

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-Level meeting on The Gambia
18 October 2022

1. On 18 October 2022, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith, convened an

investigation, digitalization of data, as well as in the social cohesion initiatives, health care, and education.

empowerment of women and young people, while underscoring the need to concentrate more on equality goals, especially regarding n in political life. She reiterated that these transformative changes would not have been possible without the early, strategic, and catalytic support of the PBF, and reminded continuous need for the PBF and the PBC support required for the preparedness and resilience-building in facing emerging challenges within the Sahel region, including violence, extremism, and human and drug trafficking. She highlighted the need of full and timely implementation of the TRRC recommendations, which is one of the main expectations of The Gambian people to foster trust and reconciliation. She recalled the other important priorities, such as the revision of the Constitution, the fight against corruption and increased political participation of women.

7. **Ms. Awa Dabo, Director and Deputy Head of PBSO**, welcomed the timely release of a high-quality White Paper by the Gambian government on the recommendations of the TRRC. She commended the victim-

She also commended the inclusive elements of the transitional justice process, including the integration of gender elements in the White Paper, as well as the planned Peace and Reconciliation Commission with decentralized structures that will allow for effective engagements at the grassroots level and potentially foster reconciliation, national healing, and social cohesion. She noted the PB transition since early 2017, notably by supporting the establishment and operationalization of the TRRC, and expressed the continued commitment to supporting the peacebuilding priorities of The Gambia in the framework of the ongoing transitional justice process and other reforms. She informed about the PBF post-TRRC follow-up project to support the implementation and monitoring of the TRRC recommendations, using a consultative and participatory approach involving key national institutions such as the Police, Judiciary, and the National Human Rights Commission, as well as civil society organizations, with a special Further, she welcomed the robust PBC engagement with The Gambia, and hoped that the PBC can be used for sharing lessons on the transitional process. She reiterated The

the need for further support from international partners to implement the recommendations of the TRRC and to pursue other important reforms.

8. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

They commended T , reconciliation, democratic governance, and building and sustaining peace and stability. They welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Council, as well as the proposal to create a gender-sensitive and impartial Peace and Reconciliation Commission to enable effective engagement of the entire society to foster reconciliation, national healing, and social cohesion. They commended the victim-centered approach adopted by the transitional justice process and underlined the importance of accountability and transparency.

They underscored implementing the TRRC recommendations as a condition for the return of peace and stability in the country.

Member States stressed the importance of inclusion in the transitional justice process. They emphasized the critical role of women, youth, people with disabilities, and civil society in peacebuilding and in the implementation of the TRRC recommendations. They highlighted the need to provide further support for the victims of SGBV, including mental health and psychosocial support.

They recognized the PBC as an important platform for sharing experiences on the transitional justice and reconciliation processes. They encouraged The Gambia to engage in learning initiatives to share experiences with other countries that had undergone transitional justice and reconciliation processes. It was noted that the transitional justice process in The Gambia has been shown promising results, and that long-term investments in reconciliation and justice were key to sustain this success.

Member States highlighted the role of the PBF in supporting the implementation of the