

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 11 October 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I thank you for inviting the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to submit written advice, under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in connection with the briefing on the Great Lakes region scheduled for Tuesday, 17 October 2023 (see annex).

I kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document.

(Signed) Ivan Šimonović  
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



**Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes region**

**10 October 2023**

As part of its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, and further to its previous advice to the Security Council, in April 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission encourages the Council also to consider:

(a) Reaffirming that the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region remains an essential mechanism and pathway to achieve durable peace, stability and development in the region, including by addressing the root causes of conflict;

(b) Underlining the importance of implementing existing accords that promote regional economic and financial integration and contribute to sustainable development, with support from the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region;

(c) Reiterating its concern that, unless the illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources are curtailed and those responsible, including armed groups, are held accountable, the region will continue to suffer from a recurring cycle of violence affecting any prospects of lasting regional peace and development;

(d) Expressing concern over the humanitarian situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo owing to the ongoing hostilities by armed groups and increased cases of sexual and gender-based violence, calling upon all parties to armed conflict to engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause, in order to enable the safe, timely, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, and calling for significant humanitarian and development action, including through the mobilization of resources for funding the humanitarian response plans, as well as the disbursement of previously pledged funds;

(e) Enhancing, in that regard, its engagement with and support for the initiatives of regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, in furtherance of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the Nairobi and Luanda processes;

(f) Urging international and regional support in order to strengthen and improve capacity with regard to elections and governance in the countries of the region, at their request, and emphasizing the importance of continuous and inclusive dialogue and strengthened civic education as key to ensuring timely, peaceful, inclusive and credible elections, in line with countries' own constitutions;

(g) Reiterating the importance of a strategic, integrated and coherent approach by the United Nations and stakeholders in the region, including the Office of the Special Envoy and United Nations country teams, to sustain peacebuilding gains, in particular in the context of the transition of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(h) Reiterating its call for the full, equal and meaningful participation and inclusion of women and the full, effective and meaningful participation of young people in peace negotiations, peacebuilding and recovery efforts.