

Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Great Lakes Region

26 July 2021

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1. On 26 July, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) met in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the situation in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The meeting was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PBC is a high-level, multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and cooperation on peacebuilding in Africa. It was established in 2012 and is co-chaired by the United States and the United Kingdom. The PBC's mandate is to support the African Union's (AU) peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The meeting on 26 July was the first since the PBC's last meeting in 2019. The meeting was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PBC is a high-level, multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and cooperation on peacebuilding in Africa. It was established in 2012 and is co-chaired by the United States and the United Kingdom. The PBC's mandate is to support the African Union's (AU) peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The meeting on 26 July was the first since the PBC's last meeting in 2019.

eradicate the persistent threats to regional stability posed by the negative forces whose activities were relaunched in May 2021 receives support from the Office of the Special Envoy CCG as part of its immediate and key priorities. The Special Envoy urged the Commission to support the immediate and key priorities of the Action Plan through the mobilization of additional resources as well as further political and technical support

4. Ms. Marie Claude Nkulu Mbayo, Chief of Staff for the National Oversight Mechanism of the DRC for the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PCS) Framework of the DRC and the Region reiterated the willingness of the President of the DRC and Chair of the African Union, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, to intensify efforts to sustain peace and eradicate negative forces in the Region. Following the fifth consultations among Security and Intelligence services held on 6 July 2021 in Bujumbura, the CCG decided to start the operationalization of the Action Plan on Non-Military measures. The Action Plan on Non-Military measures is based on four areas of intervention: i) Facilitating the disarmament and repatriation of negative forces through an approach involving local communities and civil society; (ii) Preventing the resurgence of negative forces by combating the supply of weapons, troops and finances; (iii) Strengthening DDR/RR programs; and iv) Strengthening cross-border cooperation to generate economic opportunities, especially for youth. In this regard, she stated that the President of the DRC had committed to provide the premises of the CCG in Goma for a period of two years. She further recalled that the emergency state in all the eastern regions of the country aimed at eradicating the persistent threats to regional stability posed by negative forces
5. Mr. Fodé Ndiaye, UN Resident Coordinator of Rwanda, updated the Commission on the on-going crossborder project supporting socioeconomic reintegration of former FDLR combatants and their dependents repatriated from the DRC to Rwanda to which the Peacebuilding Fund is contributing. A short documentary was projected to demonstrate the impact of the project on the beneficiaries. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1ngs6r0k1r>. Mr. Ndiaye also highlighted the contribution of the project.

6. Assistant Secretary General Oscar Fernandez Zaranco welcomed this meeting as a timely follow-

- x They emphasized the role of the Coordination and Contact Group in addressing non military measures including Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration efforts. In this regard, they commended the DRC for its leadership in hosting the GCC and underscored the political will and commitment of the Great Lakes Region's Leaders to continue to improve internal governance and strengthen cooperation among countries on regional issues.

- x They underscored the need to strengthen the response to COVID-19 at the regional and country levels, including vaccination efforts and addressing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. They stressed the importance of empowering women and youth as agents of social and economic transformation with the support of the private sector and civil society organizations. They welcomed the catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Fund in addressing crossborder