



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 October 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 cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (African Union), scheduled for 11 October 2022.

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) Muhammad Abdul **Muhith**
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission's advice to the Security Council for the debate on the theme "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations: African Union – commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the African Union, building a constructive multipolar world"

The Peacebuilding Commission, in close cooperation with the African Union, has sought to mobilize support for African countries, including through the Commission's respective country and regional engagements and its annual informal consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council, as stated in the programme of work of the Commission. The partnership between the African Union and the Peacebuilding Commission is guided by the memorandum of understanding on peacebuilding, which represents a major milestone in the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, of 2017, and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of 2018, which lay the foundation for continued cooperation between the two bodies on peace and security on the continent. Similarly, the Common African Position on the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, Towards an Enhanced Global Peacebuilding System, endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 22 September 2020, has provided an opportunity for fostering more closely aligned strategies for a shared United Nations-African Union peacebuilding, including supporting the African Union's flagship initiative, Silencing the Guns in Africa, and the associated master road map, which have been extended to 2030.

In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the African Union, and drawing on its continuing regional and country engagement in Africa, including the last informal consultative meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, held on 11 November 2021, the Commission commends the ongoing efforts of the African Union leadership to address the complex and evolving peace, security and development challenges facing the continent, such as by accompanying conflict-affected countries in pursuit of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Commission notes with concern the recent unconstitutional changes of government in some parts of Africa and the growing threat of terrorism, which, coupled with the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change and food insecurity, among other factors, may undermine Africa's long-term stability and sustainable development.

Aware that effective and sustainable peacebuilding initiatives in Africa depend on collective peacebuilding efforts, the Commission underscores the importance of integrated implementation of international, continental and regional instruments. It encourages closer cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union for an enhanced partnership and coordination and the adoption of long-term, people-centred security approaches to address the root causes of conflicts, instability and violence on the continent.

In view of the above, the Commission would like to share the following recommendations:

First, the Commission recognizes the significant progress made by the African Union and the United Nations through the continued implementation of the joint United Nations-African Union frameworks and encourages both organizations to strengthen their strategic and operational partnerships by mobilizing their existing peacebuilding tools to sustain peace in Africa. The Commission reiterates the call made in the last African Union Peace and Security Council-Peacebuilding Commission meeting on transitions to strive for an impact-driven collaboration, with greater emphasis on coherent planning, operational complementarity and leveraging of comparative advantages in specific contexts, so as to ensure mutual understanding of the opportunities and challenges for collaboration in devising remedies. The partnership between the African Union and the United Nations should be encouraged to further support the African Union in its efforts to revitalize and operationalize the Union's policy on post-conflict reconstruction for comprehensive, coordinated and phased approaches to peacebuilding activities on the continent, taking into account short- and long-term needs of countries in line with the notion of national ownership.

In that regard, the Commission applauds the inauguration of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Cairo on 21 December 2021, and encourages Member States from Africa to make appropriate use of it. The Commission hopes that the African Union's efforts towards facilitating more structured and regular early warning interactions by launching the Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention will help the sharing of lessons learned and experiences on early warning response and conflict prevention.

Second, the Commission emphasizes the importance of the regional triangular partnership between the United Nations, the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, including international and regional financing institutions, in support of peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the progress made with the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, including support in articulating its action plan for 2022–2024, with a focus on the critical role of the territorial action plans. The Commission also welcomes the initiation of the joint strategic assessment on the security and governance situation and response initiatives in the Sahel region by the African Union, the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States and the Group of Five for the Sahel, and encourages timely follow-up and support for this initiative.

To enhance peacekeeping operations and consolidate the efforts of the peacekeeping missions on the continent, the Commission recognizes the need for closer collaborations through regional and triangular partnerships in the design of peacebuilding policy frameworks and operational practices. In addition, initiatives to bridge capacity-building needs and respond to specialized technical and operational needs could improve mandate delivery.

Third, the Commission also wishes to underline the importance of investing in institution-building, in particular supporting nationally owned and led efforts to build effective institutions. In this regard, the Commission urges for investment into disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reforms as critical and integral components for peacebuilding. In doing so, the Commission also urges for closer support to national and local authorities to help identify needs for security sector reform and build the capacity of security forces to ensure stability and protect the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. It also encourages Member States from Africa to allocate adequate resources to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform programmes, with the support of development partners.

Fourth, mindful of the importance of including all relevant stakeholders in peacebuilding processes, the Commission calls for continued efforts to improve the sensitivity of peacebuilding initiatives with regard to gender and youth. The Commission recognizes the significant role of women peacebuilders serving as agents of peace in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery efforts to achieve sustainable peace. The Commission, therefore, notes the African Union's efforts to strengthen and implement the women and peace and security agenda under the strong leadership of the African Women Leaders Network. Similarly, the Commission also notes the leadership of the African Union Commission and its African Youth Ambassadors for Peace to advance the youth and peace and security agenda, including in the context of the High-level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes. It further encourages the adoption and implementation of national action plans on youth and peace and security across the region, in line with Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#), and expresses readiness to support such efforts.

Fifth, the Commission welcomes the support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund to countries in Africa, complementing the efforts of the African Union. With an active portfolio of over \$251 million across the continent, the Fund supports cross-border cooperation and countries undergoing complex transitions, promoting conflict management, mediation capacities, inclusive dialogue and reconciliation. Through its regular portfolio and annual dedicated Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, the Fund supports national initiatives focusing on women and young people's participation in the decision-making process, as well as ensuring that the voices of women and youth are heard in respect of all peacebuilding issues.

Recognizing also that peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge and that additional resources are required to address the existing financing gaps and meet increasing requests for peacebuilding and sustaining peace support from Member States, the Commission echoes the calls made in the Common African Position on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2020 to explore ways of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding so as to preserve peace gains and prevent relapse into conflict in Africa. In that regard, the Commission welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding in September 2022.

Sixth, the Commission recognizes the complexity of the humanitarian, security, political and development challenges facing the continent associated with the effects of the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity and consequent displacement. Noting the added value of the reform on the United Nations development system, the Commission further encourages greater alignment of collective support, including joint analysis, programming and action between United Nations agencies, funds and programmes through United Nations country teams and African Union operational entities to address development and peace challenges on the ground.

Finally, the Commission notes the bold actions taken by African countries, regions and cities to combat climate change and encourages more coordinated efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change on development and peacebuilding in some regions of Africa. In this regard, the Commission underscores the primary role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address the issue of climate change comprehensively and notes that the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022. The Commission also reiterates the calls made within the Conference of the Parties at the twenty-sixth session for more structured financing investments in response to climate change.