

Written Submission of the Peacebuilding

elections in 2023 and offers its support for peaceful and inclusive electoral processes. The Commission underscores the importance of inclusive political dialogue in the lead-up to elections and, in this regard, welcomes the joint ECOWAS-UN inter-party dialogues as well as the meetings of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) led by the National Elections Commission in Liberia, and in Guinea-Bissau, the consultations with political parties and electoral management bodies held by the President of the Republic, the President of the People's National Assembly (ANP) and the Minister of Territorial Administration. Additionally, the Commission recognizes the important contributions of civil society and stresses the need to include civil society in dialogue processes.

4. Regarding the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the Commission welcomes the adoption of the Electoral Law Reform Bill in Liberia, stipulating a 30 percent quota for women in senatorial and parliamentary elections, as well as legislation in Sierra Leone providing for 30 percent women's representation in cabinet, parliament, civil service positions and private institutions. The Commission stresses, in view of the multiple electoral processes in the region in 2023, the need for greater political representation and participation of women and reiterates its call to strengthen regional frameworks and ensure the effective implementation of existing instruments on women's empowerment, gender equality and women's overall participation in the peacebuilding process.
5. The Commission emphasizes the need to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, and regional levels in West Africa and the Sahel. In this regard, the Commission recognizes the crucial role UNOWAS can play in coordinating efforts to support the institutionalization of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda and in advancing YPS)

need for continued support to African countries taking into account their national priorities and needs. In this regard, the Commission also underscores the importance of the rule of law in support of socio-economic development. The Commission also notes the AU PCRD highlights the need for undertaking comprehensive institution-building to enhance good economic governance through the reinforcement of fiscal and financial management institutions in support of effective revenue collection, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and anticorruption structures to ensure accountability and transparency.

8. Lastly, the Commission recognizes the critical support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund to countries in the region and welcomes the important cross-border nature of many of the PBF-funded projects. For example, in the S0092 3ETQa012 72 re2 reW*nBTF3 12g0 G(y)50(the)52(P)