

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 20 July 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 provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in connection with the briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel scheduled for Tuesday, 25 July 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 20 July 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Written advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on West Africa and the Sahel, 25 July 2023**

Building upon its continued support of peacebuilding in West Africa and the Sahel, including its most recent engagement with the Sahel, in June 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission encourages the Security Council to consider:

(a) Welcoming the holding of elections in several countries in West Africa and the Sahel;

(b) Acknowledging the work of the United Nations in West Africa and the Sahel, including through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the Peacebuilding Fund, in advancing peace, security and development in the region, including through cross-border and local initiatives;

(c) Continuing to encourage the countries undergoing political transitions to strengthen collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional and international bodies for the timely return to constitutional rule;

(d) Recognizing the urgent need to address the root causes of conflicts and drivers of instability, and to ensure democratic consolidation and good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality, sustainable development and the inclusion of civil society for lasting results;

(e) Expressing concern about the spread of transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, noting the efforts of regional countries to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, calling upon the international community to step up support to the region and countries in the region in addressing transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in a coordinated way, including capacity support and institutional training, and underscoring the importance of ensuring the simultaneous pursuit of progress on security, democratic governance, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, reconciliation and human rights in order to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies in West Africa and the Sahel;

(f) Encouraging the United Nations and regional partners, especially ECOWAS, the African Union and the Group of Five for the Sahel, to pursue further cooperation on peacebuilding efforts in the region;

(g) Advocating projects and programmes aimed at socioeconomic development to address the vulnerabilities of the Sahel and contributing to the stability of the area through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel;

(h) Stressing the importance of providing adequate socioeconomic and decision-making opportunities for young people as a critical way to achieve sustainable peace;

(i) Calling upon all stakeholders, in particular Governments and political parties, to promote legislation and ensure the effective implementation of existing instruments on women's empowerment and gender equality;

(j) 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 fields of access to energy and food insecurity, encouraging the international community, in particular the developed countries, to scale up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to reduce the vulnerability of the countries of the region to climate change, encouraging the international community to provide additional support to the countries of West Africa and the Sahel in enhancing adaptive capacities and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks in the region, in line with existing commitments and ensuring equal accessibility for all, and calling upon the international community and the United Nations to support regional and subregional dialogues, initiatives and cooperation on taking meaningful action to adapt to or mitigate challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, including in the context of peacebuilding efforts, while acknowledging the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement as the primary intergovernmental frameworks for negotiating the global response to climate change;

(k) Encouraging the international community, through the Peacebuilding Commission, to provide political support for and advocate consistent financing of peacebuilding efforts in West Africa and the Sahel, and acknowledging the important role of the Peacebuilding Fund and its specific contributions to projects in the region.

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