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**Peacebuilding Commission
Seventeenth session
Organizational Committee**

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 February 2023, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Muhith (Bangladesh)
later: Mr. Šimonović (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/17/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its sixteenth session (PBC/16/OC/L.1)

2. **The Chair** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Commission agreed to adopt the draft report using a no-objection procedure to begin after the current meeting.

3. *It was so decided.*

Election of officers

4. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for its seventeenth session.

5. *Croatia was elected Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2023.*

6. **The Chair** said that the Group of Asia-Pacific States had endorsed Bangladesh for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its seventeenth session.

7. *Bangladesh was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2023.*

8. **The Chair** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Germany for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its seventeenth session.

9. *Germany was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2023.*

10. *Brazil was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration; Morocco was re-elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; and Sweden was re-elected as Chair of the Liberia configuration for a term ending on 31 December 2023.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

11. **The Chair** said that in 2022 the Peacebuilding Commission had held 27 meetings, including 14 on separate country- and region-specific settings and other thematic priorities. The Commission had broadened its geographic reach, holding meetings on Timor-Leste, South Sudan and Central Asia for the first time. The Commission's engagements had yielded 65 outcome documents, enabling delegations, Member States and other partners to calibrate the support mechanism for countries in need.

12. The Commission had continued the dialogue on ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained funding for peacebuilding and issued advice to the General Assembly, calling for an action-oriented outcome. The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/305. The Commission had maintained synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund, which had contributed to supporting the national peacebuilding priorities of Member States.

13. As the largest troop-contributing country, with over 7,000 men and women serving as peacekeepers, Bangladesh had pursued an emphasis on strengthening the peacebuilding capacities of peacekeeping operations and supporting national institutions during transition. The rate of participation of women peacebuilders in Commission meetings had increased significantly, as had the Commission's engagement with civil society representatives.

14. Climate change had remained central to the Commission's engagements. The meetings on Pacific Island countries and the Sahel region had highlighted how climate change aggravated peacebuilding challenges.

15. In 2022, the Commission had successfully enhanced its advisory, bridging and convening role, sending advice to the Security Council on 17 occasions. It had also enhanced its engagement with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Moreover, the Secretariat now shared with the Commission advance copies of reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, enabling Commission members to offer more practical advice.

16. Strengthening United Nations system-wide coherence had also been a priority for his delegation. The Commission's engagement with United Nations country teams had increased substantially, and partnership opportunities, including with regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, had expanded.

17. The Commission's experience in supporting international efforts to achieve a sustainable peace would benefit the New Agenda for Peace, which placed prevention and peacebuilding at the heart of that effort. As Vice-Chair, Bangladesh would remain fully engaged in supporting the advancement of the Commission's strategic role in that Agenda.

Statements by the outgoing Vice-Chairs

18. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt) said that over the last few years the Peacebuilding Commission had fostered a more inclusive and effective multilateralism by, inter

alia, reshaping United Nations responses to the multidimensional nature of new peacebuilding threats and supporting national and regional peacebuilding priorities. In order to sustain the role of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, more needed to be done to address its financing challenges. General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding, while a step in the right direction, would require follow-up through budgetary action.

19. The interdependence between peacekeeping and peacebuilding must be strengthened in a way that addressed the root causes of armed conflict. The New Agenda for Peace had enormous potential for expanding peacebuilding horizons. Members should work to find innovative ways to enhance the role of women and youth in peacebuilding. The centrality of peacebuilding to the Organization's work should be affirmed. All phases of the mandates of peace operations should include broader and adequately resourced peacebuilding components, an aim to which Commission members that were also members of the Security Council could contribute during the process of formulating mandates. Lastly, more should be done to strengthen the Commission's cooperation with the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

20. **Ms. Cedano** (Dominican Republic) said that during its tenure as Vice-Chair, her delegation had noted the positive impact of the Peacebuilding Commission as a credible, impartial platform in which countries could share their challenges and aspirations. The Dominican Republic would continue to promote the expansion of the Commission's work to other regional and thematic areas and a preventive approach to such cross-cutting issues as violence, food insecurity in conflict and climate change. The effort to build United Nations system-wide coordination and coherence and the work to close the funding gap for peacebuilding activities must continue. It was essential to continue strengthening the role of young people in peacebuilding, increasing their participation in decision-making and fulfilling their potential to build just, inclusive and sustainable societies.

21. *Mr. Šimonović (Croatia) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

22. **The Chair** said that in the current dark times, with the number of conflicts and victims worldwide on the rise once again, the Peacebuilding Commission was a candle whose light must become a torch. Examples of good practices in strengthening the resilience of societies, conflict prevention and successful and sustainable post-conflict peacebuilding must be

highlighted and well communicated, in order to encourage more countries to request the Commission's support, with full confidence in their national ownership of the process. The Commission should focus more on prevention and strengthening resilience, and financial and other types of support should be provided for the implementation of its advice to countries.

23. The widening gap between the current need for and availability of resources for peacebuilding was unacceptable, and therefore increased, sustainable and more predictable and diversified financing was required. The upcoming resumed General Assembly session would provide an opportunity to reach agreement on partial financing for peacebuilding through assessed contributions.

24. He hoped to see the ideas proposed during the recent discussions about the Commission's role in the New Agenda for Peace reflected in the Commission's programme for 2023. There was, in particular, a need for innovative formats for the Commission's work, in order to facilitate more outreach and interaction, ensuring, inter alia, effective working methods, sharing of good practices and provision of timely advice to the Security Council ahead of the expiration of mission mandates. The Commission should also continue to engage on the New Agenda for Peace and assume its rightful role in the implementation of that Agenda. The Commission must help bring together all relevant stakeholders and ensure a more efficient and coherent approach to peacebuilding, as the people served by the Commission would measure its success only by the difference it made in their lives.

25. **Ms. Spehar** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that, as a young body, the Peacebuilding Commission had both the opportunity and the duty to explore ways to grow stronger so that countries seeking its support could continue to rely on it to support and assist their efforts towards full and sustained peace. The Commission had already progressed in many ways and, through its flexible working methods, had become more efficient, inclusive, relevant and valuable.

26. In 2022, the Commission had further expanded its geographic scope, engaging 14 countries and regions and convening meetings on Central Asia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste for the first time, attesting to the growing interest and trust of countries in the Commission as a space where national ownership mattered, and to Commission members' commitment to providing the requested peacebuilding support to their peers. Peacebuilding was universal, as every country and region could have peacebuilding needs and

experiences to share. The opportunity for countries to share good practices was one of the Commission's most positive and unique features.

27. The Commission's advisory role with the Security Council had also improved considerably in 2022. Its approval of a substantive programme of work, which had been shared with the General Assembly and the Security Council in early 2022, had allowed for better planning of the Commission's activities, which could eventually feed into the deliberations of the Council and other intergovernmental bodies. The decision to convene expert-level meetings was another useful innovation to improve the quality of the Commission's advice to the Security Council.

28. Progress had also been made in 2022 on financing for peacebuilding, largely thanks to the Commission's advisory role to the General Assembly, which had unanimously adopted resolution [76/305](#), signalling its recognition of the critical funding gap and the importance of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Support Office had continued to support stronger synergies between the Peacebuilding Fund and the Commission through its country- and region-specific meetings. The Office would continue to brief the Commission regularly on the Fund's activities.

29. A decision by the Fifth Committee on the Secretary-General's proposal to use assessed financing for predictable, core resourcing for the Fund remained the final hurdle in the quest for financing. While voluntary funding would continue to provide most resources, with several major donors committing to renewed multi-year, voluntary agreements, a decision by the Organization to invest in prevention – an insurance policy of sorts – was a critical piece yet to be achieved.

30. Against the current geopolitical backdrop, the Commission was a vital institution committed to supporting the peacebuilding priorities of peace-challenged and conflict-affected countries and to enabling them to engage with the international community on the basis of national leadership and national ownership. She hoped that the Commission would continue building on the Secretary-General's recommendations in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" ([A/75/982](#)) and further explore ways to strengthen its work, in line with such priorities as respect for national ownership and inclusivity; strong advisory, bridging and convening roles; and the importance of accountability. Such ideas resonated with the vision articulated in the New Agenda for Peace. By elevating its role and allowing for proper follow-up, the

Commission could continue to provide an effective platform to mobilize international attention and support for peacebuilding needs.

31. **Ms. Leendertse** (Germany) said that her delegation was encouraged by the increased willingness of countries to engage with the Commission, whose trademark focus on inclusive national ownership had encouraged many countries affected by or emerging from conflict to seek its advice and support in order to develop and implement their own peacebuilding strategies. As the main donor to the Peacebuilding Fund, Germany would strive to further strengthen the linkages between the Commission and the Fund.

32. The strengthening of regional cooperation and approaches to dealing with common risks, threats and impediments to building peace was another relevant area of the Commission's work. Her delegation looked forward to exploring prevention and peacebuilding opportunities for the Commission at the regional level at the current session. Recent discussions in the Commission and the Security Council had indicated that there was strong support for strengthening the Commission's advisory role. Members should work together to make the Commission's written advice to the Security Council and other forums even more targeted and relevant, and to increase its bridging role and interaction with those forums. The best way to strengthen the Commission's advisory and bridging roles was to focus on its main added value, namely, its expertise in prevention and peacebuilding and in cross-cutting issues central to supporting and building peace, such as the women and peace and security agenda.

33. Building on the progress achieved in 2022 on financing for peacebuilding, with the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [76/305](#) and the deliberations in the Fifth Committee on assessed contributions to fund peacebuilding, the task before the Commission was to help reach an agreement and continue to explore additional means to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing. Lastly, there had been encouraging support for and ownership of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, reflecting broad consensus that conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the Commission itself should play a prominent role in that Agenda.

34. **The Chair** invited the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to share their plans and priorities for 2023.

35. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking as the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, said that 2022 had been an eventful year for the Central African Republic, which had made encouraging strides in

several areas. Those hard-won gains must be preserved and built on through sustained support. At the political level, considerable efforts had been invested in revitalizing the peace process, with the Government continuing to engage with armed groups in a clear demonstration of national ownership that fostered interest in the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and security sector reform would be key in restoring and maintaining peace and stability. In addition, the republican dialogue hosted in March 2022 had opened up a democratic space for dialogue. The implementation of the resulting recommendations and the holding of local elections in 2023 would further promote the expansion of that space and stabilize the political climate. The configuration would continue to support the electoral process, including by engaging with partners of the Central African Republic to encourage the timely disbursement of pledged contributions to facilitate the organization of the critical elections.

36. Significant progress had been achieved towards combating impunity and strengthening the rule of law through the work of the now operational Special Criminal Court of the Central African Republic, which had handed down judgments in cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The configuration would continue to support the country's transitional justice efforts, which would, in turn, help to bolster the people's confidence in national institutions. Lastly, the configuration would engage with international and regional technical and financial partners to enable the Government to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the peace process.

37. **Ms. Eneström** (Sweden), speaking as the Chair of the Liberia configuration, said that the expansion of the Peacebuilding Commission's role to more geographic and substantive settings as envisioned in the New Agenda for Peace was exactly what was needed. With demand for peacebuilding support at an all-time high, the Secretary-General's report entitled "Our Common Agenda" ([A/75/982](#)) and the New Agenda for Peace had placed a renewed emphasis on the importance of peacebuilding and prevention.

38. As Chair of the Liberia configuration, Sweden would continue to support the country's national peacebuilding priorities, foremost among them the effort to ensure that the presidential and legislative elections, scheduled for October 2023, were fair, free and transparent. The configuration's second priority was to support national reconciliation efforts through dialogue and follow-up to the recommendations of the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and identify potential areas for international support.

39. The configuration would continue to engage with Liberian civil society and local stakeholders, international financial institutions, and such regional actors as the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union to build partnerships and ensure cooperation between relevant stakeholders. Sweden stood ready to support the Commission's effort to build on its previous gains, including in its role as advisory body to the Security Council.

40. **Mr. Marquardt Bayer** (Brazil), speaking as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, said that despite its relative stability ahead of legislative elections, the country needed renewed international support as it was in a region marked by increasing instability. In mid-February, the Permanent Representative of Brazil would visit Guinea-Bissau and would subsequently present a report to the Commission.

General discussion

41. **The Chair** said that, determined to further strengthen the concept of one Peacebuilding Commission, and building on established practice, he wished to organize regular quarterly meetings to take stock of progress and challenges requiring collective action. Additional meetings could be scheduled in cases of urgent need.

42. **Mr. Massari** (Italy) said that Commission members, their national priorities notwithstanding, must find common ground and respect the needs, aspirations and proposals of the countries and communities engaging with the Commission. Topics ranging from full security and inclusive engagement with civil society, women and young people to promotion of the rule of law must remain central to the Commission's efforts.

43. Italy supported the peacebuilding efforts of regional and subregional organizations and was in favour of giving priority to the needs of the most vulnerable countries and regions, using the Commission's convening role to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increasing funding for peacebuilding through assessed contributions and pursuing a more ambitious and structured collaboration between the Commission and the Security Council. However, the starting point must remain respect for national ownership and local communities and support for their development needs. International cooperation, not fragmentation, was needed. His delegation would work to bridge the growing divide within and outside the

Commission, restore trust and find common ground, in the service of the peoples and communities the Commission supported.

44. **Mr. Skoog** (Observer for the European Union) said that with global conflict on the rise and a quarter of the world population living in conflict-affected areas, it was time to put conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of global priorities. The New Agenda for Peace offered an opportunity to reinforce the whole spectrum of United Nations prevention and peacebuilding capabilities. The strengths and limitations of each tool must be examined critically, and the ways and means of promoting preventive diplomacy must be reassessed. Ultimately, the work to ensure an integrated approach to using all the Organization's tools must be reinforced continually.

45. Greater collective investment in peacebuilding was needed. Together, the European Union and its member States had accounted for more than 60 per cent of contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund since its launch; other donors needed to contribute. The landmark General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding had provided momentum on options, including assessed contributions, in order to ensure the adequate, predictable and sustained financing that the New Agenda for Peace should build on. As the overall peacekeeping budget decreased, ways should be found to channel the related assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund.

46. It was no coincidence that the Commission attracted enormous interest, especially at a time when the Security Council was faltering in its conflict-resolution role. There was an ever greater need for the Commission to bring together the broader United Nations system, Governments that were already on the Commission's agenda or waiting to engage with it, civil society and regional development banks. As a formidable and unique convener, the Commission should interact with the entire United Nations system, including on such topics as gender equality, the rule of law, and political, social, economic and cultural rights. It would be impossible to sustain peace without an integrated approach that took the development and human rights pillars of the Organization's work into account. Discussions of the Commission's thematic priorities were at their best when tackled in the specific country or regional context because such discussions created national ownership, enabling the Commission to hear first-hand about government priorities and needs.

47. **Mr. Rai** (Nepal) said that the efforts to strengthen the Commission's advisory, bridging and convening roles were crucial, as effective peacebuilding and

prevention efforts hinged on strong cooperation among the Commission, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Similarly, the positive correlation between inclusive socioeconomic development and peacebuilding should be duly acknowledged in the Commission's work. Nepal remained a staunch supporter of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for the Peacebuilding Fund, as the need for its support significantly outpaced available resources. As a newly elected member of the Commission, Nepal looked forward to contributing to the expansion of the Commission's role to more geographic and substantive settings under the New Agenda for Peace.

48. **Mr. Dibba** (Gambia) said that his Government had drawn valuable lessons from its engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, whose critical support through the Peacebuilding Fund had kept alive his country's hope for sustained peace. As the Commission worked with the Gambia to achieve their shared goal for the partnership, he requested that the Commission accommodate periodic briefings from senior officials of his Government. The Commission continued to provide support and guidance as his Government pursued its priority processes, namely, the imminent implementation of the recommendations of the draft report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, the drafting of a constitution, security sector reform and youth empowerment. The people of the Gambia had placed their trust in those processes in the hope that victims would gain closure, a new constitution would usher in a new beginning, security sector reform would foster new trust and stability, and youth empowerment would facilitate development and foster a renewed sense of belonging for the country's large population of young people. His Government looked forward to engaging with the Commission on innovative resource mobilization, including the forthcoming donor conference to be held in the Gambia, with a view to fulfilling the commitments made in the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

49. **Mr. Hermann** (Denmark) said that a great deal could be built on the Commission's significant achievements from 2022, in terms of both scope and scale. There had been a sharp increase in the number of times the Commission had submitted advice to the Security Council, and engagement with women peacebuilders, who had critical perspectives to share, had improved.

50. With regard to adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, assessed contributions were indeed necessary, and the final steps towards achieving that goal should be taken soon following the

General Assembly's adoption of resolution 76/305. The valuable dialogue on funds from peace operations being channelled into prevention efforts merited the Commission's further attention.

51. National ownership was a crucial component of the Commission's advisory, convening and bridging roles. There was an urgent need to do more to mobilize support for conflict prevention, which, along with peacebuilding, lay squarely within the Commission's mandate and must therefore be placed at the heart of its work.

52. The Commission's relationship with other bodies within and outside the United Nations was vital. There was great potential to strengthen the relationship between the Commission and the Economic and Social Council, but the challenge would be doing so concretely, not merely conceptually. To that end, obstacles to progress should be identified. The Commission, while indeed a young body, had tremendous potential because it adhered to the principle of listening to countries articulate their own needs for support and advice. Denmark stood ready to listen, learn and contribute humbly and respectfully.

53. **Mr. Ugarelli** (Peru) said that his delegation hoped to make the Peacebuilding Commission a body that efficiently implemented post-conflict recovery strategies and played a standing advisory role to the Security Council in formulating mandates on sustaining peace. In order to support the political process and institution-building in countries affected by violence, the consent of the Government was vital, as was the support of civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions. The Commission should strengthen mediation and make it a priority to assess what was most important to populations affected by violence and to address the root causes of conflicts in order to prevent them from recurring or escalating.

54. **Mr. Kiboino** (Kenya) said that it was regrettable that for the first time, the Peacebuilding Commission had been unable to deliver a joint annual statement by the Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council, after the Commission had presented a draft that had not been acceptable to the Peace and Security Council. While it was indeed possible to disagree on different elements, there was a need for greater cooperation in the Commission's deliberations in order to ensure that outcome documents reflected actual discussions and did not fall short of the objectives and substance of meetings.

55. The meetings and outcome documents of the Commission's sixteenth session covered priority areas and contained specific recommendations that cut across

Our Common Agenda and the aspirations set out in the New Agenda for Peace. Implementation and follow-up of those recommendations were now needed to fulfil the growing faith in the Commission's country and regional engagements. Reinforcing and investing in the interlinkage between peacebuilding and development were key to responding to the most important needs of countries affected by conflict and those undergoing political and peace transitions. A greater focus must therefore be placed on localized peacebuilding through national and regional ownership, while emphasizing national reconciliation, inclusive political and economic empowerment, as well as advocacy for adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding, which he hoped would soon be reinforced by assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund.

56. As informal coordinator between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council during the previous two sessions of the Commission, Kenya regarded the sharp increase in the number of advice documents to the Council as a call for strengthened coordination between the two bodies. It remained the collective responsibility of Commission members to ensure timely follow-up and integration of advice into the Council's work.

57. **Mr. Raguttahalli** (India) said that adequate attention must be paid to institution-building as the only way of establishing enduring governmental structures capable of protecting human rights and the rule of law. In that connection, the woman and peace and security agenda must also receive strong support. India continued to underscore the cardinal principle of inclusivity to advance national objectives. Therefore, an exclusively donor-driven approach to peacebuilding was not the most prudent path to follow.

58. The growth of terrorism, particularly in Africa, had exposed the gaps between peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates, hence the need to bridge those gaps by strengthening States' capacity to fight terrorism. Peacebuilding could not endure in the face of terrorist activities, which constituted the greatest threat to peace and security in the Sahel.

59. In a rapidly and irreversibly changing world, people-centric and citizen-friendly digital technologies must be promoted and factored into peacebuilding efforts, with a special focus on women and young people. Adequate, sustainable and predictable financing was necessary to render peacebuilding efforts more effective. A review of the structure of peacebuilding funding should be considered, so as to reflect adequately the concerns of Member States.

60. **Ms. Shino** (Japan) said that prevention was the best way to keep and sustain peace in a world facing multiple risks. In order to maximize its role, the Commission should broaden its thematic and geographic scope and seek more advice from Member States and United Nations organs and agencies on how the Commission could be effectively utilized.

61. Member States should explore the best formats for the Commission's meetings with other intergovernmental organs. The Security Council should use the informal interactive dialogue format more often to discuss conflict prevention, inviting Commission members and host country representatives, as appropriate. The Commission's advisory and bridging power must be used to full advantage. The Commission should review its working methods to render its advice more effective and timely, thereby ensuring its consideration and inclusion in United Nations and other documents. Japan would work actively to ensure such timeliness by promoting the alignment of the Commission's programme of work with those of United Nations main organs and other bodies.

62. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that in 2023, the Commission would undertake its activities while engaging in discussions on the New Agenda for Peace, in which the United Nations peacebuilding architecture would be central. The proposals in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Our Common Agenda" ([A/75/982](#)) attested to the Commission's success in working with countries emerging from conflict.

63. In the coming year, the Commission should build on the gains made in supporting the countries on its agenda as they consolidated peace and strengthened their basis for sustainable development. Projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund continued to make a visible impact on communities, with women and young people among the direct beneficiaries. The Commission had also become an important platform for States to share their experiences of post-conflict transitions.

64. The Commission's success was based on the principles that underpinned its work, in particular national ownership, which remained a vital element of all international support for a country. Peacebuilding programmes inclusive of all sectors of society were more likely to succeed.

65. His delegation hoped that Member States would reach a long-awaited agreement on funding peacebuilding from the United Nations regular budget. South Africa also maintained its support for innovative financing, including from the private sector. It appreciated the Commission's support for the South

African initiative to promote peace-positive private sector development in post-conflict societies.

66. He hoped to see further improvements in the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2023. Joint meetings between the Commission and those main organs were a strategy worth exploring. As the first-ever informal coordinator between the Commission and the General Assembly, South Africa stood ready to continue performing that role in the future.

67. **Ms. Beshkova** (Bulgaria) said that her delegation welcomed the rich substantive discussion with the Economic and Social Council on long-term development in conflict-affected contexts and the coherence of the United Nations system on the ground. Bulgaria fully supported the priorities articulated by the Chair, with special emphasis on prevention, strengthening resilience and supporting nationally-owned peacebuilding priorities. A strong Peacebuilding Commission would require a stronger Peacebuilding Support Office in terms of both human and financial resources.

68. **Mr. Montalvo Sosa** (Ecuador) said that his delegation's priorities included addressing the underlying causes of conflict by promoting democracy and, where applicable, restoring constitutional order in conflict-affected countries. An inclusive national dialogue was instrumental in that regard. Ecuador championed women's full participation in peace processes and peacebuilding and therefore supported the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in the work of the Commission and throughout the United Nations system. The Commission should also support political decentralization processes, with a view to including local communities in decision-making in order to ensure that their needs were met. His delegation was an advocate of judicial independence and transitional justice, including reconciliation processes, and of the establishment of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes.

69. The 2030 Agenda must be fully implemented in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, with comprehensive support from the United Nations system as a whole and efforts to avoid working in silos. Cooperation and access to financing for development would depend on building adequate bridges with international and regional financial institutions. His delegation hoped to contribute to the important work of prevention, whose effectiveness would hinge on a timely effort by the Commission so that advice would not arrive too late.

70. **Mr. Hill** (United States of America) said that conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts were critical to responding to shared security and development challenges around the world. Peacebuilding efforts could help mitigate drivers of fragility and instability and empower national governments and local communities with tools to reduce the recurrence of conflict. 2022 had witnessed a sharp increase in the number of times the Peacebuilding Commission had submitted advice to the Security Council, attesting to a growing recognition of the Commission's advisory role and highlighting the importance of effective coordination between the two entities and the need for timely submission, follow-up and integration of the advice into the Council's work.

71. The United States continued to support expanding the Commission's role in such cross-cutting areas as human rights, the women and peace and security agenda, institution-building, electoral processes, climate change and partnerships for peacebuilding. His Government was reinforcing its commitment to peacebuilding through the implementation of its Global Fragility Act and the subsequent issuance of its strategy to prevent conflict and promote stability. It also supported the Commission's consideration of such global issues as the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, natural resources and financing for peacebuilding through its engagement with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

72. His delegation continued to call for a more ambitious and structured collaboration between the Commission and the Security Council. The Commission was ideally placed to raise the Council's awareness of regional efforts, local communities' understanding and expertise, and the cross-border dimension of conflicts, including by leveraging its convening power, particularly in its advisory role with the Council, to make peacebuilding activities integrated, coordinated and responsive to current dynamics.

73. The United States welcomed United Nations efforts to produce more detailed impact assessments of its peacebuilding work, which demonstrated how it could contribute to impactful reductions in violent conflict. In that regard, it supported the Peacebuilding Support Office's initiative to establish a peacebuilding impact hub. The Organization should institutionalize deference to local stakeholders and shift resources to increase the capacity of local, national and regional peacebuilding entities. The hope for such engagement was to build consensus around the future sought by all Member States, one in which the United Nations system

was empowered to fulfil its potential to deliver on peacebuilding.

74. **Ms. Sokolova** (Russian Federation) said that the Peacebuilding Commission's work on financing for peacebuilding had led to the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/305. When considering how to replenish the Peacebuilding Fund from the Organization's budgetary resources, a decision must be made on the mandate to be given by Member States regarding control over expenditures. At the same time, her delegation had always understood the Peacebuilding Fund to be an instrument for the collection of voluntary contributions, a funding modality that made it a flexible mechanism able to respond rapidly to new issues. The Russian Federation continued to call for greater collaboration between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund and greater harmonization of their objectives. Her delegation also hoped that the Commission would seek to engage in full-fledged coordination with international financial institutions, an approach that had significant potential.

75. Envisaged as a bridge between efforts to support peace and security and development assistance efforts, the Commission was a unique platform where participants in peacebuilding processes exchanged views. The Commission then had the opportunity to submit to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council information about Governments' peacebuilding priorities, the views and expectations of civil society and the assessments of United Nations system representatives and other national and international stakeholders.

76. In 2022, the Commission's geographic scope of activities had increased as additional countries and regions expressed the wish to cooperate with it. That development indicated that international assistance aimed at capacity-building for States, in accordance with priorities defined at the national level, had not gone unnoticed. It was also important to involve post-conflict countries – the primary beneficiaries of the Commission's activities – in Commission meetings.

77. The Commission's consideration of such issues as climate change, health care, gender equality, development and human rights through the peacebuilding prism made sense only in the context of specific countries or regions and not as a general thematic discussion. One of the strengths of the United Nations system was the division of labour among its main organs, whereby each did its own work without intruding on the mandates of the others. The alternative would lead to a duplication of effort and a decrease in the Organization's effectiveness.

78. In 2023, the Commission would be the focus of close attention in the context of the New Agenda for Peace. The foundation for peacebuilding remained Security Council resolutions 1645 (2005) and 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolutions 60/180 and 70/262, and it would be unacceptable to broaden the interpretation of those resolutions or go beyond the mandates they contained. The principle of national ownership was sacrosanct and allowed Governments to decide on and carry out their own peacebuilding strategies. International support, when necessary, must be provided with the approval of the host Government, with an unwavering respect for State sovereignty. Similarly, sustaining peace must be based on political solutions to crises and the equal responsibility of Governments and society for peace. Peace could be sustained only by eliminating the root causes of conflict, achieving national reconciliation and, in the end, engaging in reconstruction and development. By lending its assistance on the basis of consensus decisions taken by its members, the Commission would further develop a balanced position and enjoy support and respect at the international level.

79. **Mr. Imohe** (Nigeria) said that as climate-related shocks, competition over scarce resources and dormant intercommunal tensions continued to fuel the spread of conflict worldwide, the Peacebuilding Commission must reemphasize the need to address the root causes of conflict, in line with the Secretary-General's call for greater focus and investment in prevention. To guarantee security, social and economic justice and reconciliation in fragile, conflict-affected States, peacebuilding efforts must play an effective and catalytic role towards achieving sustainable development. As a platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned, the Commission was well equipped to provide advice to the United Nations system and development partners on the best entry points for support.

80. There was a need for greater coherence, coordination and complementarity between the Organization's peacebuilding objectives and responses. The Commission's bridging and advisory roles were key to that endeavour, and greater synergy with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on cross-cutting and thematic issues related to peacebuilding was essential. The whole-of-United Nations approach must be complemented by a wider, whole-of-society response to peacebuilding that promoted the equal participation of all segments of society, including women and young people.

81. The Commission must continue to build partnerships with national stakeholders and regional

bodies and leverage local understanding of conflict situations to better identify opportunities for early recovery. It was well positioned to support the development of the New Agenda for Peace, which called for greater support for nationally-led and regional peacebuilding initiatives. An efficient response to peacebuilding challenges also required adequate, predictable and sustainable funding. He commended the Commission's efforts to highlight the need to explore all funding options for peacebuilding, including assessed contributions, and urged all members to support the ongoing effort to ensure predictable financing. The Commission should also strengthen its efforts to mobilize resources for peacebuilding from within and outside the United Nations system; alongside the Peacebuilding Fund, the Commission must continue to work with international financial institutions to develop integrated and responsive peacebuilding strategies that adequately addressed the drivers and root causes of conflict.

82. **Mr. Bambissa** (Mozambique) said that underlying threats to peace and security should be tackled by building a broad vision, reaching a national consensus on a country's direction and formulating inclusive strategies aimed at building trust within communities. Additionally, such cross-cutting issues as climate change, socioeconomic development and human rights must be addressed in consolidating peace and security.

83. **Mr. Murugasu** (France) said that the Peacebuilding Commission should focus its efforts on specific geographic situations. France supported the Commission's work on transitional contexts and post-conflict situations. The Commission should support the preparatory phase for the drawdown of peacekeeping operations; such support would be especially vital for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

84. The Commission's operational contribution must be increased, in particular with regard to the Security Council. Its advice to the Security Council should be more complementary, targeted and operational, in line with the mandates of both bodies. Anticipation and dialogue with the Security Council penholders was essential ahead of the renewal of peacekeeping mandates. Sustained, predictable financing for peacebuilding was needed. For its part, France would maintain its level of support for the Peacebuilding Fund and once again endorsed the possibility of securing sustained financing.

85. **Ms. Song** (Republic of Korea) said that it was imperative to listen attentively and respectfully to the views of countries that volunteered to engage with the

Peacebuilding Commission on the challenges they faced. Her delegation intended to be more concise in its interactions and more interactive with briefers at the Commission's meetings. It also hoped that the Chair would hold more joint briefings with other entities, including the Human Rights Council, given that the Commission's unique convening and bridging roles constituted the core of its work. Her Government echoed the call for sustained, adequate and predictable funding for peacebuilding and looked forward to achieving concrete progress towards the provision of assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. In that connection, the Republic of Korea had increased its own contribution to the Fund by more than 70 per cent in 2022.

86. **Mr. Sui** (China) said that since the inception of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2016, the entities comprising it had been working closely to implement United Nations resolutions to assist the international community in its efforts to support post-conflict reconstruction worldwide, with positive results. The Peacebuilding Commission had the dual mandate of supporting both political security and development. The Commission and its country configurations should continue to leverage their respective strengths; respect country ownership of the peacebuilding process; build stronger partnerships; work more closely with the General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council and provide them with more valuable advisory inputs; and help host countries ramp up capacity-building, consolidate peace gains and attain lasting peace and sustainable development as early as possible. China would continue to use multilateral and bilateral channels to actively support conflict-affected and post-conflict countries in their national reconstruction and development efforts, with a view to bringing about lasting peace in those countries.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.