



Security Council

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Letter dated 15 November 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 briefing and consultations on peace and security in Africa (Group of Five for the Sahel), scheduled for Wednesday, 16 November 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 15 November 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 Group of Five for the Sahel

In the past few years, in line with its mandate, the Peacebuilding Commission has sought to mobilize support for regional peacebuilding efforts in the Sahel, including for the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its support plan in collaboration with Sahelian countries, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the African Union and the European Union, as well as other regional and international organizations and financial institutions.

On the basis of its continuing engagement in support of peacebuilding in the Sahel, including through a meeting held on 22 March 2022, where Sahelian countries underscored the extreme vulnerability of the Sahel to the humanitarian, security, political and development challenges and called for coordinated responses, taking into account their impact on peacebuilding in the Sahel, the Commission would like to share the points set out below.

1. The Commission stresses the need to preserve the political unity of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the gains achieved through its cooperative efforts to address the multidimensional challenges faced by the region, and encourages all parties to remain engaged in and committed to this process. It also encourages greater alignment of collective support for the Group of Five for the Sahel Priority Investment Programme, based on a political, security and socioeconomic analysis of the specific situation in each of the Group's countries.

2. The Commission recognizes the magnitude of peacebuilding challenges and the persistent threat of terrorism that the Sahel region faces, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security and have an impact on the humanitarian crisis for civilians in the form of increased numbers of displaced persons and rising food insecurity. The Commission notes the importance that Sahel countries place on enhanced and coordinated counter-terrorism measures in the region, supported by predictable and sustained financing. It also notes the Secretary-General's previous call for the provision of sustainable and predictable support to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

3. The Commission acknowledges the need to address the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, natural disasters, drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity, as well as issues related to energy access. The importance of improved governance and management of natural resources should be emphasized to help to tackle the root causes and drivers of instability, thereby complementing the efforts of the Group of Five for the Sahel. In that regard, the Commission notes the call issued by Sahel States to encourage greater support for the objectives of the Priority Investment Programme, which incorporates climate change adaptation and governance reforms.

4. The Commission encourages the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel to continue to engage with the Sahelian countries, subregional and regional organizations and international financial institutions on strategic alignment and coherence with national and regional peacebuilding priorities in complementarity with the efforts of the Group of Five for the Sahel. In that regard, the Commission notes the importance of ensuring national ownership and of reinforcing institutions

and the accountability of governance mechanisms in promoting local dialogues and juridical cooperation.

5. The Commission, in line with its mandate, emphasizes the need to mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources to address the numerous challenges in the region. It stresses the importance of international and regional partnerships and welcomes the efforts of the African Union, the United Nations, ECOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel in undertaking a joint strategic assessment on governance and security in the Sahel to strengthen support to the Group, its Joint Force and other security, development and governance responses in the region.

6. The Commission underlines the importance of respecting human rights in all efforts to combat terrorism in the Sahel region and acknowledges efforts to implement the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework. The Commission welcomes the recent positive development of including women in the Joint Force and encourages continuous efforts to support the implementation of the women and peace and security and the youth and peace and security agendas, including by empowering women and young people to take on leadership roles in peacebuilding initiatives at the local, national and regional levels and to strengthen their roles in governance mechanisms.
