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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its twelfth session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution [1646 \(2005\)](#), for an annual debate. The report covers the twelfth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

2. The report has also been prepared pursuant to identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#)), in which the Commission was encouraged to review its provisional rules of procedure through its Organizational Committee, as well as to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

3. In that regard, the structure and content of the present report reflect the work carried out by the Commission in implementing relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and the priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its eleventh session. It also reflects activities undertaken in implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/276](#) and Security Council resolution [2413 \(2018\)](#), in which the Commission was invited to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)).



II. Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

A. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: opportunities and challenges

4. The work of the Commission at its twelfth session was characterized by efforts to implement the above-mentioned resolutions. Throughout the reporting period, the Commission addressed an increased number of country-specific, regional and thematic issues to help to sustain attention to and enhance coherence in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Country-specific situations

5. With respect to Burundi, on 29 January 2018, the Peacebuilding Commission continued efforts to facilitate dialogue between the Government of Burundi and its international partners on socioeconomic cooperation, while also encouraging political dialogue and attention to the return of refugees, reconciliation and respect for human rights. The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Commission visited Burundi from 27 to 30 March to review the situation on the ground, advocate for renewed dialogue and cooperation between the Government and its partners and identify further avenues for Commission engagement. He met with a range of high-ranking national and international stakeholders, including the President of Burundi. Following the visit, the Chair recommended that Commission engagement include a focus on promoting coherence among United Nations actors and the international community and finding common ground with the Government in order to build trust and a better sense of partnership. He noted the importance of supporting the mediation efforts of the East African Community and the preparation of Burundi's national development plan as the basis for renewed dialogue between the Government and its international partners. The Chair highlighted the importance of supporting national reconciliation, maintaining the level of attention given to the humanitarian needs of Burundi, preserving the significant gains of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and working towards a consensual road map for the 2020 elections.

6. The Chair visited Burundi and South Africa from 5 to 9 November. In Burundi, meetings focused on socioeconomic cooperation and the national development plan, the political situation in the aftermath of the inconclusive fifth round of the dialogue led by the East African Community and the return of refugees. During the visit, the Chair met with a variety of interlocutors, including current and former members of Government, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the Great Lakes Region, representatives of the private sector, civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors and the United Nations country team. On 6 November, the Chair participated in a Government-organized round table on the national development plan, which provided an opportunity for strengthened cooperation and trust between international donors and the Government on planned priorities and opportunities for support. The Chair's visit also provided an opportunity to discuss other peacebuilding priorities with the Government, including the political dialogue process, preparations for the 2020 elections, the suspension, subject to their compliance with new requirements, of the work of international non-governmental organizations in Burundi, refugee returns and the outstanding memorandum of understanding with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. On the Central African Republic, the Commission held series of meetings in support of the three pillars of the Central African Republic national recovery and peacebuilding plan. The meetings aimed at sustaining international attention on the Central African Republic and its peacebuilding and recovery efforts, in particular by informing configuration members on recent developments in the implementation of

the national recovery and peacebuilding plan, advocating for resource mobilization and the realization of pledges made in Brussels in November 2016, focusing in particular on funding gaps critical to the peacebuilding agenda, and fostering international policy coherence and United Nations coordination, with a strong focus on partnerships with the European Union and the World Bank. In that regard, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission visited World Bank headquarters on 13 February 2018 to review the World Bank-United Nations partnership on the Central African Republic and discuss the role of the World Bank in the implementation of the national recovery and peacebuilding plan. On 23 April, the Commission convened a high-level meeting on the situation in the Central African Republic, with the participation of the President of the Central African Republic, in the margins of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, on 24 and 25 April. At an expert level meeting of the Commission on 17 September, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided an overview of the peacebuilding-related recommendations of the independent strategic review of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Following the meeting, the Commission sent observations to the Security Council with a view to informing the mandate renewal process for MINUSCA.

8. Following up on its engagement in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Gambia, which started in 2017, the Commission continued efforts to sustain international attention, to help to mobilize resources and to ensure coordinated support to efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Gambia. On 23 April 2018, the Commission convened a high-level meeting on the situation in the Gambia, at which the President of the Gambia provided a briefing to the Commission. The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs presented the national development plan for the period 2018–2021, which he described as being the result of a comprehensive participatory process involving all key national stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and all development partners on the ground. He outlined the strategic priorities of the plan, including restoring good governance, stabilizing the economy and improving education and health services and infrastructure. The meeting focused on mobilizing international support for the peacebuilding and sustainable development priorities of the Gambia ahead of the international conference for the Gambia, to be held in May in Brussels, and emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships and the coordinated support of the United Nations and international and regional actors in support of the implementation of the national development plan.

9. From 15 to 16 October, the Chair carried out a joint visit to the Gambia with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The Chair and the United Nations delegation attended the launch of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, which is supported by the Peacebuilding Fund and met with the President of the Gambia and other high-level government representatives, as well as representatives from the diplomatic community, civil society, including women's organizations, and the United Nations country team. The visit provided an opportunity to follow up on United Nations support to the peacebuilding priorities of the Gambia, in particular in the areas of transitional justice and security sector reform. Following the visit, the Peacebuilding Commission convened a meeting on 2 November, at which the Attorney General/Minister of Justice of the Gambia provided an update on the transitional justice process, including on the work of the newly launched Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. The Minister also provided a briefing on the preparations for the national consultations on the constitutional review and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

10. With regard to Guinea-Bissau, the Peacebuilding Commission continued to support efforts aimed at helping the country to break its political impasse, including through implementation of the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Road Map for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the organization of long-delayed legislative elections. Meetings of the Commission on 12 February and 14 May focused on the rapidly evolving political developments since the meeting on 6 December 2017, including the appointment of a new Prime Minister, the announcement of 18 November 2018 as the date for legislative elections and the reconvening of Parliament on 19 April. The Commission was also provided with a briefing about the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau.

11. The Chair visited Guinea-Bissau and Portugal from 24 to 27 July to obtain first-hand accounts on the implementation of the Conakry Agreement and preparations for legislative elections. During the visit, the Chair held consultations with the President of Guinea-Bissau, the Prime Minister and other high-ranking government officials, political party leaders and members of civil society. Women's Council representatives who met with the Chair on 26 July informed him about their efforts in monitoring election preparations and advocating for the adoption of legislation on gender quotas and visibility in government consultations on a draft stability pact. The Chair also met with members of all political parties represented in the National Assembly, as well as some of those that are not represented. In view of the upcoming elections, the Chair also held extensive consultations with election authorities, including the National Electoral Commission, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and the Technical Office of Support to the Electoral Process. In Lisbon on 27 July, the Chair held consultations with the Director-General of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries on its role in supporting Guinea-Bissau. The Chair provided a briefing to the Peacebuilding Commission on his visit, on 13 August. During the meeting, briefings and updates were also provided by the Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau/Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), the Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the pro tempore President of the Community, the Chairman of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, who had visited Guinea-Bissau on 27 and 28 July, and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau. On 31 August, the Commission convened a meeting for an exchange of views with the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau.

12. The Commission convened a meeting on 10 December, in preparation for the Security Council briefing of 21 December. During the meeting, which focused on the political and economic situation in Guinea-Bissau, the Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau provided a briefing. The Chair, at the request of the Prime Minister, raised the issue of the financial challenges facing the country, which contribute to the growing social unrest. He also noted the role that the Commission could play in the reconfiguration and possible transition of UNIOGBIS. Member States provided with a briefing by the Permanent Observer for ECOWAS, representatives of the World Bank and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations.

13. The work of the Commission on Liberia was of particular relevance, in view of the country's two transitions: to a new government following the 2017 elections and to being supported by the United Nations country team following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). In preparation for the transitions, the Commission focused on three main areas: United Nations system support to responsibly manage the transition from UNMIL to the country team and the capacity and resources of the country team, support to the election processes and support to

the new peacebuilding plan, as requested under Security Council resolution [2333 \(2016\)](#). Signalling its commitment to inclusive and sustainable development and to addressing Liberia's outstanding peacebuilding priorities, the new Government outlined its intention to prepare a national development agenda for the period 2018–2023 to link peacebuilding priorities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The Deputy Secretary-General, the Minister of Finance of Liberia and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) participated in the meeting of the Commission held on 13 March, at which the Chair congratulated the people of Liberia for the remarkable peace gains of the past 14 years, the peaceful elections and smooth transfer of power and commended the new Government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development in order to address the root causes of conflict. The Chair reiterated the Commission's support to the new Government and called for a process to develop a new cooperative framework between the Government, the United Nations and the Commission.

15. The Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Commission visited Liberia from 21 to 25 March to engage with the new government, civil society, donors and the United Nations system, and to reinforce Commission support to peacebuilding priorities and discuss future engagement. On 23 March, the Chair visited Monrovia to attend the ceremony marking the closure of UNMIL and also attended the high-level meeting on the theme "Liberia moment", which launched the beginning of preparations for a new national development plan. Liberia presents a unique example of how the Commission could draw the attention of the international community on unfulfilled national peacebuilding and development priorities in countries that are in need of international assistance and provide a platform to take peacebuilding and sustaining peace from paper to practice.

16. With respect to Sierra Leone, the Commission exercised its convening role in support of the presidential, parliamentary and local council elections on 7 March 2018 and the presidential run-off elections on 31 March, by bringing together Member States, representatives of the Government of Sierra Leone, the Independent National Electoral Commission, civil society and the United Nations country team, to maintain attention to the country in this critical period. Following the successful holding of elections and the peaceful transition of power in the country, the Commission convened several meetings, including an ambassadorial-level meeting on 23 May with the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation who provided a briefing on the new Government's focus areas and vision for engagement with Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund. The Government took the opportunity of the meetings to articulate its early priorities, including social cohesion, national reconciliation, education and skills training, health, agriculture, tourism and inclusive economic growth. Potential areas for the support of the Commission and Fund to Sierra Leone were identified as: social cohesion and national reconciliation efforts to bridge regional and ethnic divides, the empowerment of women and young people in political processes, leveraging the convening and advocacy role of the Commission to bring international and donor attention on the priorities of Sierra Leone, focusing on ways to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and to foster opportunities for equitable access to land ownership, ensuring access to justice and supporting reform of justice and security institutions and ensuring that various stakeholders active in Sierra Leone, including international financial institutions, conduct their activities on the basis of analysis of risks and opportunities in the present context. Following the meetings, the Commission conducted a working-level visit to Washington, D.C., on 27 June to meet with officials from the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. The visit helped to identify several action points, including using the Commission to

facilitate exchanges of information between the United Nations and international financial institutions, inviting representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to provide a briefing to the Commission on their future plans and projects and engaging in dialogue with the World Bank Group team working on combating fragility, conflict and violence and relevant United Nations partners on the joint United Nations-World Bank study *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, with a focus on Sierra Leone. The Commission held an expert-level meeting on 25 October, with the participation of representatives of the Government, the United Nations country team and civil society organizations, to discuss political developments and challenges in the post-election period and preparations for the new development plan.

Regional situations

17. On 30 January, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2018/3), in which it emphasized the importance of the convening role of the Commission in sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts, and, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the United Nations system, the countries of the Sahel and other regional and international partners, including international financial institutions. The presidential statement reaffirmed the statement issued on 20 January 2017 (S/PRST/2017/2), in which the Council laid the foundation for the Commission's engagement in the Sahel region. At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chad, the Chair visited Chad from 14 to 17 March, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, to attend the sixth meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel, on 15 March. The meeting, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chad, brought together representatives of the countries of the Sahel region, the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union and the Permanent Secretary of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel), as well as representatives of other bilateral and multilateral partners. The Chair delivered a statement on the Commission's engagement in the period since January 2017 and assured participants of the Commission's commitment to sustaining international attention and support to the countries in the Sahel and to helping to enhance coherence and coordination among national, regional and international partners. In the margins of the meeting, the Chair met with senior-level government officials to further discuss the situation in the Sahel and the peacebuilding challenges in the Lake Chad basin. Government officials highlighted the country's internal peacebuilding priorities, including maintaining United Nations support through the Peacebuilding Fund and the Commission.

18. On 27 February 2018, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on the Sahel. The Regional Representative for West and Central Africa of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided a briefing on transnational organized crime and terrorism, one of the main challenges facing the Sahel region. The meeting also provided the opportunity to explore those challenges within the broader context of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Member States, including the countries in the region, also discussed ways to strengthen national ownership and coordination and coherence of regional and international partners.

19. On 16 July, the Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel provided a briefing to the Commission on developments in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Sahel. Member States discussed the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and other complex, multidimensional and transnational challenges facing the region, stressing the importance of coordination and strategic partnerships in support of the countries of the region. The situation in the Sahel was

also discussed with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 18 July in the informal interactive dialogue on enhancing cooperation and coherence with the African Union in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa.

20. On 18 and 19 October, the Chair visited Burkina Faso with the Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The Chair and the United Nations delegation met with the President of Burkina Faso and other senior government officials, as well as with the diplomatic community, representatives of civil society and the United Nations country team. The President of Burkina Faso and members of his Government acknowledged the challenges facing the Government in addressing the country's peacebuilding priorities, in particular with the deteriorating security situation in the broader Sahel region, and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Commission to sustain international attention and support to the region.

21. On 12 November, the Commission convened its annual session on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel region. The Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Vice-President of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso and the Permanent Representative of Mali representing the G-5 Sahel delivered remarks during the opening segment of the meeting. The Permanent Secretary of the G-5 Sahel, the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel also participated and delivered remarks during the meeting. Permanent representatives and delegates from all countries in the Sahel region participated throughout the session in deliberations on the operationalization of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the United Nations support plan for the Sahel, with focused working sessions on partnerships with key stakeholders and on the empowerment of women and young people. A representative of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region participated in both working sessions, stressing the need for funding women's and youth organizations in the field. Delegations welcomed the annual session as an important opportunity for the Commission to secure sustained attention to the Sahel and amplify its work in the region, as requested by the Security Council (see [S/PRST/2017/2](#) and [S/PRST/2018/3](#)). Member States welcomed the development of the United Nations support plan for the Sahel, some of which reaffirmed the need to strengthen strategic partnerships between the United Nations, the countries of the region, the G-5 Sahel, the African Union, the European Union and other regional and international organizations to advance of the implementation of the integrated strategy and stressed the need to translate political and strategic commitment into programmes and projects that address the root causes of instability, including through building national and local institutions and capacities in critical security, socioeconomic development and governance sectors. Delegates encouraged the Commission to continue using its platform to sustain international attention and to advance a more coherent, coordinated and action-oriented approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel region.

22. On 13 November, the Commission and the Economic and Social Council held a joint meeting on linkages between climate change and peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel. The joint meeting followed the annual session on the Sahel and was organized in response to increased interest by Member States to support efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel through a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach. The meeting built on previous joint Economic and Social Council-Peacebuilding Commission meetings on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in 2016, and the situation in the Sahel, held in 2017, and on relevant Security Council meetings. During the meeting, participants discussed the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, among other factors, on the

stability of West Africa and the Sahel region. At the meeting, the Special Advisor for the Sahel presented his vision for the operationalization of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel in addressing the challenges that climate change poses to the region, including upscaling initiatives on climate resilient agriculture and renewable energy for development by harnessing the abundant renewable energy sources in the Sahel. The Mayor of Dori, Burkina Faso, outlined the effects that climate change poses to human security and livelihoods and acknowledged the integrated strategy as an effective response in support of local and cross-border resilience efforts. Meeting participants discussed how complex and multidimensional challenges in the Sahel can be turned into opportunities to reverse socioeconomic decline, falling agricultural productivity, forced migration, displacement, and insecurity. Several welcomed the recalibrated integrated strategy as a valuable tool to encourage better regional cooperation, foster more coherent and coordinated United Nations responses and accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Speakers underscored the roles that the Economic and Social Council and the Commission can play in mobilizing national, regional and international actors for enhanced, comprehensive and sustained engagement in the Sahel and urged them to continue to raise awareness and resources for the Sahel in all relevant forums.

Thematic issues

23. In 2018, the Commission benefited from the engagement of Member States that championed various thematic issues during country-specific and regional discussions. In implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/276](#) and Security Council resolution [2413 \(2018\)](#), following the high-level meeting of the Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Commission convened a series of thematic meetings, at the ambassadorial and expert levels, to advance, explore and consider the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)).

24. On 10 January, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on gender-sensitive peacekeeping transitions, to address the gender dimensions of United Nations transitions and discuss areas for further engagement of the Commission. In that connection, Member States were provided with a briefing on the joint initiative of UN-Women, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Support Office and UNDP to integrate gender analysis into the ongoing work of the United Nations country teams and peacekeeping missions in transition contexts.

25. On 22 March, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on financing the gender dimension of peacebuilding to contribute to the implementation of the Commission's gender strategy and benefit from the presence of participants in the Commission on the Status of Women, to discuss gender-responsive financing prior to the high-level event on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in April. Speakers provided an overview of challenges and gaps in financing for gender-responsive peacebuilding work and discussed examples of good practices and recommendations for financing aspects of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

26. On 30 May, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on operational and policy coherence, which acknowledged the Commission's already diversified working methods to enhance its flexibility as a dedicated intergovernmental platform and its unique convening and bridging role in advancing intergovernmental coherence in matters related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Noting that sustainable development and human rights constituted universal goals and were most often pursued as ends in themselves, Member States encouraged greater coherence,

synergies and complementarities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and also noted the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, reference was made to the presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/27) adopted on 21 December 2017, in which the Security Council acknowledged the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission and expressed the need to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates. In addition, the Council emphasized the significant contribution of peacekeeping operations to building and sustaining peace in post-conflict situations and provided guidelines related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace that the Council intended to consider when reviewing the mandates and configuration of peacekeeping missions.

27. On 19 June 2018, the Commission convened a second expert-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding to explore options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding for peacebuilding activities, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43), to contribute to more efficient, effective and sustained delivery of support in the field, including during transitions from one type of United Nations engagement to another. Several Member States reiterated the call of the Secretary-General for a “quantum leap” in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which should be unearmarked and provided over a longer term to ensure that support is both responsive and predictable. A number of delegations also noted the need for the United Nations system to engage more actively with the private sector, where relevant, and to explore innovative means of financing peacebuilding activities.

28. On 7 September, the Commission convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks in which he highlighted that effective, responsive and accountable leadership provided with the right capacities and resources in support of national Governments and their populations was central to his vision for sustaining peace. He also noted the Commission’s essential role as a “double hinge,” not only between the different intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, but also between intergovernmental bodies and the activities undertaken by the United Nations system on the ground, in particular during transitions. In that regard, he added that the Commission has promoted accountability, shared good practices, provided guidance and facilitated broader partnerships with other actors, including the World Bank. The meeting also underscored the importance of the changes under way as part of the United Nations reform efforts, and Member States reaffirmed commitments to further deliberate and advise the General Assembly and Security Council, as appropriate.

29. On 27 November, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, at which Member States shared their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the private sector, the World Bank and other international finance institutions. Member States reflected on the Secretary-General’s recommendations on strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders and noted that closer and more strategic collaboration with diverse partner organizations to ensure the United Nations best supports actors at all levels in their efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Moving forward, delegations took stock of the series of meetings convened by the Commission and discussed options for continuing the discussion.

B. Towards a more flexible and effective Peacebuilding Commission

Bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

30. The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture call on the Commission to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations. In that connection, throughout its twelfth session, the Commission continued to explore ways to enhance its advisory role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

31. In relation to the General Assembly, on 8 March, the President of the General Assembly provided a briefing to the Commission on the preparations for the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace mandated by the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and scheduled for 24 and 25 April. Member States exchanged views with the President on the objective and expected outcome of the high-level meeting, noting that it was well timed for both taking stock of the progress made in implementing the twin resolutions and maintaining the momentum for follow-up. Member States noted priorities for the work of the Organization in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including the need to enhance coherence, synergies and complementarities, and the importance of sustained and predictable financing. Building on the main elements raised at the meeting of 8 March, the Chair provided a briefing to the high-level meeting on the work of the Commission to build stronger partnerships and enhance coherence in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

32. In relation to the Security Council, the Commission fulfilled its advisory functions through: (a) annual informal interactive dialogues co-organized by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Commission; (b) periodic stocktaking at the expert level; and (c) formal briefings to the Council on country-specific, regional and thematic issues. Participants at an informal interactive dialogue, held on 29 June, discussed practical ways to improve the advisory role of the Commission to the Council during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates. Looking at the experiences in Colombia, Liberia and the Sudan, countries that host or have hosted United Nations missions and were undergoing peacebuilding processes, the meeting highlighted that the Commission was uniquely positioned to provide relevant, applicable, diverse, long-term and realistic recommendations to the Council, upon its request, on issues related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in countries considered by both the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council. Participants noted that the added value and relevance of the Commission's advice lay in its capacity to bring to the Council's attention national perspectives and priorities, take a longer-term and more holistic approach to discussions on the multidimensional nature of peacebuilding and address the root causes of conflict. Participants underscored the importance for the Commission to complement the reports of the Secretary-General and to share its advice in a timely manner, well in advance of Security Council meetings. Participants recognized the need to plan for transitions early in the life cycle of a peacekeeping mission and the value of the Commission's contributions to Council deliberations, including by reinforcing cooperation between mission leadership and United Nations country teams, especially in preparation for and during transitions. Participants also recognized that the Commission, while respecting the mandates of each body, could reinforce its bridging role between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding. The role of the

Peacebuilding Support Office was also recognized, in particular in connection with its efforts to further strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, which would, among other things, allow the Commission to instil good practices in peacebuilding.

33. Two informal expert-level meetings, one on 2 August and one on 7 December, focused on the advisory role of the Commission in connection with country-specific issues and regional issues. Focusing on the cases of the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and the Sahel, discussions explored practical ways to implement the recommendations made at the informal interactive dialogue on 29 June. In that regard, participants welcomed the decision of the Commission to focus its annual session on the Sahel and the progress made by the Commission in providing its advice. The meeting also highlighted good practices that the Commission could implement to further improve its advisory role.

34. With regard to country-specific and regional briefings to the Security Council, the Chairs of the country configurations provided the Council with substantive updates on key national-level peacebuilding priorities. The Chair of the Burundi configuration provided briefings to the Security Council on 26 February and 21 November. With respect to the Central African Republic, on 22 February, the Chair of the configuration provided a briefing to the Council and a report of his visit to the World Bank on 13 February. The Commission, building on the recommendations from the informal interactive dialogue of 29 June, also fulfilled its advisory function to the Council by submitting, on 17 October, written observations on peacebuilding priorities in the Central African Republic pertaining to the upcoming renewal of the mandate of MINUSCA. On 19 April, the Chair of the Liberia configuration provided a briefing at the Security Council meeting on Liberia, reflecting on the Commission's engagement since 2008 in supporting Security Council mandates, highlighting the challenging years of peacebuilding and the trying times of the Ebola virus disease pandemic. The Chair underscored the role that the Commission should continue to play in support of peacebuilding in Liberia. In line with the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, the Chair recommended the continuation of the good offices role and political accompaniment of the United Nations in Liberia and the provision of the expertise needed for political analysis and the implementation of the peacebuilding plan after the closure of UNMIL. The Chair acknowledged the continued importance to Liberia of regional and subregional support, including the mediation efforts undertaken by the former President of Nigeria and by the European Union, the African Union, ECOWAS and the broader international community. The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration provided a briefing to the Security Council on 30 August, joining other speakers in a call for Guinea-Bissau to overcome its long standing political impasse and to hold free, fair and inclusive elections in November or risk rolling back its fragile progress. In connection with the United Nations support to Guinea-Bissau, the Chair welcomed the restructuring of UNIOGBIS to ensure its responsiveness to the key priorities of the new Security Council mandate and underlined the synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund and the high level of integration of programmatic activities between United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the Peacebuilding Fund, which funded programmes in support of political dialogue, national reconciliation, empowerment of women and young people and the strengthening of conflict-sensitivity in the media and the justice sectors. On 20 December, the Commission Chair provided a briefing to the Council at its meeting on the theme "Peace and security in Africa: the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, an integrated response to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel". The Chair informed the Council on the activities the Commission had undertaken since January 2017 in support of the Sahel region. The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration provided an update to the Council on

21 December 2018 on recent developments in Guinea-Bissau that required the attention and support of the Commission.

35. On 23 April, the Chair delivered a statement at the open debate of the Security Council on youth and peace and security, the third in the history of the Security Council specifically dedicated to the question of young people. The open debate was organized to present the independent progress study on youth and peace and security (A/72/761–S/2018/86) prepared in response to Council resolution 2250 (2015). In his statement, the Chair highlighted the indispensable role that young people could play in any effort to build and sustain peace. He stressed that, to achieve inclusive and sustainable development and to build and sustain peace, the international community could not afford to lose the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. He expressed the support of the Commission for the peacebuilding initiatives undertaken by young women and men in conflict-affected countries and the importance of supporting youth-led organizations. He welcomed the gender and youth promotion initiative of the Peacebuilding Fund, which supports the involvement of young people as contributors to political processes, and noted the Commission's intent to continue and expand its direct engagement with young people.

36. On 25 April, the Chair provided a briefing to the Security Council and underscored the centrality of United Nations system-wide coherence. He recalled that the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture emphasized that peacebuilding and sustaining peace required coherence, sustained engagement and coordination between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, consistent with their mandates as set out in the Charter of the United Nations. He also recalled the important message of the resolutions, reflected as a foundational aspect of the report of the Secretary-General, namely, that an integrated and coherent approach by all relevant actors, within and outside the United Nations, is critical to sustain country-led efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that connection, the Chair presented several regional and country-specific situations in which the Commission supported greater coherence, synergies and complementarities in the work of the United Nations, including the Gambia, Liberia and the Sahel.

37. In relation to the Economic and Social Council, a joint meeting with the Commission was held on 13 November to discuss the linkages between climate change and the challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel and to explore ways to enhance national, regional, subregional and cross-border mitigation and adaptation measures and to enhance the coherence of relevant United Nations entities' support to the countries in the region.

38. On 24 July, the Chair was invited to provide a briefing to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting and to share lessons learned from Peacebuilding Commission experience in African countries under its consideration that are relevant for addressing the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding. The Chair underscored that national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding efforts were essential and were at the centre of the work of the Commission. He noted that a key lesson was that, while national Governments and authorities bore primary responsibility for identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities, the responsibility for building and sustaining peace was broadly shared among all national stakeholders. He stressed that collaboration with regional and subregional organizations was important to addressing cross-border and regional challenges, such as in the Sahel, where the international community needed to work together to address not only the security dimension of peacebuilding but also its economic and social dimensions. The Chair concluded by stressing the strong commitment of the Commission to the gender dimension of peacebuilding.

Contributing to United Nations system-wide coherence in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace

39. The Commission continued to use its platform to strengthen coordination, coherence, synergies and complementarities in provision of United Nations support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, at the strategic and operational levels and between headquarters and the field. In that context, through country specific and regional discussions, Member States heard from representatives of relevant United Nations entities on the coordination of their activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The joint visits of the Chair with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, to Chad in March and to the Gambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso in October, also provided an opportunity to meet with the United Nations country teams and the regional director's team on their efforts towards the coordinated and coherent provision of United Nations support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Fostering partnerships

40. In the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the General Assembly and the Security Council stressed the importance of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union. They urged the Commission to hold regular exchanges of views with relevant regional and subregional organizations. Over the past several years, the Commission has focused its efforts on strengthening its strategic partnership and engagement with the African Union. Throughout the twelfth session, the Commission continued efforts to improve cooperation and coordination and increase synergies, coherence and complementarity with the African Union in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

41. On 18 July in New York, the Commission convened an ambassadorial-level informal interactive dialogue with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on enhancing cooperation and coherence with the African Union in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa. The meeting provided an opportunity for the two organizations to exchange views on several country-specific and regional issues, including those relating to the Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel. The meeting highlighted the importance of coordination between the two bodies to support efforts in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa. The meeting emphasized the role of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding efforts and the need for broader partnerships with other regional and international actors for coordinated and coherent peacebuilding support. The meeting underlined the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as mutually reinforcing frameworks that could provide a solid foundation to address the root causes of conflicts and sustain peace. The meeting concluded with renewed commitment to enhancing the strategic partnership and called for more regular interactions between the two intergovernmental bodies. In that regard, the Chair circulated a letter to the membership on 31 July, formalizing the agreement for an annual interactive dialogue between the two bodies.

42. The Commission's annual session provided another opportunity to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders to enhance coherence in the provision of support of the international community to the Sahel region.

43. As part of the Commission's continued efforts to enhance the strategic partnership with international financial institutions in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Chair visited the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 18 October. The visit was carried out jointly with the Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel and the Assistant Secretary-General for

Peacebuilding Support. The Chair and the United Nations delegation met with the Bank's Vice-President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery and the Director of the Transition Support Department. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore ways to reinforce coordination and coherence, synergies and complementarities in support of peacebuilding, in particular in the Sahel region. The meeting highlighted the potential for enhanced coordination with the United Nations in support of the countries in the Sahel region, including through the Peacebuilding Fund and the Bank's "10,000 communities in 1,000 days" initiative.

44. In follow-up to the joint declaration adopted by the Commission and the World Bank on 30 June 2017, in which both institutions agreed to convene an annual dialogue, the Chair met with the Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations and Partnerships on 16 July 2018. Preparations for the annual joint dialogue were made following that meeting; subsequently, agreement was reached that the joint dialogue should be convened in early 2019.

Strengthening synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

45. In implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, and building on its previous work, the Commission continued to strengthen synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund by ensuring an improved flow of information from the Fund to the Commission in three ways: (a) inviting the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide updates on the work of the Fund at regional and country-specific meetings of the Commission; (b) inviting the Chair and members of the Advisory Group of the Fund to brief the Commission on the findings resulting from the meetings of the Group; and (c) inviting countries that are receiving financing from the Fund, in particular countries declared eligible by the Secretary-General, to brief the Commission on their peacebuilding priorities, progress and challenges. The experience during the reporting period with regard to the Sahel was particularly positive, where an increased investment by the Fund supported a greater and broader engagement of the Commission, notably during its annual session.

Rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

46. In implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission continued the review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods that it had initiated at its tenth session, in order to make its work more flexible and effective. In that connection, the Commission, building on the recommendations contained in the annex to its report on its eleventh session ([A/72/721-S/2018/83](#)), convened a number of expert-level consultations, which culminated in a document that it informally adopted on 28 November (see the annex to the present report) to guide its work.

III. Conclusions and agenda going forward

47. The next reporting period will present another important opportunity for the Commission to implement the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. In that regard, the Commission will continue to pursue several important work streams that could further strengthen its country-specific and policy-related engagements.

A. Implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture

48. The Peacebuilding Commission, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, will continue to implement the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, in addition to the actions identified under each of the strategic priorities identified below.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene periodic meetings on the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture;

(b) The country configurations will implement the relevant recommendations of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture.

B. Bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

49. The Commission will explore concrete ways to further strengthen its role as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities.

Action:

(a) The Chair will consult with the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council on ways to strengthen synergies between their respective bodies and the Commission;

(b) The Chair will consult with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council on ways to implement General Assembly resolution [72/276](#) and Security Council resolution [2413 \(2018\)](#);

(c) The Organizational Committee will draw upon the main findings of the stocktaking exercise, undertaken in 2018, of its advisory function with regard to the Security Council and consider practical ways to implement them; to that end, the Committee will nominate one of the members of the Commission to coordinate the periodic stocktaking exercise in an inclusive manner;

(d) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Security Council to prepare for the convening of informal interactive dialogues;

(e) The Chair will consult with the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa to explore ways to enhance an informal exchange of views on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a focus on Africa;

(f) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Economic and Social Council in preparation for the convening of a joint event, which may be held in conjunction with the upcoming annual session of the Commission;

(g) The Chair of the Commission and the Chairs of relevant country configurations, with a view to further strengthening the advisory role of the Commission to the Security Council, will continue to ensure that the activities of the Commission, including meetings and visits to the field, are synchronized with the programme of work of the Council and that the advice of the Commission will be focused on specific areas to which the Council's attention has been drawn.

C. Partnerships and engagement with other stakeholders

50. The follow-up to the fifth annual session of the Commission will be carried out in 2019. The follow-up exercise will provide guidance to the Commission in its preparations for the sixth annual session, including the selection of a theme. In that regard, the Commission will strengthen its collaboration with international financial institutions, regional organizations and, where relevant, the private sector.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene informal discussions with the participation of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development banks, with the aim of exploring those specific policy areas requiring further elaboration during the sixth annual session. Interested States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Peacebuilding Commission will also be invited;

(b) The Organizational Committee will coordinate with the World Bank on ways to strengthen collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Bank, including by implementing the recommendations of the joint statement issued by the Commission and the Bank on 30 June 2017.

D. Towards a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission

51. The Commission will continue to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will continue to provide a platform to countries, at their request, that are receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular those that are declared eligible by the Secretary-General to share their peacebuilding experiences and challenges;

(b) The Organizational Committee will continue its consideration of regional and subregional dimensions of peacebuilding, with the consent of all countries concerned;

(c) The Organizational Committee will implement its gender strategy, where relevant, in accordance with the modalities indicated in the strategy;

(d) While keeping its focus on country-specific and regional issues, the Organizational Committee will also continue its consideration of thematic issues relating to peacebuilding, including, but not limited to, financing, gender, institution-building, national ownership and youth;

(e) The Organizational Committee will continue its consideration of the provisional rules of procedure and working methods of Commission. The Committee will report on the progress made in the improvement of the Commission's working methods in its next annual report.

E. Financing for peacebuilding: strengthening the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

52. The Commission will continue to discuss ways to create stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund.

Action:

The Organizational Committee, with a view to ensuring that it is constantly informed of the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund, will convene periodic meetings with the Peacebuilding Support Office or with members of the Advisory Group of the Fund.

Annex

Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

The present document contains recommendations whose objectives and outcomes have been established as good practices, and that can be addressed through an informal process. These recommendations are accompanied by relevant examples. It also includes additional action areas whose implementation can contribute to the efficiency and flexibility of the Commission. The Commission can implement all of these actions without the need to amend its provisional rules of procedure and within the mandate of the founding resolutions of the Commission, General Assembly resolution [60/180](#) and Security Council resolution [1645 \(2005\)](#), as well as Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#). The review of the Commission's working methods is an ongoing process, and this informal document will be reviewed periodically, through the Commission's annual reports, in order to assess the added value of the recommendations to the work of the Commission.

Recommendations

1. **Leadership:** The Commission should improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Actions:

I. As mandated by paragraph 5 of both General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), which encourage the Commission to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and building upon the established practice of having the outgoing Chair serve as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support to its leadership, the Commission will continue to explore ways to further strengthen the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Any informal arrangement will not prejudice the change in the membership of the Commission, which takes place every two years and will operate within regional rotation of Chairs, as spelled out in annex I of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. The decision to endorse a candidate for each post remains a prerogative of the respective regional groups, for action by the Organizational Committee.

II. Make greater use of the Vice-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair, in the organization and conduct of Peacebuilding Commission meetings.

Good practices: over the past few sessions, the outgoing Chair served as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support to the incoming Chair. Vice-Chairs supported the Chair by presiding over a number of thematic discussions.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** while recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission, including through country-specific configurations, the Commission should continue to consider flexible options for other forms of engagement, in accordance with its mandate, including a more engaged role of the Organizational Committee.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the Organizational Committee as a platform to convene country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, in accordance with its founding resolutions. When convening regional discussions, references to country-

specific situations shall be made with the consent of those countries, which shall be shared with the Members of the Committee.

II. Promote a Commission that, through its convening role, can work in a form of “variable geometry”, where the character, focus and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility and its mandate to assist Governments partnering with the Commission with their peacebuilding priorities, as appropriate.

Good practices: the meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Gambia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka; the regional discussions on West Africa, the Sahel and the Great Lakes; and the thematic discussions on financing for peacebuilding, which included Papua New Guinea, Somalia and Kyrgyzstan.

3. **Role of the membership:** the Commission has a very diverse membership, bringing together seven members from the General Assembly, seven members from the Security Council, seven members from the Economic and Social Council, five members from the top troop-contributing countries and five members from the top financial contributors. Therefore, a stronger engagement of all members of the Commission will further enhance its efficiency.

Actions:

I. Make greater use of the perspectives of the organs that elect or designate the members of the Commission: in addition to country-specific interests, Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to bring perspectives of those bodies into the deliberations of the Commission. For example, members can offer advice on the working methods of their constituencies and can highlight relevant ongoing thematic issues in their respective organs that will add value to the work of the Commission and reinforce synergies between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, while respecting the mandate of each body.

II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the Peacebuilding Commission on priority areas that are relevant for the work of their respective organs or groups, and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This will add to the visibility of the Commission and enhance clarity on the work of the Commission. Similarly, establishing a predictable workplan (see action 3 below) and summarizing results on a regular basis can lead to a more regular flow of information between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

III. Members of the Commission are encouraged to actively engage and support the work of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, while avoiding duplication of work and enhancing the idea of one Peacebuilding Commission.

IV. The Commission could explore the possibility of appointing informal coordinators for its relationships with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the basis of an examination of the appointment of the informal coordinator for the relationship with the Security Council.

V. The Chair, with the consent of Member States, including those being considered by the Commission, should enhance the convening platform of the Commission by inviting additional partners to participate in meetings of the Commission. Such partners may include Member States that are not members of the Organizational Committee, representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, including youth and women's organizations, and, where relevant, the private sector.

Good practices: the annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission is a good example of how the Commission has brought together various partners from the United Nations system and beyond, including representatives of civil society. Discussions pertaining to the regional dimensions of peacebuilding, as well as country-specific and thematic discussions, such as the informal meeting on good practices in transition with Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone and the meetings on Colombia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, included representatives of relevant United Nations departments and of civil society organizations. An informal coordinator for the relationship between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council helped the Commission to take stock of its advisory role. Member States, together with the Chair, prepared and conducted various thematic discussions.

4. **Workplan:** a more predictable and longer-term workplan that would allow broader participation of Member States at the meetings of the Commission.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report. The workplan is to be further developed and, in accordance with the current practice, circulated for consideration by the Organizational Committee on a quarterly basis and, on a monthly basis, listing the dates of meetings, activities and visits of the Commission in all its configurations. Additional previously unscheduled meetings to be added, if required.

II. The workplan is to take into account the relevant calendar of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, particularly when it comes to activities where the advisory role of the Commission may be sought. In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.

III. The Chairs of country configurations are to present their calendar of work earlier in the beginning of each quarter.

IV. The workplan is to include a more regularized engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.

V. The workplan is to include specific, focused meetings at which diverse countries (Peacebuilding Fund recipients and/or applicants) share their national peacebuilding plans.

VI. The Commission should make a greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.

Good practices: the forward agenda of the annual reports of the Commission has been useful in guiding the work of the Commission. Following the Chair's visit

to Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 October 2016, the Commission held discussions on the African Union's recommendations for holding annual meetings and organizing joint field visits, which were further welcomed at the Commission meeting with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in July 2018. The quarterly and monthly workplans of the Commission have been useful tools to better align the work of the Commission with the calendar of the Security Council and to facilitate Member States' engagement with the Commission.

5. **Bridging role:** resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016) stress the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and, inter alia, in serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities. The resolutions also recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to better utilize its membership to strengthen its links with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (see also actions 2.I and 2.II) to efficiently address issues regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to advocate peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

II. Dialogues between the Chair of the Commission and the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be convened, as necessary, as should informal meetings of the Commission with those bodies.

III. In connection with the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, in addition to its engagement so far, when invited to brief the Council it should prepare its briefings by aligning its workplan with relevant Security Council meetings (see action 3.II). The activities of the Commission in preparation for these briefings may include internal thematic discussions in anticipation of issues to be discussed in the Security Council, visits to the field, including, when invited by the Council, joint visits with the Council to advance peacebuilding perspectives and the organization of meetings to engage with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. In addition to formal briefings, the Commission could provide its advice in writing and through informal interactive dialogues, as appropriate.

IV. Through this advanced preparation, and the uniqueness of the Commission's convening power, it can have sustained interactions and enhance its efforts to provide the Security Council with substantive advice, upon request, for example, in matters relating to the synergies between security and development. The advisory role of the Commission to the Council is recognized, in particular, in the context of the Council's consideration of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, during which the Commission is uniquely positioned to provide clear, realistic, applicable and qualitative peacebuilding perspectives to the Council, if requested. Similarly, regular exchanges between the Commission and other subsidiary organs of the Council should be further enhanced.

V. The Commission is to advocate a coherent, predictable and traceable use of resources for peacebuilding activities, including with international financial institutions, and for innovative financial instruments.

Good practices: the meetings of the Commission with the Security Council’s Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa in 2016 represented good opportunities to exchange views on issues pertaining to peacebuilding in Africa. The informal interactive dialogue of the Security Council with the Commission in June 2018 provided Member States with a space to explore practical ways to enhance the advisory role of the Commission to the Council during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates. It could be useful to convene similar informal interactive dialogues with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Commission transmitted written observations to the Security Council pertaining to the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the support in Liberia for the development and implementation of the country’s peacebuilding plan during the transition from the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Furthermore, the participation of the Chair of the Commission in the high-level dialogue of the President of the General Assembly, and the Commission’s joint event with the Economic and Social Council in November 2018, are examples of how the Commission can implement its mandate to play a bridging role among relevant United Nations bodies.

6. **Synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund:** while preserving the independence of the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund, look at ways to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund, and to ensure that Member States remain informed on the ongoing projects of the Fund.

Actions:

- I. The Peacebuilding Commission is to hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular when peacebuilding priority plans are discussed.
- II. The Commission is to invite the Chair and the members of the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund to meetings of the Commission, when relevant.
- III. Regular briefings by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the activities of the Fund at the meetings of the Commission would be useful.

Good practices: the working relationship between the Commission and the Fund during the Ebola crisis; the meetings on financing for peacebuilding (Papua New Guinea and Somalia, in 2015; Kyrgyzstan, in 2016, which also included a representative from the Fund’s Advisory Group); and the discussion on Solomon Islands represent innovative ways to keep the Commission informed of progress that countries make with support from the Fund.

7. **Format of Commission meetings (open or closed):** ensure that there is a balance between transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission’s deliberations. The Commission, in all its meetings and formats, and with the consent of Member States, should enhance inclusivity and ensure that participation reinforces an integrated Organizational Committee and the concept of a unified Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Support Office is to continue ensuring that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place.

Actions:

I. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with the countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed.

8. **Visibility and communication:** there is a need to address the lack of awareness, both within and outside the United Nations, about the work of the Commission and on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Actions:

I. The Commission is to explore ways to increase the visibility of its open meetings, in particular high-level events such as the annual session, to attract more attention from the media. For example, the Commission could consider issuing press releases, as appropriate, after such events.

II. The Commission is to explore ways to increase ongoing activity on the web and on social media with regard to all of its meetings and country visits.
