

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 25 April 2022 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank you for inviting the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to submit written advice, under rule 39 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, in connection with the meeting on the situation in the Great Lakes region scheduled for Wednesday, 27 April 2022 (see annex).

I kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Rabab **Fatima**
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2022 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission's advice to the Security Council on the situation in the Great Lakes region

In the past few years, the Peacebuilding Commission, in line with its mandate, has sought to mobilize support for regional peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region (the regional strategy). The Commission has welcomed the comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the strategy and, in its recent engagements in the region, has focused on strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding and development and addressing the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Based on its continuing engagement in support of peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region, the Commission would like to share the following points:

The Commission welcomes the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region towards the implementation of the peacebuilding priorities contained in the action plan for the implementation of the regional strategy, as articulated in the most recent report of the Secretary-General.

The Commission notes that strengthening national and regional programmes for demobilization, disarmament, repatriation and reintegration remains of key importance to peacebuilding in the region. A series of recent events related to the Mouvement du 23 mars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a stark reminder of that. In this regard, it underscores the importance of the contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of reintegrating former combatants repatriated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda and welcomes the proposal concerning the new Demobilization, Disarmament, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other non-military measures to support the eradication of negative forces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

The Commission also welcomes the activities under way to support efforts aimed at advancing the inclusion, participation and empowerment of women and young people, in particular the operationalization of the Great Lakes Women Entrepreneurs Network as part of efforts to support the participation of all segments of society in regional economic cooperation, and the commitment to strengthen legislative measures to ensure gender equality and accelerate the participation of women in political processes.

The Commission emphasizes the importance of supporting improved governance and management of natural resources to leverage socioeconomic opportunities for the Great Lakes region.

The Commission, in line with its mandate, stresses the importance of partnership with international and regional financial institutions in supporting peacebuilding and development efforts in the region. It encourages the Special Envoy to continue to engage with international financial institutions on strategic alignment and coherence around the pillars of the regional strategy.

The Commission calls for continued support from the international community for the countries of the region and regional organizations in their efforts to advance

towards peace, security and development. The Commission, while adhering to its mandate, will continue to support the implementation of the action plan for the regional strategy, including through advocacy for international support for critical peacebuilding projects developed by the Office of the Special Envoy in consultation with countries of the region and in coordination with the United Nations system, building on the Peacebuilding Fund's programmatic support.
