



Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2019

Original: English

Letter dated 30 May 2019 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 22 May 2019 at 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 30 May 2019 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 22 May 2019, Germany, in its capacity as the informal coordinator of the periodic stocktaking exercises on the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory function to the Security Council, convened an informal meeting to reflect on the status and prospect of implementation of the presidential statements on peacebuilding adopted by the Council in 2017 and 2018 ([S/PRST/2017/27](#) and [S/PRST/2018/20](#)). The members of the Commission that are members of the Council, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission and Sweden, the informal coordinator in 2018, were invited to and present at the meeting.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator opened the meeting by underscoring the usefulness of taking regular stock of the role of the Commission vis-à-vis the Security Council. In that connection, he underscored that there was broad consensus in the Council that the advisory role of the Commission had improved, particularly with the adoption of the two presidential statements. He also noted the importance of having a forward-looking approach and exploring ways to further improve that role, building on what may be more useful for the Council and working on executing the provisions in the respective presidential statements. He said that, based on what is required, the Commission could shape its advice around country-specific, regional or cross-cutting and thematic issues. He suggested that, inter alia, the Commission could submit peacebuilding reports on specific contexts to the Council with a view to providing a broad peacebuilding perspective linked with national priorities and needs. Building on the experience of the informal interactive dialogue between the Council and the Commission of March 2019, timely inputs could also be shared in preparation for visits of the Council in relevant contexts. Referring to the informal interactive dialogue of June 2018, the Coordinator underscored the value of the Commission in sharing its advice during situations of transition and when the Council is considering missions' mandates. Referring to the observations provided by the Commission on the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), he emphasized the possibility for the Commission to work on multidimensional mandates, while recognizing that the Central African Republic was a unique context.

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

- The Commission is a critical platform to bring broad peacebuilding perspectives to the Security Council, building on the priorities and needs identified by national actors.
- To avoid duplication with the work of the Council, the advice should build upon, and go beyond, the content of the reports of the Secretary-General, by bringing in multidimensional perspectives and bridging between peace and security and development. At the same time, and in order to fully utilize the comparative

advantage of the Commission, the advice has to be well-structured, concrete and relevant, and focused around the priorities of the Security Council.

- The advice of the Commission is particularly relevant when the Council is discussing the formation, renewal and transition of mission mandates. Participants stressed the importance of providing timely advice ahead of mandate discussions, to ensure that the Council can consider and make the best use of the Commission's contributions. In that connection, participants referred to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau as cases in which the Council would benefit from the advice of the Commission. The Commission's annual work plan on the Central African Republic, in line with the priorities of the Council, ensured timely and consistent advice, which could be pursued in other contexts for countries that are both on the Security Council's agenda and under consideration in the Peacebuilding Commission. Communication between the Commission and the pen holders of mandate-related resolutions in the Council was put forward as a practical recommendation to consider. Furthermore, the Council could request the Commission well in advance to prepare to provide specific and concrete advice on upcoming transitions.
- Several participants also stressed that the Commission could play its advisory role throughout the whole cycle of a mission, including the formation of mandates, in order to reflect peacebuilding priorities. Towards that end, conversations between the Commission and the Council would have to start very early on, from when assessments towards forming missions were being conducted. Concretely, mandates or mandate renewals could regularly include peacebuilding aspects. Another concrete suggestion was that the Council could encourage or ask for specific peacebuilding plans to be drawn up in collaboration with the affected country.
- The advice of the Commission should be shared through all available instruments, including briefings by the Chair, written inputs, mission reports and outcomes of relevant meetings of the Commission. In that connection, the recent example of the written advice submitted by the Commission during the MINUSCA mandate renewal was referred to by several participants as a good practice. One concrete suggestion to improve the Commission's written advice to the Council was to submit reports and recommendations more often, yet selectively and with a strict view both to ensuring the high quality of the advice to the Council and to avoiding overworking the Council with too many reports. The informal interactive dialogue convened by the Council in preparation for its visit to Burkina Faso and Mali in March 2019 was also recognized as a good practice to ensure that the Council is informed of relevant peacebuilding priorities and the broader peace and security, development and humanitarian context in countries considered by the Commission ahead of its visits, to better understand the comprehensive nature and complexity of the challenges that countries face. One participant suggested that, building on the good practice ahead of the visit to Burkina Faso and Mali, the Council could make it a standard practice ahead of its visits to consider whether advice or input from the Commission could be relevant. Participants noted that peacebuilding reports submitted by the Commission could also be useful instruments if focused on the key priorities and comparative advantages of the Commission, while not duplicating other information available to the Council. One participant reminded the Council members also that every meeting of the Commission, due to the Commission's composition and the fact that at all times seven members of the Council are represented in the Commission, is an opportunity to have

advice flow back to the whole Council. One participant noted that those countries with “double membership” have not only a particular responsibility, but also an opportunity to ensure that information flows between the Council and the Commission, as well as to help to direct the Commission to provide information, input and advice that is helpful to the Council.

- The advice of the Commission was recognized as particularly useful in country-specific and regional situations. Participants referred to the good practices with respect to the Central African Republic, Burundi, Liberia, with the development of the Liberia peacebuilding plan, and the Sahel. A number of participants also noted that the Council could benefit from the Commission’s advice on cross-cutting and thematic issues under consideration by the Council. One participant suggested that the Commission could improve its output and the quality of advice by complementarily linking country and regional expert-level meetings with policy and thematic discussions. Another concrete suggestion was for the Council members to provide, on a case-by-case basis, feedback to the Commission on the form of its advice to ensure higher quality advice in the long run.
- Participants welcomed the improvements made by the Commission to align its calendar of work with that of the Council. However, participants called for further improvements, and one participant noted that the advice submitted in preparation for the Council’s deliberations on missions’ mandates should be shared with the Council two months in advance to allow sufficient time for consideration.
