

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 22 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Germany has the honour to transmit the coordinator's summary of the meeting on the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council, held on 17 December 2020 and virtually hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Christoph Heusgen**
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council

Coordinator's summary

Background

1. On 17 December 2020, Germany, in its capacity as informal coordinator of the periodic stocktaking exercises on the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory function to the Security Council, convened an informal meeting to reflect on the progress made by the Commission in providing its advice to the Council in 2019 and 2020. The members of the Commission that are also members of the Council and the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission were invited to the meeting. The Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs also attended, gave a brief presentation and contributed to the discussion.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator opened the meeting by underscoring the important work done by the Commission during the past two years and noting that the Commission had fulfilled its advisory role to the Council on many occasions. He recalled, in particular, the advice on country-specific issues, such as on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, on regional situations, such as the Commission's letter on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel ahead of the mandate renewal, as well as on thematic issues, such as the advice on youth, peace and security. He underlined the early and active engagement by the Commission on the impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on peacebuilding efforts, which was brought to the attention of the Council during the informal interactive dialogue between the Commission and the Council under the Security Council presidency of Germany in July 2020. He also recalled the relevance of the informal interactive dialogue between the Commission and the Council that was convened in advance of a Security Council visit to Burkina Faso and Mali in 2019. In that regard, he encouraged the Council to expand that model, if applicable, to other situations in which the advice of the Commission could help the Council prepare for a visit (once conditions allowed, given the impact of COVID-19).

3. While underlining the progress made thus far, the coordinator also highlighted areas for further improvement, also referencing the coordinator's summary from a previous stocktaking meeting ([S/2019/446](#)). He noted that still more needed to be done to better align the programme of work of the Commission with that of the Council, including timely submission of the Commission's advice to the Council to allow for proper consideration. He stressed that the Commission's advice should be succinct and focused on recommendations that could be easily "actionable" by the Council. In that regard, he pointed out the potential for improving the quality of advice by providing feedback to the Commission. He highlighted the increased usage of the agenda item entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace" and advocated for the regular involvement and engagement of the Commission when relevant activities under that agenda item were convened.

In conclusion, he noted the general and positive readiness of Council members to engage with the Commission further and underlined that an effective advisory role

of the Commission to the Council also depended on the engagement of all Member States, in particular the common members. He encouraged delegations to continuously consider opportunities, including potential country or regional situations, in which the Commission could support the work of the Council and include, if applicable, aspects of peacebuilding in such deliberations.

4. The Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs echoed the main findings of the coordinator and welcomed the progress made by the Commission. It stated that, in 2020, the Commission had provided its advice on 12 occasions, which had included letters or other written inputs, oral briefings and informal interactive dialogues, and noted that the Office stood ready to support the Commission in further strengthening its advisory role. The Office highlighted as good practice the Commission's effort to promote gender-responsive peacebuilding through more systematic engagement with women peacebuilders and better mainstreaming of gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its engagements, including by incorporating the recommendations of women peacebuilders and business leaders into its advice to the Security Council, as appropriate, in line with the Commission's gender strategy.

5. Participants welcomed the decision to convene the meeting and highlighted the following points:

(a) They welcomed the work done by the coordinator, which had led to an improvement in the advisory role of the Commission to the Council. They also welcomed the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office in supporting the Commission, including by fostering more engagement of the United Nations system on peacebuilding. They underlined that the Commission, in line with its mandate, should continue to provide strategic advice on priority areas for the Council, in particular when the Council is considering countries undergoing transitions;

(b) Several participants pointed to the improved quality of the Commission's advice and urged that more opportunities be sought for the Commission to provide advice in preparation for the Council's visits to countries or regions considered by both bodies. They noted that the Commission should be more engaged when the Council is considering issues under the agenda item entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace". That could include an invitation to the Chair of the Commission to provide a briefing or seek the advice of the Commission on substantive areas covered by the meeting or regarding possible briefers, in particular from civil society organizations;

(c) Many participants encouraged the continuation of the Commission's efforts to promote gender-responsive peacebuilding, including by reflecting appropriate substantive inputs and recommendations in its advice to the Security Council;

(d) Participants welcomed the improvements made by the Commission to align its calendar of work with that of the Council. Participants also called for further improvements. One participant noted that the advice ideally should be shared with the Council at least a few weeks in advance to allow for sufficient time for consideration;

(e) Participants suggested seeking more informal engagement, including through a regular dialogue with the penholders;

(f) They welcomed further stocktaking opportunities, in particular in follow-up to situations on which the Commission had submitted its advice to the Council.