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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fourteenth 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 fourteenth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

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 in order to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, enhance its focus on developments at the country and regional levels and foster greater engagement by its membership, as well as to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. 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 peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as priorities identified in the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session.

II. Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

3. Despite coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, the Commission implemented, during its fourteenth session, a substantive programme of work, with a total of 37 meetings,¹ the highest number since its inception. That number includes a series of electronic consultations on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture. In addition, drawing on United Nations system-wide analysis and with

¹ This number does not include procedural meetings.

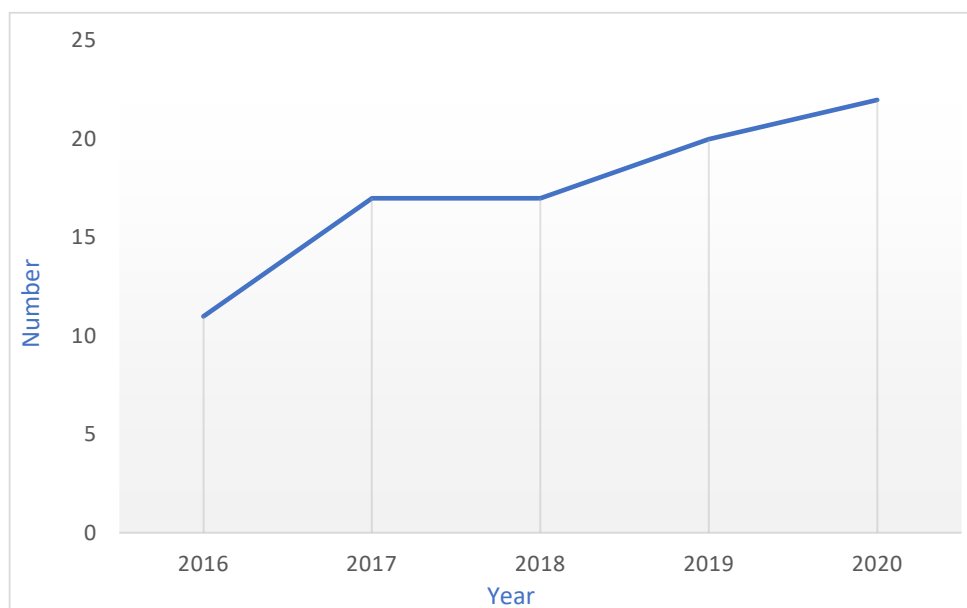


assistance from the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Commission adjusted its programme of work to serve as a platform in support of national and regional responses to the impact of COVID-19.

A. Country- and region-specific engagements

4. The Commission expanded the geographic scope of its engagements, consistent with a trend since 2016, as shown in figure I below. The steady increase is a testament to the helpful role of the Commission as a platform that countries affected by wish to utilize to discuss their peacebuilding priorities, opportunities and challenges. In 2020, the Commission engaged in support of 15 country- and region-specific contexts. It held meetings for the first time on the Central Africa region and the Pacific Islands and renewed its engagement in support of peacebuilding in Somalia and the Great Lakes region.

Figure I
Peacebuilding Commission country and regional engagements since 2016



5. The Commission's engagement with Burkina Faso focused on mobilizing support for the country's peacebuilding efforts against a deteriorating security and humanitarian situation and additional challenges posed by the impact of COVID-19. On 5 March, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso briefed the Commission on the Government's peacebuilding priorities, as outlined in the matrix of priority actions of the Emergency Programme for the Sahel for 2020–2021, which were developed following a joint assessment conducted in 2019 by the Government in partnership with the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group, the European Union and the United Nations, and with support from the Commission. Following the meeting, the Chair sent to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso a letter summarizing existing and planned contributions of Commission members in support of the Government's priorities, reflecting a total amount of over \$400 million. The Commission met again on 8 October to consider the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, particularly for populations living in areas affected by terrorist attacks. At that meeting, the Prime Minister presented the national plan in response to COVID-19,

which, as he remarked, had exacerbated peacebuilding challenges during an election year. The Commission welcomed preparations for the elections of November 2020 and encouraged partners of Burkina Faso to consider adequate support for the country's response to COVID-19 and its socioeconomic recovery efforts and to sustain their commitments to the priority actions. Both meetings resulted in press statements that reiterated the Commission's commitment to continue supporting peacebuilding and post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in Burkina Faso.

6. With regard to Burundi, the Commission's engagement continued to focus on sustaining international attention on socioeconomic development and peacebuilding priorities. On 27 January, the Government of Burundi briefed the Commission on electoral preparations and called on the Commission to serve as a bridge for mobilizing resources in support of Burundi's development priorities. On 25 February, the Chair of the Burundi configuration briefed the Commission on his visit to Burundi from 2 to 6 February and on meetings held in Addis Ababa with the African Union Commissioners for Peace and Security and for Political Affairs. The Commission also heard a briefing by the Secretary-General of the East African Community on the organization's engagement with Burundi in support of the electoral process. In his letter to the Security Council on the outcome of his trip, the Chair advocated a continued role for the Commission to support, where possible, the Government of Burundi, political parties and other stakeholders in creating a conducive environment for peaceful, inclusive and transparent elections. He underlined the role of leaders at all levels in ensuring a conducive environment for a peaceful political transition and recommended the continuation of initiatives to strengthen social cohesion. On 11 May, the Chair provided a written update to the Commission, calling on donors to increase their contributions to relevant funding instruments in view of the impact of COVID-19 and natural disasters and to continue to support the work of the women's mediator network in Burundi. On the occasion of the inauguration of Burundi's new president on 18 June, the members of the Commission offered their full support to accompany Burundi in the pursuit of its peacebuilding and socioeconomic priorities. To this effect, the Chair continued to engage with the new Government and a wide range of stakeholders. In its presidential statement of 4 December 2020, the Security Council encouraged continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission as a viable platform for dialogue between Burundi and its partners, echoing the suggestion of the strategic assessment mission deployed in September to Burundi that the Commission continue to act as a platform, at the Government's request, for discussion between Burundi and its partners on the country's national development plan, peacebuilding plan and resource mobilization.

7. The Commission's engagement on the Central African Republic during 2020 focused on sustained and coherent international accompaniment to the country's peacebuilding priorities following the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation of February 2019, concurrent with a Peacebuilding Fund package in support of its implementation, with particular focus on planned legislative and presidential elections in 2020–2021. On 20 February, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration presented to the Security Council a report on his 11 to 14 February visit to Bangui, which he undertook together with the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic, and his meetings with representatives from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., in advance of the trip. The report informed the Council of the Commission's messages to national authorities, underscoring the importance of peaceful elections for sustained peace and development. The Chair expressed the commitment of the Commission for the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, which also benefits from Peacebuilding Fund support, and to help to ensure the timely preparation and organization of the elections and raise awareness on challenges. The Commission also agreed to help mobilize resources in support of the National Recovery and

Peacebuilding Plan, with particular attention to its rule of law components. On 7 May, the Commission met to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the lives Central Africans and efforts to resolve conflict and build peace. The Commission renewed its commitment to support a peaceful electoral process, including by helping to mobilize sufficient financial resources. Commencing in July, the Commission held a series of meetings culminating in a meeting on 20 October which resulted in written advice submitted to the Council to inform the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. The advice focused on the importance of support to the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, and the timely preparation and organization of free, credible, transparent, peaceful and inclusive elections with the participation of all segments of society, including women, youth, returnees and internally displaced persons; addressing humanitarian needs while focusing on long-term challenges; and strengthening the rule of law, including through transitional justice mechanisms and combatting impunity.

8. The Commission held its first meeting on the Central African region on 9 June, during which the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and stressed the need to support national and regional efforts to fill critical funding gaps that had emerged owing to the impact of the pandemic. Recognizing that ECCAS countries are highly dependent on exports of raw materials, the prices of which had fallen sharply since January, the Commission called for additional support to help to safeguard national capacities to fight disease outbreaks while at the same time delivering on peacebuilding priorities. The Commission expressed concern about the impact of COVID-19 on existing challenges, including the conflict in north-west and south-west Cameroon, the situation in the Central African Republic, terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. It recognized the critical efforts of ECCAS and offered its platform to encourage further support for the peacebuilding efforts of the subregional organization. The Commission also recognized ongoing responses to the pandemic and called for stronger action to reverse its disproportionate effect on women and girls.

9. At the initiative of the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, in his capacity as Chair, the Commission convened a meeting on the theme “Good practices in financing for peacebuilding and partnerships” on 14 and 15 January in Cartagena, Colombia. The meeting offered an opportunity to discuss the peacebuilding priorities of Colombia, including updates on the political situation and peacebuilding initiatives in the country provided by the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and representatives of the private sector, international financial institutions (World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank) and civil society. Commission members acknowledged that trust-building and reconciliation are lengthy processes essential to the comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement. They welcomed the contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of national peacebuilding priorities and called for sustained and predictable financing for peacebuilding in Colombia. During the visit, Commission members met with women who were former combatants and victims who described the opportunities and challenges they faced in reintegration and entrepreneurship efforts carried out at a fair selling products made by populations that suffered through the conflict in the areas most affected by violence. This form of engagement was unique for the Commission and highlights the importance of Commission members hearing directly from local actors, including, among others, women with lived experience of conflict and demining experts, regarding peacebuilding recommendations.

10. The Commission continued to follow the political reform process in the Gambia. In a meeting chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada on 15 June, the Gambian Ministers of Justice and of Finance and Economic Affairs highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on socioeconomic development and ongoing political and transitional reforms. In response to updates provided by the Gambian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Gambian Minister of Justice during a Commission meeting on 23 November, the Commission encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to build consensus around the constitutional review process. The Commission praised the work of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, which had resumed public hearings on 12 October and, at the time of the meeting, had engaged with over 35,000 Gambians, including in the diaspora. The Commission welcomed steps taken by the Government to formally adopt the 2020–2024 security sector reform strategy and the national security strategy, which should pave the way for the operationalization of the country's national security policy. The Commission praised the Government of the Gambia for its efforts to enable the meaningful participation of civil society organizations in peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the Commission recognized the important work of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding and the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Gambia. The Commission welcomed preparations for future elections and encouraged additional contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) electoral basket fund for the 2020–2022 electoral cycle. In separate press releases after each meeting, Member States reiterated concerns over the negative impact of COVID-19 on socioeconomic activity and called for strengthened partnerships between the United Nations and international financial institutions in response. The Commission also recognized the important Peacebuilding Fund contributions to reform in the Gambia and encouraged continuous support by the international community, contingent upon the Government's commitment to carry out the reforms in an inclusive and transparent manner.

11. On 11 June, the Commission convened its first meeting on the Great Lakes region since 2017. Following briefings by representatives of the region, international financial institutions, the United Nations and the private sector, the Commission welcomed national and regional efforts to ensure progress in key peacebuilding areas reflected in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, including enhanced economic cooperation for natural resources management. The Commission welcomed the coordination of responses to COVID-19 at the regional and subregional levels and called for international solidarity in the fight against its spread. It underscored the importance of giving priority consideration to the important role that women and youth can play and to improving the business climate to unleash the full potential of vibrant small- and medium-size businesses across the region. On 4 November, the Commission met again to discuss the role of women in peacebuilding and development in the region. The meeting followed a series of regional consultations organized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in July and August with the objective of informing Commission engagement in the region. The consultations were attended by regional women leaders, government representatives, members of the advisory board for women and peace and security in the Great Lakes region, women entrepreneurs and business leaders, regional forums and civil society representatives, as well as international partners. That diversity in women briefers, including by women business leaders, is a good new practice, which the Commission encouraged as a means of hearing different perspectives and recommendations to address peacebuilding challenges. In particular, the recommendations that emerged from these consultations concerned the issues of the empowerment of women and youth as agents of social and economic transformation, particularly in view of COVID-19, preventing all forms of violence against women and promoting their meaningful participation in political processes and peacebuilding. The Commission

committed to remain engaged with the countries of the Great Lakes region. It further committed to continue to advocate for resource mobilization for women-led peacebuilding and development initiatives in the region.

12. With regard to Guinea-Bissau, the Commission continued to sustain international attention and promote dialogue on socioeconomic issues in the context of a post-election transition period and in view of the drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and the transfer of tasks to the Government, the United Nations country team, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and other partners. On 24 February, the Commission met to formally adopt written advice to the Security Council on the mandate of UNIOGBIS and support for the United Nations transition, with a focus on coordinated and coherent support for national peacebuilding priorities. On 3 June, the Chair updated the Commission on political developments in Guinea-Bissau and their impact on UNIOGBIS mandate implementation and the United Nations transition plan. These issues were discussed at a follow-up meeting on 24 June on the impact of COVID-19 on the country's peacebuilding priorities, during which the Chair also provided an update on his virtual discussions with World Bank representatives in Guinea-Bissau about the Bank's programming adjustments. In October, the Chair discussed the needs and challenges in supporting the socioeconomic development of Guinea-Bissau with representatives of the African Development Bank, IMF, the Women's Council of Guinea-Bissau for the Facilitation of Dialogue and the National Youth Council of Guinea-Bissau. During a follow-up meeting of the Commission on 27 October, the Chair briefed the Commission on those consultations and invited representatives of the African Development Bank and the Women's Council to make presentations. Members welcomed enhanced partnerships with international financial institutions and stressed the importance of the effective and meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding initiatives. They reiterated the vital role of the Commission as a platform for coherence and coordination in support of the peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau.

13. On 9 September, the Commission held a virtual meeting on the impact of COVID-19 in the Lake Chad Basin. Following briefings by representatives of the European Union and the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of Lake Chad Basin Commission and civil society, Member States recognized that even before the pandemic, the subregion faced serious security, humanitarian and development challenges. The Commission recognized the importance of the regional strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of areas affected by the presence of Boko Haram and encouraged strong multi-partner support for its implementation, in particular in facing the pandemic. It welcomed linkages with other strategies and initiatives, including the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, Peacebuilding Fund projects and South-South cooperation initiatives. The Commission committed to promoting such efforts, including by helping to amplify the voices of women peacebuilders from the region, who suffer disproportionately from the impact of COVID-19. As a follow-up, the Chair submitted a written statement to the Security Council at its open debate of 17 September on the theme "Humanitarian effects of environmental degradation and peace and security", in which he emphasized the importance the Commission places on the need to mitigate tensions and address disputes between herders and farmers, which have been exacerbated by environmental degradation in the Lake Chad Basin.

14. During 2020, the Commission sought to ensure continued and coordinated international support to the Government of Liberia in achieving lasting peace and sustainable development. Priority areas of focus were partnerships with international financial institutions, particularly in view of the four-year arrangement under the IMF Extended Credit Facility for Liberia, to help the country restore macroeconomic

stability and provide a foundation for sustainable growth. The topic became of even greater relevance with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 15 April, Liberia was the subject of the first country-specific discussion on the peacebuilding implications of the impact of COVID-19. This became a second focus of the Commission's engagement with Liberia, with emphasis on the role and participation of women and youth in response efforts. The pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and girls was highlighted, including its compounded economic impacts in the informal sector, adverse effects on women's health, the increase in gender-based violence and the significant role played by women as first responders and unpaid care workers. In May and June, the configuration Chair undertook a virtual visit to Liberia and met bilaterally with representatives from the Government, the World Bank, IMF and civil society, including women's organizations. A third priority of the Commission was continued support to sustaining peace in the context of the constitutional referendum and senatorial elections in Liberia scheduled for December 2020. On 12 November, the Chair convened a meeting in the context of the 2020 elections. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia underscored the Government's commitment to the holding of free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections, critical to peace and development in Liberia, citing in particular efforts to ensure the participation of women, youth and other marginalized groups and to address violence against women. The meeting underlined the importance of international assistance, upon request by the Liberian Government, in support of peaceful and transparent elections and the continued commitment of Liberia to lasting peace and sustainable development, with numerous participants drawing attention to the preparations for general elections in 2023 and noting the impact of developments in the subregion and the critical support of regional actors such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The discussion raised interest among donors for additional contributions to the UNDP election basket fund ahead of the December elections. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the importance of women's empowerment and active participation in political processes and to encourage continued efforts to address women and peace and security challenges, including to combat violence against women, a focus that will continue into 2021.

15. The Commission's engagement with Papua New Guinea continued with a meeting convened on 12 May with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General to discuss recent developments in the country, including COVID-19 related issues. The Deputy Secretary-General outlined her recent visit to the country, highlighting the role of the United Nations-European Union Spotlight Initiative in combatting violence against women and girls and stressing the role of gender equality in peacebuilding, achieving sustainable development and combatting the adverse effects of climate change. The Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and the Minister for Post-referendum Consultations and Dialogue confirmed the successful completion of the December 2019 referendum and ongoing post-referendum consultations. They listed measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and urged the international community to support their investments in sustainable development, with particular emphasis on empowering women and addressing the adverse effects of climate change. The Commission encouraged the continuation of post-referendum consultations and commended government efforts, with United Nations support, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Several delegations committed to help mobilize resources in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Government's commitment to leave no one behind. The Commission also recognized the contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund and took note of the re-eligibility request to address peacebuilding needs in Bougainville and the Highlands region.

16. On 28 July, the Commission discussed for the first time the Pacific islands, with a focus on the implications of COVID-19 for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Following briefings by United Nations officials, the Pacific representative of the Global

Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and the Permanent Representative of Tuvalu in his capacity as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Commission expressed concern about the impacts of COVID-19 in a region that is consolidating peacebuilding gains while also facing serious socioeconomic challenges and the adverse effects of climate change. The Commission conveyed support for national and regional efforts that aim to address critical capacity gaps that have emerged owing to the pandemic, including the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' initiative to invoke the Biketawa Declaration. Pacific Island leaders have been expressing concern for over a decade that climate change presents a threat to the region. The Commission expressed support for the efforts of the Pacific Islands Forum and other regional forums for peacebuilding, sustainable development and response to the impacts of COVID-19 and recovery in the Pacific. The Commission praised the work of the Peacebuilding Fund to fill critical funding gaps for peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

17. To mark the conclusion of the engagement of Sierra Leone through a country configuration, the Government presented to the Commission on 10 December a road map, aligned with the country's national development plan, for a more flexible form of engagement in the future. The Commission welcomed the road map and encouraged the Government to continue to promote and strengthen the accountability and transparency of state institutions and the social contract between authorities and its citizens. The Commission committed to supporting the Government's efforts to carry out the implementation of the road map document to its successful completion and in empowering women and youth.

18. At the request of the Federal Government of Somalia, following the renewal of eligibility to the Peacebuilding Fund, the Commission met on 2 December to discuss the country's peacebuilding priorities and challenges. The Commission recognized country's commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and reconciliation, as highlighted in the country's national development plan and National Reconciliation Framework. The Commission commended Somalia for improved relations between the Federal Government and federal member states, the agreement on an electoral model, as well as progress in anchoring the National Reconciliation Framework and the Somali Women's Charter among Somali stakeholders, providing an opportunity to shift to a long-term perspective on the country's peacebuilding and state-building process. The Commission committed to help to mobilize international support for national peacebuilding priorities and to support efforts to identify solutions to some of the intractable challenges to peace in Somalia. The Commission expressed its readiness to explore opportunities to support the implementation of the National Reconciliation Framework and in that regard emphasized the vital role of women in peacebuilding in Somalia.

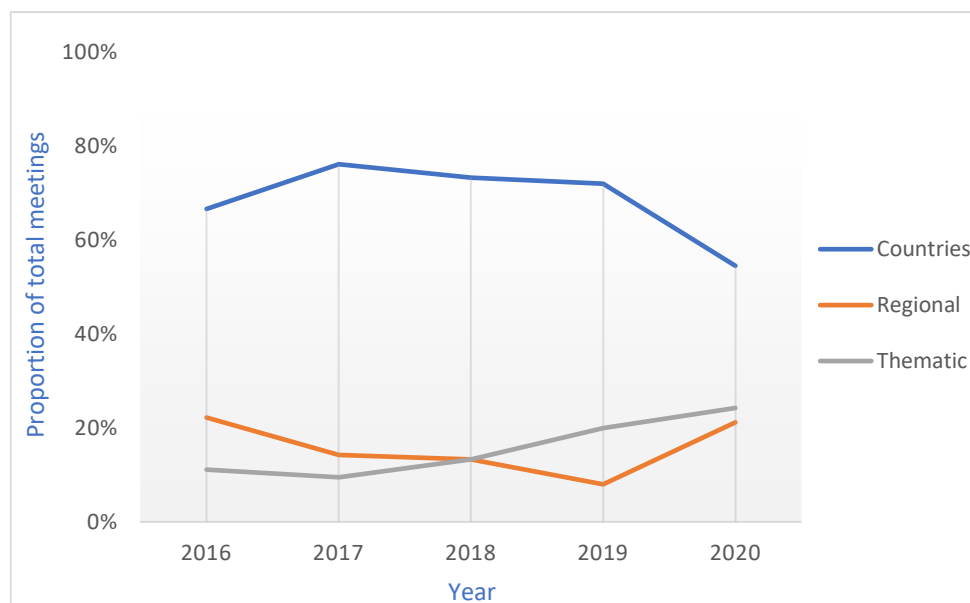
19. Consistent with its long-standing commitment in support of West Africa and the Sahel, the Commission met on 22 April to discuss critical funding gaps that emerged in the region owing to the pandemic. In follow up to its presidential statement (S/PRST/2020/2), in which the Security Council encouraged joint annual reporting to the Commission by UNOWAS and the United Nations regional sustainable development group on work to strengthen integrated United Nations efforts in the Sahel, the Commission discussed on 14 October the most recent developments in the Sahel region and the status of implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Following briefings by United Nations representatives, the World Bank and the Regional Coordinator of the Group of Five for the Sahel Women's Platform, the Commission recognized United Nations system-wide efforts to implement the strategy, including UNOWAS political guidance, strengthened capacity within the Dakar-based implementation support unit for the United Nations integrated strategy and the increasingly supportive role of the Development Coordination Office. Recognizing that the impact of COVID-19 has socioeconomic consequences and could

reverse progress in gender equality, several Member States of the Commission stressed that an immense effort is required to prevent millions of Sahelians from plunging into a deeper crisis and that women should be at the center of recovery and peacebuilding efforts. The Commission also noted the important role of youth in this regard. The Commission acknowledged that financing for COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in the Sahel offers an opportunity to promote action by the international community in support of humanitarian, development and peace efforts. The representatives of the Group of Five for the Sahel called for even stronger focus in support of their priority investment programme and stressed the need to strengthen peoples' confidence in military and security forces, a necessary precondition for fighting terrorism effectively and strengthening the resilience of local communities. The Chair conveyed key elements of the discussion in his statement to the Security Council during the meeting on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel on 16 November. He reflected the recommendations of women peacebuilders and business leaders from the region, including their calls for stronger support to people in vulnerable situations in regions most affected by conflict, who are also experiencing food insecurity due to the secondary impact of COVID-19, and their calls for better access to credit by women entrepreneurs, a necessary condition for sustainable development in the region. The Chair also expressed the Commission's concern about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations in some parts of the region, rising levels of displacement, social and economic inequalities, environmental degradation and cross-border risks, including illegal armed and terrorism groups, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and drugs, rising tensions between pastoralists and farmers related to transhumance, high levels of youth unemployment, the adverse effects of climate change, low levels of gender equality and recently reported and unprecedented peaks of food insecurity, and emphasized that all allegations of human rights violations and abuses must be fully investigated and those responsible held accountable.

B. Cross-cutting and thematic engagements

20. As in the case of country-specific and regional discussions, the work of the Commission on cross-cutting and thematic issues has also increased since 2016 (see fig. II below). While country-specific meetings have remained the majority of meetings (declining from over 60 per cent in 2016 to 50 per cent of meetings in 2020), thematic meetings (excluding meetings on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture) and regional meetings each represent 25 per cent of total meetings in 2020. It is worth noting that Commission engagements on thematic and cross-cutting issues also entail the sharing of country- or region-specific good practices and examples. In 2020 for example, Peacebuilding Fund thematic meetings included briefings on peacebuilding priorities in a number of countries and regions, including Kyrgyzstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sudan (in relation to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur).

Figure II
Country, regional and thematic meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission since 2016

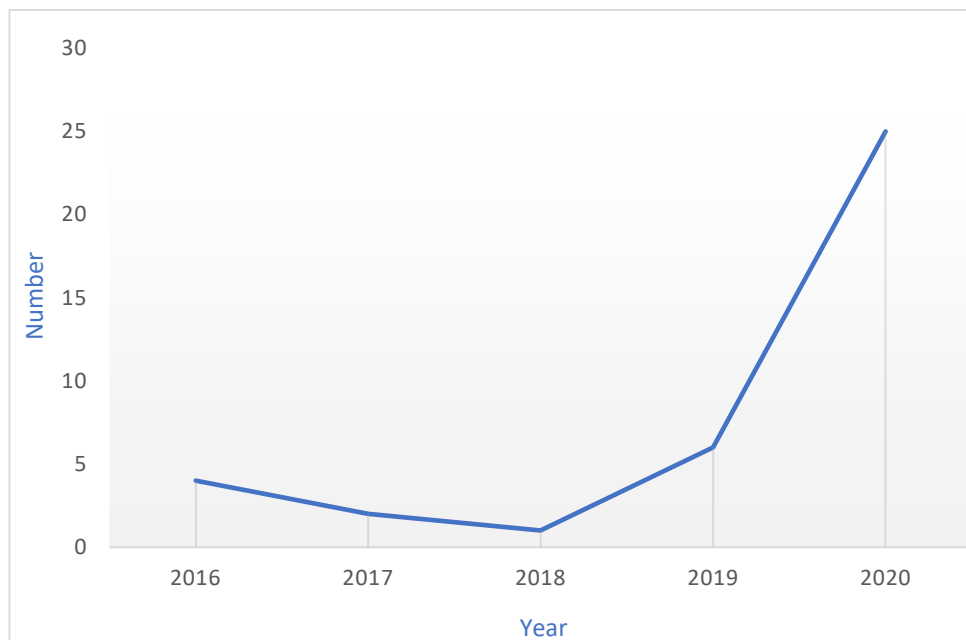


21. In accordance with the terms of reference of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture endorsed in October 2019, the Commission convened a series of consultations open to all Member States, relevant parts of the United Nations system, civil society representatives and independent experts to contribute to the formal phase of the review. Drawing from peacebuilding priorities in the Commission’s country-specific, regional and thematic engagements since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#) and building on the primacy of national ownership in peacebuilding processes, the consultations focused on peacebuilding in United Nations transition contexts, the role of women in peacebuilding, United Nations system-wide engagement and the importance of institution-building as well as financing and partnerships for peacebuilding. In a letter dated 2 July 2020 ([A/74/935-S/2020/645](#)), the Commission shared with the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and with the Secretary-General the main elements that emerged from the consultations, including areas of progress, outstanding challenges and recommendations to be considered during the formal phase of the review.

22. During the reporting period, which coincided with the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the Commission increased its efforts in support of women and peace and security in line with the commitments set out in its gender strategy. The Commission made an effort to promote gender-responsive peacebuilding through more systematic engagement with women peacebuilders² and better mainstreaming of the gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its analysis and advice. As show in figure III below, the number of women peacebuilders briefing the Commission significantly increased, from 6 in 2019 to a record 25 in 2020.

² For the purposes of the present report, “women peacebuilders” means women representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia or think tanks and women independent experts who lead and contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in countries and regions considered by the Commission.

Figure III
Briefings to the Peacebuilding Commission by women peacebuilders since 2016



23. Throughout the year, the Commission repeatedly expressed concern over the negative impact of COVID-19 on socioeconomic and gender inequalities in countries and regions under its consideration, and additional challenges and threats for women peacebuilders. In numerous meetings of the Commission, Member States acknowledged that, during the pandemic, the world is witnessing a surge in violence against women and girls, and women in peacebuilding settings are also facing increasing economic insecurity due to their disproportionate representation in the informal sector and the increased burden of unpaid work and domestic workload. During Commission meetings throughout the year and consultations on the impact of the pandemic on peacebuilding efforts across different countries and regions, Member States heard the concerns of women peacebuilders on how the impacts of COVID-19 have in some places diluted the capacity for women's active participation in community agendas and peace and security decision-making processes. The Commission noted the fact that the Peacebuilding Fund surpassed the Secretary-General's target of 15 per cent of investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women in peacebuilding, reaching 40 per cent in 2018 – a first for any United Nations fund – and maintaining that percentage through 2020. The Commission discussed the gender dimensions of peacebuilding during the informal phase of the 2020 review and included its relevant advice in the letter dated 2 July 2020 from the Chair of the Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (A/74/935–S/2020/645).

24. These messages were reiterated during the meeting of the Commission on 2 October on the theme "Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) at its twentieth anniversary: strengthening linkages between women, peace and security; and peacebuilding and sustaining peace". The meeting took stock of progress in the implementation of the gender strategy of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted in 2016 and its overall contribution to the women and peace and security agenda, based on a review report prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office and UN-Women with support from an independent expert.³ The meeting featured a discussion on the gap

³ Available at https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/review_report_of_the_pbc_gender_strategy_implementation.pdf.

between the normative aspirations and implementation of global women and peace and security commitments and resulted in the formulation of specific recommendations on how to help to reduce that gap. Following feedback on the gender strategy, the Peacebuilding Support Office/Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) have developed an action plan with measurable indicators for tracking the implementation of the strategy. At the time of writing, the plan was pending approval by Commission members.

25. On 11 February, the Commission held a meeting on youth, peace and security to explore ways in which to contribute further to the implementation of Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#). Youth representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and Sierra Leone complemented briefings by the United Nations by sharing their experiences in peacebuilding. Their remarks were followed by interventions by representatives of the respective Permanent Missions in New York, who presented national strategies and plans in support of youth, peace and security. The European Union delegation was accompanied by a group of youth representatives who were actively advancing the youth, peace and security agenda in Europe. Countries that engage with the Commission also participated and shared their experiences. The Commission emphasized the importance of promoting greater inclusivity to allow young peacebuilders to be part of relevant decision-making processes. The Commission also stressed the need for greater inclusion of youth representatives in coalitions and partnerships that are aimed at supporting peacebuilding initiatives and processes. Following the meeting, and in line with Security Council resolution [2419 \(2018\)](#), the Commission submitted a document containing advice to the Security Council ahead of the open debate on youth, peace and security on 27 April 2020, emphasizing the need for adequate financing to help empower youth to fulfil their potential as agents of positive change. In this respect, the Commission welcomed the proactive measures taken by the Peacebuilding Fund to support young people's critical contributions to peacebuilding at the local and national levels.

26. From the outset of the pandemic, the Commission served as a platform to discuss ways in which to help to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on development and peacebuilding in countries under its consideration. As reflected above, the Commission created space for national and regional leaders, in peacebuilding contexts under its consideration, to share their experiences and seek support for efforts to build back better from the pandemic. During thematic meetings on the theme "Impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace" and "Immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19", on 8 April and 5 June respectively, the Commission echoed the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and urgent action within the framework of his socioeconomic response plan to fight the pandemic and deliver on national priorities, including basic services. The Commission expressed support for Security Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), as well as concern about the possible impact of COVID-19 on conflict-affected countries and discussed ways to tailor socioeconomic responses to COVID-19 to nationally defined peacebuilding priorities, with special consideration given to community resilience, social innovation and protecting and empowering people in vulnerable situations. The need for stronger partnerships, in particular with regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society organizations, was also recognized. The Commission Chair briefed the Economic and Social Council at its management segment on 21 July on lessons learned from the Commission's experience in addressing the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding in the African countries on its agenda. The Chair highlighted the urgent need to support countries to build and safeguard their capacities to fight the pandemic while continuing to accompany them in advancement of their medium- and long-term national peacebuilding and development priorities, taking into full account the most vulnerable and women and youth. Key elements of these deliberations were shared with the Security Council on 22

July during an informal interactive dialogue between the two bodies on the implications of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected countries. In his remarks to the Security Council open video-teleconference on pandemics and the challenges of sustaining peace, held on 12 August, the Chair highlighted that the only way to respond to this crisis is through strengthened partnerships and financing. On 19 November, the annual joint meeting of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council was convened on the theme “Fostering global solidarity and conflict-sensitive responses to COVID-19 and its socioeconomic impact” to identify opportunities for coordinated and coherent action, with an emphasis on financing for sustainable development and peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries. Members of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission stressed the need for nationally led and inclusive responses to the pandemic, based on the principle of global solidarity and in recognition of the important role of South-South and triangular cooperation in combatting its impact.

27. Throughout the year, starting on 14 and 15 January in Cartagena, Colombia, the Commission has consistently called for adequate, predictable and sustained resources for peacebuilding, which became all the more relevant in view of the exacerbated inequalities and vulnerabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in conflict-affected settings. The Commission’s work on financing for peacebuilding culminated in the organization of its annual session on 2 November under that theme. Following briefings by the Secretary-General and representatives of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group, the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund and the private sector, Member States expressed alarm at the sharp increase of global poverty due to the pandemic and its socioeconomic impacts and emphasized the need to ensure that efforts to promote economic growth also include efforts to reduce inequalities. The Commission underscored that promoting peacebuilding globally is a collective responsibility of the international community and encouraged coherent United Nations action in support of national peacebuilding priorities, with meaningful partnerships with international financial institutions, civil society and, where relevant, the private sector. The Commission also underscored that funding streams should be brought together in the spirit of “good peacebuilding donorship” in order to enhance coherence and coordination, and that funding for peacebuilding activities could be more regularly tracked. The Commission called for a deeper exploration of innovative financing, while also underscoring the need for additional voluntary contributions by Member States, particularly for enabling women entrepreneurs to fulfil their potential as business leaders, a necessary condition for helping communities forge their own path for long-term stability and development. The Commission lamented the dire situation of the Peacebuilding Fund and encouraged all United Nations Member States to consider contributing to it. The Chair of the Commission announced that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada would co-host a ministerial-level replenishment conference for the Peacebuilding Fund in mid-January 2021.

III. Towards a more flexible and effective Peacebuilding Commission

A. The bridging role of the Commission

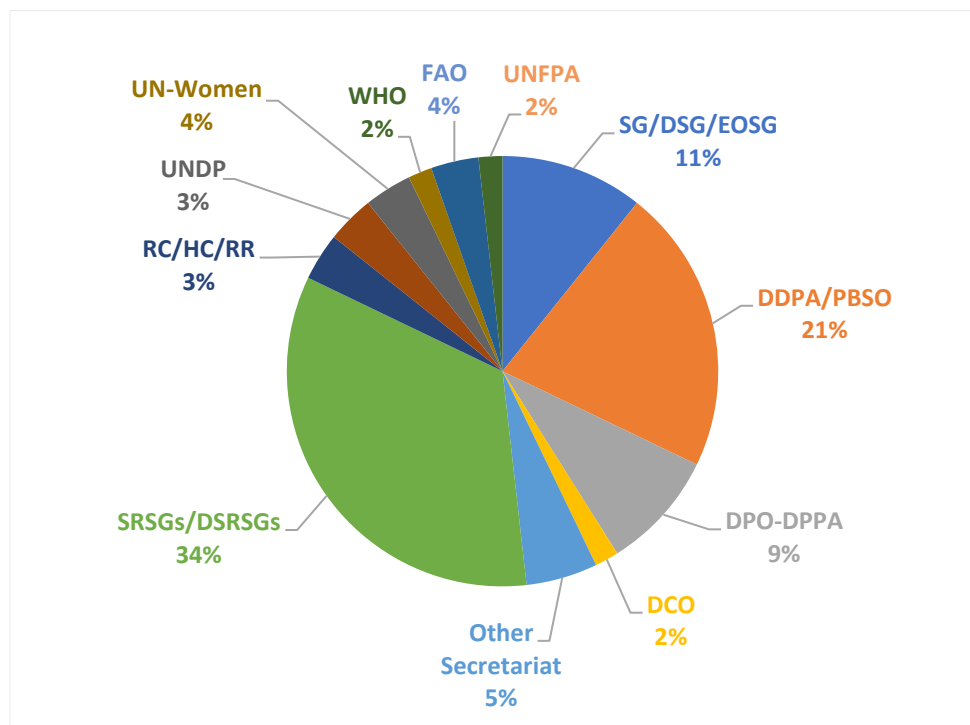
28. At its fourteenth session, the Commission continued to explore ways to enhance its advisory and bridging role with respect to the General Assembly and the Security Council and its bridging role between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In relation to the Security Council, the Commission

provided advice a total of 12 times in 2020, through letters and formal briefings to Council meetings and informal interactive dialogues on country-specific and thematic issues (see above sections on Country-specific and thematic engagements), including the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission also shared advice on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture in its letters dated 6 April and 2 July 2020 to the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Commission’s collaboration with the Economic and Social Council focused on the impact of the pandemic on socioeconomic development and peacebuilding in countries and regions under consideration by the Commission and is described above.

B. Promoting United Nations system-wide coherence

29. The Commission welcomed synergies and greater coordination across the United Nations system in recognition of the importance of coherent support in transition and conflict-affected settings and emphasized the need to continue to assess the impact of the relevant United Nations reforms on the Organization’s performance in that regard. In 2020, as shown in figure IV below, Special Representatives and Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General were the plurality of United Nations briefers, demonstrating the value that the Commission places on hearing leadership voices from the field.

Figure IV
United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings in 2020



Abbreviations: DCO, Development Coordination Office; DPPA/PBSO, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs/Peacebuilding Support Office; DPO-DPPA, Department of Peace Operations-Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; RC/HC/RR, resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators/resident representatives; SG/DSG/EOSG, Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General/Executive Office of the Secretary-General; SRSGs/DSRSGs, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General/Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General.

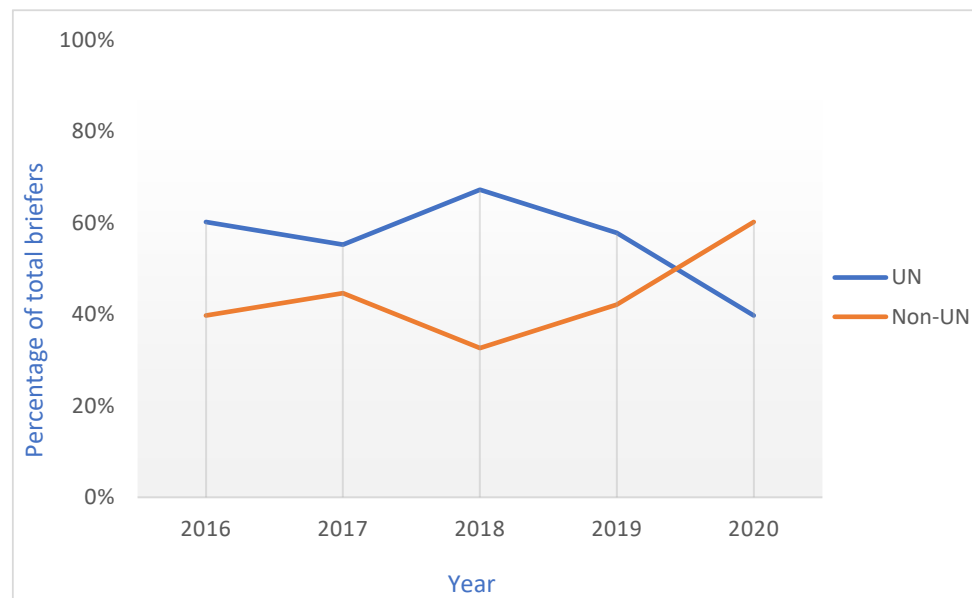
30. Throughout the year, the Commission has emphasized the importance of continuing cross-pillar support to United Nations peacebuilding activities in the field, while acknowledging that each pillar has its own intrinsic value and specific mandate. In the letter dated 2 July 2020 from the Chair of the Commission (A/74/935–S/2020/645), the Commission called for more work to join up United Nations efforts on the ground and encouraged follow-up on whether and how improved analysis and planning efforts have enhanced the system’s ability to deliver on the ground. In addition, the Commission committed to serving as a convener and platform for such discussions.

C. Fostering partnerships

31. The Commission continued to utilize its convening role to foster stronger partnerships with relevant stakeholders. As shown in figure V below, the number of United Nations briefers at Commission meetings in 2020 slightly decreased, compared to past years, enabling stronger engagement of the Commission with a diverse array of non-United Nations interlocutors in its activities.

Figure V

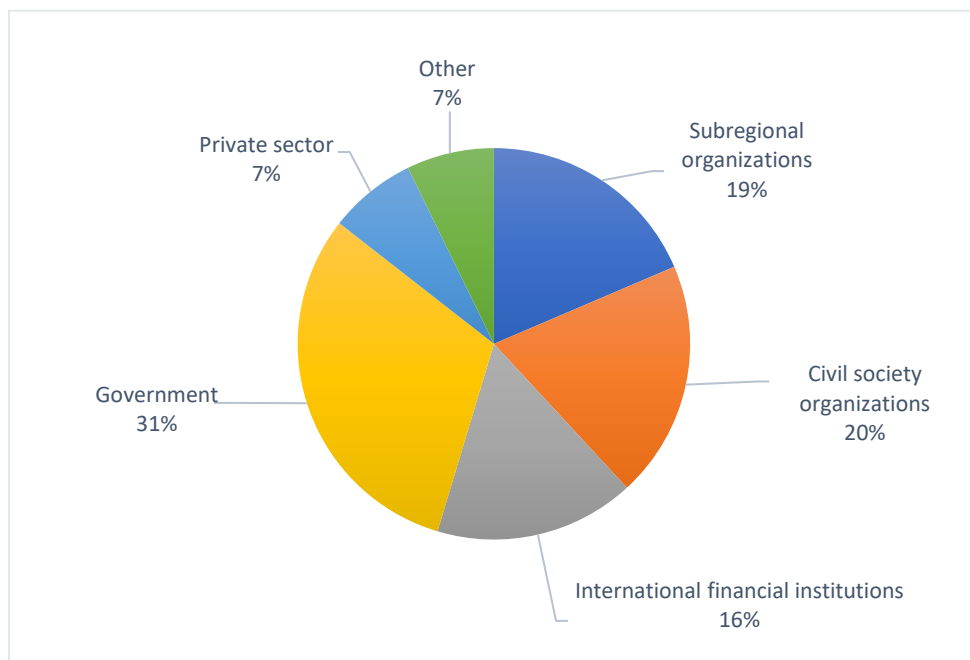
United Nations and non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings since 2016



32. In 2020, non-United Nations partners that provided briefings at Commission meetings (as shown in fig. VI) included national and local government officials; regional and subregional organizations (including the African Union, East African Community, ECOWAS, ECCAS, European Union, Group of Five for the Sahel, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Mano River Union, Pacific Islands Forum); civil society organizations; International financial institutions (African Development Bank, IMF, World Bank) and private sector companies.⁴ Representatives of academia and think tanks and independent experts also provided briefings at meetings (represented as “other” in fig. VI below).

⁴ This data does not include partners’ interventions from the floor.

Figure VI
Types of non-United Nations briefers at Peacebuilding Commission meetings in 2020, as a percentage of total non-United Nations briefers



33. African Union representatives continued to increase their participation in country-specific, regional and thematic Commission discussions and made interventions both as panellists and from the floor. On 23 October, the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Commission held an informal consultative meeting to discuss ways of enhancing cooperation for peacebuilding in Africa. In a subsequent joint press statement, Council and Commission members recognized the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the countries and regions under the consideration of the Commission and the crucial role of women and youth in helping to address them. They acknowledged the African common position on the 2020 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture endorsed by the Council, called for complementarities between the African Union and the United Nations financial mechanisms and support for African Union-owned and led post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts and in that regard welcomed the establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development as a positive step to further advance the implementation of African Union post-conflict reconstruction and development strategies in Africa. They recognized the wide-ranging United Nations support to the African Union “Silencing the guns in Africa” initiative, including through complementary Peacebuilding Fund initiatives, and called for stronger focus on African women- and youth-led peacebuilding initiatives.

34. Throughout the year, the Commission has repeatedly called for stronger partnerships between the United Nations and international financial institutions, including as a priority to better respond to the implications of COVID-19 in peacebuilding contexts. In that regard, Commission members were informed of United Nations initiatives to fast-track support for joint United Nations-World Bank risk assessment and analysis. The Commission welcomed the increased presence of representatives of the African Development Bank, IMF and the World Bank, with interventions made from both the panel and the floor.

D. Strengthening synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

35. The Commission continued to strengthen synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund by ensuring an improved flow of information from the Fund to the Commission, by inviting the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Chair of the Fund's Advisory Group to provide regular updates on the work of the Fund at all relevant meetings of the Commission and by inviting recipient countries, in particular countries declared eligible by the Secretary-General, to provide briefings to the Commission on their peacebuilding priorities, progress and challenges. This enabled the Commission to follow closely and to welcome the agile positioning of the Fund to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

E. Rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

36. The Commission continued the review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods initiated during 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 thirteenth session (A/74/668-S/2020/80), convened a number of expert-level consultations that culminated in recommendation contained in the annex to the present report.

IV. Forward-looking agenda

37. Pending follow-up requests by concerned Member States, the Commission is expected to maintain during its fifteenth session a similar level of engagement as in 2020. This means that the Commission is expected to support in 2021 peacebuilding efforts in at least 15 country and regional contexts, as covered in 2020, taking into consideration geographic diversity. The Commission is also expected to maintain its engagement on thematic and cross-cutting issues, including in support of women and peace and security; youth, peace and security; the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding; financing for peacebuilding; and the crucial role of institution-building. However, any effort to maintain or expand this substantive programme of work in 2021 is also contingent upon availability of sufficient resources in the Secretariat, including a sufficient number of professional positions within the Peacebuilding Support Office to fulfil its secretariat role for the Commission.

38. The next session will present new opportunities for the Commission to continue implementing relevant resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a view to further improving its advisory, bridging and convening roles. In relation to its advisory role, the Commission will further explore ways to establish more regular dialogue with the General Assembly, including the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The Commission will also continue to provide timely and targeted advice to the Security Council on relevant issues based on its country-specific, regional and thematic engagement. In relation to the bridging role, the Commission will continue to foster greater coherence in the United Nations system, including between the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In this connection, the Commission will continue its collaboration with the Economic and Social Council in the areas of peacebuilding and development, giving due consideration to the socioeconomic implications of COVID-19 in conflict-affected countries. In relation to its convening role, the Commission will further explore ways to foster stronger partnerships with regional and subregional

organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and, where relevant, the private sector, to provide support to conflict-affected countries. The Commission will continue to use its convening and advisory role to provide a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share experiences and for the exchange of expertise. As agreed during its 21 October meeting on women and peace and security, the Commission will report regularly on the implementation of its gender strategy. In line with its gender strategy, the Commission will scale up its inclusion of women and peace and security considerations in all its thematic, country-specific and region-specific discussions, as well as field visits, and continue to strengthen its engagement with women peacebuilders.

Annex

Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

This annex 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 in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), in which the Assembly and Council 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 for 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 to 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 Commission meetings.

Example of good practices: the outgoing Chair has served as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support for the incoming Chair. Vice-Chairs supported the Chair by presiding over a number of meetings.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** while recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission in all its configurations and meetings, 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 can work in a form of “variable geometry”, in which the character, focus and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis, with the consent of all countries considered and with the consent of its member States, in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility, as well as its mandate to assist Governments partnering with the Commission with their peacebuilding priorities, as appropriate.

III. Strengthen the convening role of the Commission by inviting additional partners to participate in its meetings. Such partners, to be invited with the consent of the country considered and that of the Commission’s member States, 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.

Example of good practices: the meetings of the Commission on Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Gambia, Papua New Guinea and Somalia; the regional discussions on West Africa, the Sahel, the Great Lakes and Lake Chad Basin; the meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council; and its meetings on women and peace and security; the meetings on the themes “Impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace” and “Immediate Socioeconomic response to COVID-19”; and consultations on United Nations transition contexts, women’s role in peacebuilding, United Nations system-wide engagement and the importance of institution-building as well as financing and partnerships for peacebuilding, which took place in preparation for the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

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 10 troop-contributing countries and five members from the top 10 financial contributors. Therefore, a stronger and more coherent 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 the 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. Members elected from the top 10 troop-contributing countries and the top 10 financial contributors are also encouraged to reinforce the synergies of those constituencies with the Commission.

II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the 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 recommendation 4 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 Commission.

IV. The Commission could explore the possibility of appointing informal coordinators for its relations with General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, based on examination of the experience of appointing an informal coordinator for the relations with the Security Council. The appointment of informal coordinators for relations with troop-contributing countries and financial contributors could also be considered.

Example of good practices: the annual session of the Commission together with other meetings provide good examples 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, included representatives of relevant United Nations departments and of civil society organizations. An informal coordinator for relations between the 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 and reflecting the Commission country-specific, regional and thematic priorities. The workplan should include a provisional annual calendar. In the middle of each month, the Chair will circulate the provisional calendar for the following month with a view to receiving inputs and suggestions from members of the Commission. Additional previously unscheduled meetings could be added, if required, with adequate lead time.

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, such as when requested by the Security Council 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 (see [S/PRST/2017/27](#)). In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.

III. The workplan is to include more regular engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.

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

V. The date and theme of the Commission's annual session are to be decided well in advance in order to encourage Member States to participate with capital-based representatives.

VI. Visits to the field are to be reflected in the workplan; concept notes of visits should be circulated at least one week before the date of the visit.

Example of good practices: The early circulation of 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:** General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [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 sought, as necessary, as well as 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 such 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

VI. The Commission should also continue to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations, with appropriate emphasis on activities undertaken on the ground.

Example of good practices: the informal interactive dialogue of the Security Council with the Commission held in July 2020 provided Member States with a space in which to explore practical ways for Council and Commission to work together to address the implications of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected countries. The advice to the Security Council ahead of the mandate renewal of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the informal process led by the Commission in preparation for the 2020 review and its advice to the General Assembly and the Security Council and the Commission's joint event with the Economic and Social Council in November 2020 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 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 and more regular circulation of Fund documents to the Commission would be useful.
- IV. The Commission is to convene an annual meeting to be informed on the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and increase the visibility of the Fund.

Example of good practices: the meetings on financing for peacebuilding and the discussions on countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund represent innovative ways to keep the Commission informed of progress that countries make with support from the Fund.

7. **Preparation, format, conduct and outcome of Commission meetings:** meetings of the Commission should be prepared well in advance with a view to ensuring substantive discussions and facilitate concrete outcomes. A balance between transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations must be ensured when deciding if a meeting should be open or closed. 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 to ensure that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place. Ensure that there is a balance between time allocated to presentations by briefers and to interventions from the floor, with a view to promoting interactive discussions.

Actions:

- I. The Commission should make greater use of expert-level meetings to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of and follow-up to ambassadorial-level meetings.
- II. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will circulate a concept note at least one week before the date of the meeting.
- III. 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.
- IV. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office will ask briefers to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.
- V. In the conduct of the meetings of the Commission, the Chair will remind briefers to limit their interventions to no more than three to five minutes. The Chair will also encourage speakers from the floor to limit their interventions to no more than three minutes.
- VI. When inviting participants from the floor to speak, the Chair, upon advice from the Secretary, will prioritize countries from the region and give due consideration to protocol and order of registration.
- VII. In addition to Chair's summaries, the Commission is to consider relevant documents to strengthen the outcome of its meetings. These should include, as appropriate, press statements and letters to be agreed upon by the Commission. To strengthen national ownership, particular importance when considering outcome documents shall be given to input provided by the country and/or region under consideration.
- VIII. Documents to be approved by the Commission are to be circulated early enough to allow Member States to provide input and suggestions.

Example of good practices: the flexibility of the Commission to adapt its working methods to the logistical challenges posed by COVID-19 and convene regularly on a virtual platform.

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 Internet and on social media with regard to all of its meetings and country visits.

Example of good practices: increased efforts to circulate press statements following Commission meetings.