

**Briefing on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Strengthening partnerships
for successful nationally-owned transitions**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo,
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as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

New York, 18 July 2019

Your Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

I would like to express my gratitude to the Peruvian Presidency for convening this session of the Security Council to explore the important role of strategic partnerships in transition contexts for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

When Colombia took office as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission at the beginning of this year, we identified the promotion of effective partnerships with key actors under the PBC framework as one of our priorities, with the intention to focus efforts on conflict prevention, good governance, promotion of human rights and national reconciliation.

In this sense, the scale, scope and nature of the proposal contained in the twin Resolutions of 2016 on the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture requires that the United Nations cannot act on its own in its efforts to support priorities of national initiative. As the experience of my own country can reflect, effective partnerships among international, regional and sub-regional bodies, international financial institutions, national governments, civil society, and, where relevant, the private sector, are key facilitators for successful initiatives in this fundamental task.

The challenge of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is crucial in transition contexts. Once peace operations are concluded, the authorities have a primary responsibility to preserve the achievements gained in this regard. In recent instances, peace operations have developed joint plans for transition with host governments, as in the case of Timor-Leste, Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia. However, the joint planning of transitions may be more complex in those instances where government capacity in the scenarios of post-conflict is weak.

In these cases, strong and coordinated partnerships between the key stakeholders involved are essential, in order to close political gaps, and gaps in institutional and financial capacity, as well as to prevent backsliding in progress in matters of peace after the withdrawal of those operations. The closure of operations in Cote D'Ivoire in 2017, and Liberia in 2018, and transitions in progress in other countries, are good examples of the importance of having coherent efforts in place

to support peace processes in their different stages.

One of the principal purposes of the Commission is to fill the "vacuum" in institutional and structural capacity, and to support countries in transition in the face of growing risks of conflict repetition. In contexts of transition, financial cutbacks are a latent source of risk.

The Peacebuilding Commission has progressively used its convening power to promote these effective partnerships, and so, to secure sustained international support. In Liberia, for example, the Commission provided advice to the Security Council on the development of a national peacebuilding plan. This allowed to establish a tripartite framework, such that the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union could coordinate their tasks. As a result, a multi-partner trust fund, supported by the Peacebuilding Fund, in its catalytic role was created. Liberia still needs resources of different kinds to achieve its development objectives.

Recognizing the role that the Commission can play in support for successful transitions, the Security Council has asked for its advice prior to mandates renewals and transitions. A Security Council Presidential in December 2018 referred to the added value which the Commission's advice had in withdrawing peace operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone. At the same time, it called on the Commission to transmit information on national priorities in the context of mandates formation, review and transitions.

The Council has also recognized that the Commission platform could be used to consider good practices in transitions. As Chair, I hope to continue with the implementation of that Presidential Statement from during the second half of this year.

The Commission's sessions have become opportunities to obtain a better understanding of the multidimensional challenges in peace operations contexts. They also place a more comprehensive focus of the challenges faced by countries affected by conflict, beyond the imperatives of peace and security.

In Guinea-Bissau, for instance, the Commission has advised the Security Council in complex challenges in policy, security, development and social affairs, in the context of the upcoming transition of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office there. The Commission has also succeeded in enriching dialogue with regional and international financial institutions, to supply relevant information to the Security Council, so also fulfilling its advisory role to that body.

The World Bank and the Commission recently held an informal dialogue to improve the partnerships between the two organizations in their activities of assistance for countries in situations of fragility due to armed conflict. During this dialogue, the delegation of the Commission and the Bank had the opportunity to strengthen their partnerships in countries with shared priorities. Indeed, we value the presence of the Bank at this session, as an example of what we can achieve if we

work in coordination.

The Security Council should take advantage of the capabilities of the Commission as a flexible platform that makes it possible to encourage coherence among the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations and other organizations. This is particularly evident during its study of regional situations. It is in complex contexts, such as that of the Sahel, where a wide range of interested parties are involved, the Commission can encourage coherence and coordination of focus.

Further, I would like to emphasize that women and the young are key actors in the peacebuilding processes and should be included in all our efforts. The commission, in implementing the its gender strategy, held discussions about gender-related aspects of transitions, and on the financing of gender-focused initiatives.

Mr. President,

It is impossible for me not to refer to my own country. We have come here from a visit of the Security Council in the context of the Special Political Mission that is at work there. Colombia has benefited from the articulated work of the various United Nations bodies and agencies, to be more effective in their peacebuilding efforts. For this reason, we have just decided to request a renewal of the mandate of the Special Political Mission for a further year.

National processes must permit the development of capabilities that will enable States to face up to the fundamental causes of the conflict, and so, overcome them. The Commission is in a unique position to provide the Council with broad and diverse perspectives on peacebuilding.

Thank you very much.