



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 March 2023 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 on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, scheduled for Monday, 6 March 2023 (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 have it issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ivan Šimonović
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 3 March 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan, 6 March 2023

Since 2022, at the request of the transitional Government of South Sudan, the Peacebuilding Commission has been engaging with the Government to mobilize support for South Sudanese efforts to address peacebuilding challenges related to the complex implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. The Commission acknowledges that the challenges in South Sudan are complex and deep-rooted. The Commission appreciates the efforts of South Sudan to address these issues and welcomes the transitional Government's engagement with the Commission as part of its effort to build a sustainable peace and fulfil the commitments that it made to the people of South Sudan in the Revitalized Agreement. The Commission's first meeting on South Sudan, on the theme "Building peace through resilient institutions and governance", organized on 26 October 2022, was focused on the country's peacebuilding priorities. In follow-up, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission, along with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, visited South Sudan from 6 to 9 December to witness the progress made and the challenges encountered in implementing the peacebuilding priorities and to explore ways for the Commission to further engage with and support the transitional Government and the South Sudanese people in addressing the root causes of conflict. Following the visit, at the request of the transitional Government, a second meeting was organized on 31 January 2023 to receive feedback on the visit, including concrete recommendations to support South Sudan in its transition process. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the authorities to interact with the Commission on national priorities as well as on the challenges that South Sudan continues to face in sustaining peace and stability in the country.

The Commission recognizes the complexity of the humanitarian, security, political and development challenges in South Sudan, including conflict-driven food insecurity and forced displacement, and the significant effects of climate change such as frequent and intense flooding and localized drought. In this connection, the Commission calls on all stakeholders to redouble their support to tackle humanitarian and development challenges.

The Commission takes note of the need for demonstrated political will by the South Sudanese authorities to implement the Revitalized Agreement. To date, there has been progress in some areas, including drafting the permanent constitution, passing key legislation, a functioning national legislature and the graduation of the first batch of unified forces, as a positive development towards creating a safety and security environment. The authorities need to continue these efforts in other areas. The transitional Government should expedite the redeployment of the graduated forces and take steps to initiate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. In doing so, the Commission encourages the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), within its mandate, along with other relevant United Nations entities, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, to collaborate with international and regional financial institutions and national stakeholders and to continue to provide their support to accelerate the full implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Revitalized Agreement. Building on this, the Commission would like to share a number of points.

First, the Commission notes with appreciation the promulgation of the constitution-making process bill and the review of the National Elections Act, which are necessary initial steps in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and elections in 2024, and encourages the transitional Government to implement all enacted laws. The Commission highlights the importance of supporting the authorities in continuing to improve participatory dialogue with the people of South Sudan, including through widened political and civic space, to ensure that the constitution-making and electoral processes are owned and led by the South Sudanese. The Commission underscores the important role of UNMISS in advising and assisting South Sudan, in line with its mandate, to provide technical assistance, capacity-building and logistical support for the electoral process as well as to assist the transitional Government and the necessary unified forces in the difficult task of providing peace and security leading up to and during the elections in 2024. The Commission also takes note of the formal request received by UNMISS from the transitional Government for comprehensive United Nations electoral assistance, on 24 January 2023. In this regard, the Commission underscores the need to ensure necessary capacities and resources for UNMISS to extend support to the transitional Government.

Second, the Commission notes with concern the continuation of localized and intercommunal conflicts and violence, including sexual violence in conflict, that affect civilians and have negative repercussions for vulnerable groups, especially women and young people. Cognizant of the principle of the primary responsibility of States for the protection of civilians, the Commission expresses hope that the transitional Government will continue to take measures to protect the population from violence and continue its efforts to build effective, inclusive and accountable government institutions, including at the local level, in order to foster dialogue and reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion.

Third, mindful of the importance of including women and young people as part of the whole-of-society approach in peacebuilding processes, the Commission recognizes the value of continued efforts towards the meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of young people in peacebuilding initiatives to address the root causes of conflict in local communities. The Commission takes note of projects implemented by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and civil society organizations aimed at enhancing the participation of women and young people in peacebuilding processes at the national and local levels, including in security sector reform and transitional justice. The Commission encourages the transitional Government to further promote the meaningful participation of women in the political and institutional framework of the peace process, including by fully complying with the 35 per cent quota for women at the national and local levels as provided for under the Revitalized Agreement, and as a measure for promoting the women and peace and security agenda. Similarly, recognizing the crucial role that South Sudanese young people can play in the prevention and resolution of local conflict, the Commission calls for improving the provision of socioeconomic opportunities to address intercommunal violence and encourages the transitional Government to continue to implement the youth and peace and security agenda in South Sudan at the national and local levels. The Commission also commends UNMISS for its continued support in promoting inclusive dialogue, peaceful coexistence, reconciliation and social cohesion at the local level in order to enhance the protection of civilians and create favourable conditions for implementing the Revitalized Agreement.

Fourth, the Commission underscores the need to invest in capacity- and institution-building to ensure the effective delivery of and access to basic social and economic services and the urgent need for economic stability and financing and for establishing systems that ensure transparency, integrity and accountability. Viable State institutions at all levels are a critical and foundational component for

peacebuilding and constitute the building blocks for sustainable development and to foster the transition from humanitarian to long-term development assistance towards achieving sustainable development in South Sudan. In this regard, the Commission underscores the need for the transitional Government, with the assistance of development partners of South Sudan, to devote sufficient resources to these efforts. The Commission recognizes the recent signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2023–2025 between the United Nations and the transitional Government. The Commission also recommends that UNMISS, as mandated, and other relevant United Nations entities, in collaboration with international and regional financial institutions, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, continue to support the transitional Government and the people of South Sudan.

Fifth, the Commission takes note of the support provided by the international partners of South Sudan. The support of international partners has enabled the transitional Government, in implementing the Revitalized Agreement, to complement national efforts with an emphasis on democratization, justice and accountability processes, addressing conflict related to displacement and strengthening local peace and conflict prevention mechanisms. The Commission also notes the support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as the launch of the joint national steering committee for the Fund, involving the Ministry of Peacebuilding of South Sudan and other stakeholders, notably United Nations entities and the United Nations country team, and also civil society, as an important step in institutionalizing and fostering national ownership of peacebuilding activities.

Finally, the Commission encourages the transitional Government to remain engaged with the Commission, reiterates its commitment to extend its support for the peacebuilding efforts of South Sudan and looks forward to further updates.
