

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 15 May 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 its briefing on the Group of Five for the Sahel, scheduled for Tuesday, 16 May 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 to issue it as a document of the Council.

*(Signed)* Ivan Šimonović  
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



## **Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2023 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**

Based on its continuing engagement in support of peacebuilding in the Sahel region and in recognition of the peacebuilding challenges and persistent threat of terrorism faced in the region, the Peacebuilding Commission encourages the Security Council to consider:

1. Calling for continued diplomatic efforts to preserve the political unity of the Group of Five for the Sahel.
2. Reiterating the need for coherent and sustained security, political, governance, socioeconomic development and peacebuilding efforts, based on national priorities, and the implementation of national strategies and inclusive regional cooperation to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development in the Sahel region, and calling for the mobilization of support and additional resources for regional peacebuilding efforts in the Sahel, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.
3. Continuing to underscore the urgent need to address the root causes of conflicts and drivers of instability, and ensuring good governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.
4. Stressing the importance of other regional partners and initiatives to combat terrorism, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force fighting Boko Haram-affiliated groups in the Lake Chad Basin and the Accra Initiative, for security cooperation.
5. Underscoring the importance of respecting human rights in all efforts to combat terrorism in the Sahel region and acknowledging efforts to implement the human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.
6. Reiterating the need to consider options for regional peace operations, led by regional forces, with guaranteed and predictable funding.
7. Encouraging closer cooperation between the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the Group of Five for the Sahel on peacebuilding efforts in the region.
8. Advocating and supporting projects and programmes aimed at socioeconomic development in order to address the vulnerabilities of the Sahel through the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its support plan, as well as the Group of Five for the Sahel strategy for development and security and its Priority Investment Programme (2022–2024).
9. Continuing to firmly support the implementation of the African Union strategy for the Sahel region, the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the work of the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel in governance and infrastructure, in addition to defence and security, and

reiterating the importance of adherence to relevant instruments of the African Union and ECOWAS.

10. Recognizing the efforts by ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations in restoring peace and stability in the region and the ongoing work of the Independent High-level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel to recommend ways to improve joint and coordinated regional and international responses.
  11. Reiterating its call for the need to address the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, drought, desertification and land degradation and to tackle challenges in the field of access to energy as well as food insecurity, while acknowledging the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
  12. Recognizing the important contribution of civil society and the need for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth in political processes and peacebuilding efforts at all levels, as well as the need for the full protection of children in armed conflict in the region.
  13. Recognizing the investments of the Peacebuilding Fund and calling for enhanced support to peacebuilding efforts in the Sahel region.
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