resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, and building on the practice established in 2014, the Commission convened several expert-level meetings to discuss suggested terms of reference for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture. On 31 October, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by the Commission and transmitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the two Presidents launched the review process. The review is composed of an informal phase, including consultations led by the Peacebuilding Commission and open to all Member States, inputs from independent eminent persons appointed by the Secretary-General and regional and thematic consultations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as a formal intergovernmental process. A retreat of the Commission on 15 and 16 October served as a first informal discussion on areas of focus for the review. On 22 November, the Commission convened all Member States of the United Nations to officially launch the review process. Member States were briefed by the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council and the Vice-President of the General Assembly and had an exchange of views on the scope and objectives of the 2020 review.

Rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

42. The Commission continued the review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods that it had initiated at its tenth session, in order to make its work more flexible and effective. In that connection, the Commission, building on the recommendations contained in the annex to its report on its twelfth session ([A/73/724-S/2019/88](#)), convened a number of expert-level consultations, which culminated in a document that it informally adopted on 3 December (see annex) to guide its work.

III. Conclusions and agenda going forward

43. The next reporting period will present another important opportunity for the Commission to implement the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. In that regard, the Commission will continue to pursue several important work streams that could further strengthen its country-specific and policy-related engagements.

A. Implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture

44. The Commission, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, will continue to implement the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, in addition to the actions identified under each of the strategic priorities identified below.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene periodic meetings on the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture;

(b) The country configurations will implement the relevant conclusions of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture;

(c) In implementation of the terms of reference for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission will convene meetings, open to all Member States, relevant parts of the United Nations system, civil society representatives and independent experts, as agreed to by Peacebuilding Commission members during the spring of 2020, to inform the formal phase of the review and the next report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

B. The bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

45. The Commission will explore concrete ways to further strengthen its role as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities.

Action:

(a) The Chair will consult with the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council on ways to strengthen synergies between their respective bodies and the Commission; to that end, the Committee will nominate three of its members to serve as informal coordinators of the relations between the Commission and these bodies;

(b) The Chair will consult with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council on ways to implement the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture;

(c) The Organizational Committee will draw upon the main findings of the stocktaking exercise of its advisory function with regard to the Security Council and consider practical ways to implement them, including efforts to align its work with the Council's calendar;

(d) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Security Council to prepare for the convening of informal interactive dialogues;

(e) The Chair will consult with the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa to explore ways to enhance an informal exchange of views on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a focus on Africa;

(f) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Economic and Social Council in preparation for the convening of a joint event;

(g) The Chair of the Commission and the Chairs of relevant country configurations, with a view to further strengthen the advisory role of the Commission to the Security Council, will continue to ensure that the activities of the Commission, including meetings and visits to the field, are synchronized with the programme of work of the Council and that the advice of the Commission will be focused on specific areas to which the Council's attention has been drawn.

C. Partnerships and engagement with other stakeholders

46. The follow-up to the sixth annual session of the Commission will be carried out in 2020 and will provide guidance to the Commission in its preparations for the seventh annual session. In that regard, the Commission will strengthen its collaboration with international financial institutions, regional organizations and, where relevant, the private sector.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene informal discussions with the participation of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development banks, with the aim of exploring those specific policy areas requiring further elaboration during the seventh annual session. Interested States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Peacebuilding Commission will also be invited;

(b) The Organizational Committee will coordinate with the World Bank on ways to strengthen collaboration between the Commission and the Bank, including by implementing the recommendations of the joint statement issued by the Commission and the Bank on 30 June 2017.

D. Towards a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission

47. The Commission will continue to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will continue to provide a platform to countries, at their request;

(b) The Committee will continue its consideration of regional and subregional dimensions of peacebuilding, with the consent of all countries concerned;

(c) The Committee will implement its gender strategy, in accordance with the modalities indicated in the strategy. A review report of implementation of the gender strategy will be prepared in the context of the anniversary of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). The Commission will also hold a meeting on women and peacebuilding to provide concrete input into the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture;

(d) While keeping its focus on country-specific and regional issues, the Committee will also continue its consideration of thematic issues of peacebuilding, including, but not limited to, financing, gender, institution-building, sovereignty, national ownership and youth;

(e) The Committee will continue to utilize the Commission's unique platform to invite various stakeholders to discuss peacebuilding matters including from, inter alia, civil society, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions;

(f) The Committee will continue its consideration of the provisional rules of procedure and working methods of Commission. The Committee will report on the progress made in the improvement of the Commission's working methods in its next annual report.

E. Financing for peacebuilding: strengthening the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

48. The Commission will continue to discuss ways to create stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund.

Action:

(a) The Commission will continue to engage with the Peacebuilding Support Office to remain informed about the work of the Fund;

(b) The Commission will further engage with the Advisory Group of the Fund and invite the Group to share updates about its meetings;

(c) The Organizational Committee will continue to provide a platform to countries, at their request, that are seeking or receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular those that have been granted eligibility by the Secretary-General, or are in the process of renewing the eligibility, to share their peacebuilding experiences and challenges.

Annex

Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

The present document contains recommendations whose objectives and outcomes have been established as good practices, and that can be addressed through an informal process. These recommendations are accompanied by relevant examples. It also includes additional action areas whose implementation can contribute to the efficiency and flexibility of the Commission. The Commission can implement all of these actions without the need to amend its provisional rules of procedure and within the mandate of the founding resolutions of the Commission, General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), as well as Assembly resolution 70/262 and Council resolution 2282 (2016). The review of the Commission's working methods is an ongoing process, and this informal document will be reviewed periodically, through the Commission's annual reports, in order to assess the added value of the recommendations to the work of the Commission.

Recommendations

1. **Leadership:** The Commission should improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Action:

I. As mandated by paragraph 5 of both General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), which encourage the Commission to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and building upon the established practice of having the outgoing Chair serve as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support for its leadership, the Commission will continue to explore ways to further strengthen the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Any informal arrangement will not prejudice the change in the membership of the Commission, which takes place every two years and will operate within regional rotation of Chairs, as spelled out in annex I to the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. The decision to endorse a candidate for each post remains a prerogative of the respective regional groups, for action by the Organizational Committee.

II. Make greater use of the Vice-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair, in the organization and conduct of Peacebuilding Commission meetings.

Good practices: the outgoing Chair has served as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support for the incoming Chair. Vice-Chairs supported the Chair by presiding over a number of meetings.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** while recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission in all its configurations and meetings, the Commission should continue to consider flexible options for other forms of engagement in accordance with its mandate, including a more engaged role of the Organizational Committee.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the Organizational Committee as a platform to convene country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, in accordance with its founding resolutions. When convening regional discussions, references to country-

specific situations shall be made with the consent of those countries, which shall be shared with the Members of the Committee.

II. Promote a Commission that can work in a form of “variable geometry”, where the character, focus and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis, with the consent of all countries considered and with the consent of its Member States, in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility, as well as its mandate to assist Governments partnering with the Commission with their peacebuilding priorities, as appropriate.

III. Strengthen the convening role of the Commission by inviting additional partners to participate in its meetings. Such partners, to be invited with the consent of the country considered and that of the Commission’s member States, may include Member States that are not members of the Organizational Committee, representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, including youth and women’s organizations, and, where relevant, the private sector.

Good practices: the meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Sri Lanka; the regional discussions on West Africa, the Sahel and the Great Lakes; and its meetings on women and peace and security, convened in implementation of the Commission’s gender strategy.

3. **Role of the membership:** the Commission has a very diverse membership, bringing together seven members from the General Assembly, seven members from the Security Council, seven members from the Economic and Social Council, five members from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and five members from the top 10 financial contributors. Therefore, a stronger and more coherent engagement of all members of the Commission will further enhance its efficiency.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the perspectives of the organs that elect or designate the members of the Commission: in addition to country-specific interests, Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to bring perspectives of those bodies into the deliberations of the Commission. For example, members can offer advice on the working methods of their constituencies and can highlight relevant ongoing thematic issues in their respective organs that will add value to the work of the Commission and reinforce synergies between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, while respecting the mandate of each body. Members elected from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and the top 10 financial contributors are also encouraged to reinforce the synergies of those constituencies with the Commission.

II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the Commission on priority areas that are relevant for the work of their respective organs or groups, and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This will add to the visibility of the Commission and enhance clarity on the work of the Commission. Similarly, establishing a predictable workplan (see recommendation 4 below) and summarizing results on a regular basis can lead to a more regular flow of information

between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

III. Members of the Commission are encouraged to actively engage and support the work of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, while avoiding duplication of work and enhancing the idea of one Commission.

IV. The Commission could explore the possibility of appointing informal coordinators for its relations with General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, based on examination of the experience of appointing an informal coordinator for the relations with the Security Council. The appointment of informal coordinators for relations with troop-contributing countries and financial contributors could also be considered.

Good practices: the annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission is a good example of how the Commission has brought together various partners from the United Nations system and beyond, including representatives of civil society. Discussions pertaining to the regional dimensions of peacebuilding, as well as country-specific and thematic discussions, included representatives of relevant United Nations departments and of civil society organizations. An informal coordinator for relations between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council helped the Commission take stock of its advisory role. Member States together with the Chair prepared and conducted various thematic discussions.

4. **Workplan:** a more predictable and longer-term workplan that would allow broader participation of Member States at the meetings of the Commission.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report and reflecting the Commission country-specific, regional and thematic priorities. The workplan should include a provisional annual calendar. In the middle of each month, the Chair will circulate the provisional calendar for the following month with a view to receiving inputs and suggestions from members of the Commission. Additional previously unscheduled meetings could be added, if required, with adequate lead time.

II. The workplan is to take into account the relevant calendar of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, particularly when it comes to activities where the advisory role of the Commission may be sought, such as when requested by the Security Council to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates (see [S/PRST/2017/27](#)). In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.

III. The workplan is to include more regular engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.

IV. The workplan is to include specific focused meetings at which diverse countries (Peacebuilding Fund recipients and/or applicants) share their national peacebuilding plans.

V. The date and theme of the Commission's annual session are to be decided well in advance in order to encourage Member States to participate with capital-based representatives.

VI. Visits to the field are to be reflected in the workplan; concept notes of visits should be circulated at least one week before the date of the visit.

Good practices: the forward agenda of the annual reports of the Commission has been useful in guiding the work of the Commission. Following the Chair's visit to Addis Ababa in 2016, the Commission held discussions on the African Union's recommendations for holding annual meetings and organizing joint field visits. This was further welcomed at the Peacebuilding Commission meeting with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in November 2019. The monthly workplans of the Commission have been useful tools to better align the work of the Commission with the calendar of the Security Council and to facilitate Member States' engagement with the Commission.

5. **Bridging role:** resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016) stress the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and, inter alia, in serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities. The resolutions also recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to better utilize its membership to strengthen its links with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (see also actions 2.I and 2.II) to efficiently address issues regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

II. Dialogues between the Chair of the Commission and the Presidents of General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be sought, as necessary, as well as informal meetings of the Commission with those bodies.

III. In connection with the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, in addition to its engagement so far, when invited to brief the Council it should prepare its briefings by aligning its workplan with relevant Security Council meetings (see action 3.II). The activities of the Commission in preparation for these briefings may include internal thematic discussions in anticipation of issues to be discussed in the Security Council, visits to the field, including, when invited by the Council, joint visits with the Council to advance peacebuilding perspectives and the organization of meetings to engage with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. In addition to such formal briefings, the Commission could provide its advice in writing and through informal interactive dialogues, as appropriate.

IV. Through this advanced preparation, and the uniqueness of the Commission's convening power, it can have sustained interactions and enhance its efforts to provide the Security Council with substantive advice, upon request, for example, in matters relating to the synergies between security and development. The advisory role of the Commission to the Council is recognized, in particular, in the context of the Council's consideration of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, during which the Commission, is uniquely positioned to provide clear, realistic, applicable and qualitative, peacebuilding perspectives to the Council, if requested. Similarly, regular exchanges between the

Commission and other subsidiary organs of the Council should be further enhanced.

V. The Commission is to advocate a coherent, predictable and traceable use of resources for peacebuilding activities, including with international financial institutions, and for innovative financial instruments

VI. The Commission should also continue to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations, with appropriate emphasis on activities undertaken on the ground.

Good practices: the informal interactive dialogue of the Security Council with the Commission in March 2019 provided Member States with a space to explore practical ways to enhance the advisory role of the Commission to the Council in advance of a Council visit. The written observations that the Commission transmitted to the Security Council pertaining to the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. The support in Liberia for the development and implementation of the country's peacebuilding plan, during the transition from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Furthermore, the participation of the Chair of the Commission in the high-level dialogue of the President of the General Assembly, and the Commission's joint events with the Economic and Social Council in December 2019 are examples of how the Commission can implement its mandate to play a bridging role among relevant United Nations bodies.

6. **Synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund:** while preserving the independence of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, look at ways to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund, and to ensure that Member States remain informed on the ongoing projects of the Fund.

Actions:

I. The Peacebuilding Commission is to hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular when peacebuilding priority plans are discussed.

II. The Commission is to invite the Chair and the members of the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund to meetings of the Commission, when relevant.

III. Regular briefings by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the activities of the Fund at the meetings of the Commission, and more regular circulation of Peacebuilding Fund documents to the Commission would be useful.

IV. The Commission is to convene an annual meeting to be informed on the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and increase the visibility of the Fund.

Good practices: the meetings on financing for peacebuilding and the discussions on countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund represent innovative ways to keep the Commission informed of progress that countries make with support from the Fund. The informal meeting of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission with the members of the Fund's Advisory Group. The regular updates from the Peacebuilding Support Office on Peacebuilding Fund activities.

7. **Preparation, format, conduct and outcome of Commission meetings:** meetings of the Commission should be prepared well in advance with a view to ensuring substantive discussions and facilitate concrete outcomes. A balance between

transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations has to be ensured when deciding if a meeting should be open or closed. The Commission, in all its meetings and formats, and with the consent of Member States, should enhance inclusivity and ensure that participation reinforces an integrated Organizational Committee and the concept of a unified Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Support Office is to continue to ensure that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place. Ensure that there is a balance between time allocated to presentations by briefers and to interventions from the floor, with a view to promoting interactive discussions.

Actions:

- I. The Commission should make greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.
- II. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will circulate a concept note at least one week before the date of the meeting.
- III. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with the countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed.
- IV. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will ask briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.
- V. In the conduct of the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will remind briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes. The Chair will also encourage speakers from the floor to limit their interventions to no more than three minutes.
- VI. When inviting participants from the floor to speak, the Chair, upon advice from the Secretary, will prioritize countries from the region and give due consideration to protocol and order of registration.
- VII. In addition to Chair's summaries, the Commission is to consider relevant documents to strengthen the outcome of its meetings. These should include, as appropriate, press statements and letters to be agreed upon by the Commission.
- VIII. Documents to be approved by the Commission are to be circulated early enough to allow Member States to provide inputs and suggestions.

8. **Visibility and communication:** there is a need to address the lack of awareness, both within and outside the United Nations, about the work of the Commission and on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Actions:

- I. The Commission is to explore ways to increase the visibility of its open meetings, in particular high-level events such as the annual session, to attract more attention from the media. For example, the Commission could consider issuing press releases, as appropriate, after such events.
- II. The Commission is to explore ways to increase ongoing activity on the web and on social media with regard to all of its meetings and country visits.