

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 28 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Germany has the honour to transmit the Coordinator's summary of the informal stocktaking consultations on the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council, held on 3 February 2020 in the Permanent Mission of Germany (see annex).

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

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



Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council

Coordinator's summary

Background

1. On 3 February 2020, Germany, in its capacity as informal coordinator of the relations between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council, convened an informal meeting to take stock of the advisory role of the Commission in 2019 and explore opportunities for 2020. The members of the Commission that are members of the Security Council, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission, and the Peacebuilding Support Office were invited to the meeting.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator opened the meeting recalling that the outcome of the informal stocktaking meeting of May 2019 contained useful recommendations that were implemented by the Commission and that are still relevant in 2020, such as advice provided by the Commission to the Council through briefings, written inputs and mission reports, in order to ensure timely advice to the Council on country-specific, regional, cross-cutting or thematic issues, as well as substantial briefings provided ahead of Council visits. He welcomed as a good practice the submission of written advice from the Commission to the Council, particularly in connection with the mandates renewal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), as well as the regular briefings by the Commission to the Council on country-specific issues. He noted that processes leading to the submission of such advice could be further improved to ensure sufficient time, participation and inclusivity. He also underscored a number of areas that would require further consideration, such as the importance of sharing the substantive outcomes of relevant Commission meetings with the Security Council, or the need to continue to improve the alignment of the calendar of work of the Commission with that of the Council.

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

(a) Participants recognized that the Commission continued to play an important advisory role to the Security Council. In order to further improve that, it was important to ensure that the advice was relevant and substantive and complemented the information already available in the Council. This was particularly relevant in the case of briefings during informal interactive dialogues and when the Commission was submitting its advice in writing. Some participants emphasized the potential and positive role played by engaged pen holders on the Council, by the Chairs of the country-specific configurations and by other Commission members. In this regard, participants also encouraged the Peacebuilding Support Office to further provide substantial input for briefings;

(b) Participants welcomed in particular the decision of the Commission to send its advice on UNOWAS to the Security Council, and encouraged the Commission to explore ways to further improve how it shares its advice, including

by fostering the greater engagement of all Commission members. Participants also underlined the need for the Commission to look beyond providing advice ahead of mandate renewals and for it also to focus on providing advice throughout the life cycle of a mandate and mission;

(c) Participants looked ahead at the following: the mandate renewal of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau in February; the open debate on youth, peace and security in April; and the open debate on women, peace and security in October. These represented opportunities for the Commission to provide input and share its advice;

(d) Discussing suggested priorities for the Commission in 2020, participants noted the importance of having a broader engagement with the development system and welcomed the Chair's decision to prioritize questions of partnership with international financial institutions and economic security;

(e) Participants underlined the importance of the Commission bringing to the attention of the Council cross-cutting issues with the potential to impact peace and security, such as climate change, migration and institution-building, as well as development and economic issues. Participants also stressed the Commission's potential to dedicate more efforts to transitions in the various stages as well as to questions in non-mission settings;

(f) Participants also reiterated that the Commission should be ready to offer its platform to interested countries, particularly those undergoing a transition from one United Nations presence to another;

(g) The 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture represented an opportunity to further improve the advisory role of the Commission to the Council.
