



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 21 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 provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in connection with the briefing on the situation in the Great Lakes region, scheduled for 26 October 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)* Muhammad Abdul **Muhith**  
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



## **Annex to the letter dated 21 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 on the situation in the Great Lakes region**

The Peacebuilding Commission recognizes the potential of the Great Lakes region to yield sustainable peace, security and development and welcomes the achievements of the countries in the region and guarantor institutions with regard to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, as detailed in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Framework.

The Commission, however, notes with concern recent developments in the Great Lakes region that threaten stability, sustainable peace and development, including the persistence of violent incidents caused by non-State armed groups, the rise in hate speech and discrimination, increased food insecurity and continuing forced displacement with devastating humanitarian consequences. In addition, the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the adverse effects of climate change have hampered socioeconomic progress, causing additional strains on social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts, thereby exacerbating instability and negatively affecting development in the region.

Further to its continuing engagement in peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region, the Commission would like to share the following points:

(a) The Commission commends the continuing dialogue efforts and the enhanced political and diplomatic outreach by leaders in the region and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, underlines the need to continue and intensify those efforts and reiterates its commitment to mobilizing support for the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region (the regional strategy);

(b) The Commission welcomes the regional political and diplomatic efforts, including through the East African Community-led Nairobi process and the ongoing mediation by the President of Angola, to promote dialogue and strengthen trust and confidence to address the crisis. The Commission calls for enhanced coordination between those political processes in the region. In this regard, the Commission stresses the importance of support for dialogue efforts at the national and regional levels and emphasizes the importance of continued engagement with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and traditional leaders, which can contribute significantly to advancing social cohesion and peacebuilding at the local, national and regional levels;

(c) The Commission welcomes the operationalization of the Contact and Coordination Group and its engagement strategy and underscores the importance of amplifying collective efforts to strengthen regional and cross-border collaborations to address the root causes and drivers of conflict, reduce the threat of violence and eradicate negative forces in the region in an integrated and coordinated manner, including through disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration programmes and other non-military measures;

(d) The Commission welcomes efforts by the Special Envoy and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to increase international support for the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the workshop on natural resources held in Khartoum in 2021 and underscores the need to promote the sustainable and transparent management of natural resources in the Great Lakes region in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union;

(e) The Commission commends the ongoing economic and trade initiatives among the countries in the region and further encourages those countries to create a political and social environment conducive to the promotion of sustainable economic development, which will bring prosperity to the entire region that is necessary for building peace;

(f) The Commission emphasizes that inclusivity is key to advancing local, national and regional peacebuilding objectives to ensure long-term sustainable peace and it encourages the continuation of current efforts to strengthen the role of women in political and peace processes and structures at the local, national and regional levels. The Commission also encourages the adoption and implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security, in line with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), and expresses its readiness to support such efforts;

(g) The Commission stresses the importance of including young people and notes the need to increase national and regional efforts to include them in political processes and socioeconomic development. It urges the adoption and implementation of national action plans on youth, peace and security across the region, in line with Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) and the African Union 10-Year Implementation Plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (2020–2029), and expresses its readiness to support such efforts;

(h) The Commission stresses the importance of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the East African Community, as well as with international and regional financial institutions and the private sector. In this regard, the Commission expresses continued support for the Special Envoy in his multi-stakeholder engagement, including with international and regional financial institutions, focusing on strategic alignment and coherence with the regional strategy, and underlines the need for the Special Envoy to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise on stabilization efforts in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the wider region, in order to ensure such strategic alignment;

(i) The Commission notes the active portfolio of the Peacebuilding Fund of over \$37 million in the Great Lakes region in support of national, cross-border and regional peacebuilding initiatives and stresses the importance of a strategic and coherent approach by the United Nations, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, international financial institutions and other multilateral and bilateral partners to the mobilization and use of resources to ensure that the conditions are in place for the responsible and sustainable withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to sustain peacebuilding gains. The Commission underscores the critical importance of continued credible investments by the Peacebuilding Fund in support of the reintegration of former combatants through community-based approaches, building trust among communities and empowering women and young people to participate in economic, social and political life at the local and national levels. In this regard, the Commission reiterates its call for ensuring innovative, adequate, predictable, flexible and sustained financing for peacebuilding and encourages greater commitment by donors to supporting impact-driven peacebuilding initiatives, including by agencies, funds and programmes, in the countries of the Great Lakes region.

The Commission, while adhering to its mandate, will continue to support the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the regional strategy, including through advocacy for international support for critical peacebuilding initiatives of the Office of the Special Envoy in collaboration with the countries of the region and in coordination with the United Nations system.