
1. On 4 July 2019 the Peacebuilding Commission convened its ambassadorial-level annual session under the theme “

” The meeting chaired by HE Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, the Chair of the Commission, was convened to exchange views on the challenges and opportunities for expanding regional and sub-regional approaches to address the multi-faceted challenges in the region

2. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman of the Commission, HE Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, stressed the importance of the Commission's work in the region and the need for continued cooperation and dialogue among all stakeholders.

stocktaking and to further invigorate the cooperation between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission

- 4 The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, noted the alarming security situation in the Liptako Goma area¹ with spillover effects on Niger and Burkina Faso rising to devastating proportions. He informed the Commission that the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso had increased from approximately 30,000 at the beginning of the year to currently 500,000. The SRSG recalled that the ninth steering committee meeting of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel was held in Dakar on 21 October 2019 where it had been agreed to establish a matrix to clarify roles and responsibilities as well as to better communicate efforts made and impact achieved by developing a strategy for communication and advocacy.**

Chad that responded to the need for projects that could be implemented simultaneously in the affected countries

- 6 The Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), HE Mr. Mamman Nuhu, informed the Peacebuilding Commission that the main drivers of conflict in the Lake Chad Basin were the drastic shrinkage of Lake Chad, the demographic pressure of high population growth and the competition over dwindling natural resources. The Executive Secretary updated on the progress of the Regional Stabilization Strategy and on the launch of the Regional Stabilization Facility that, with support from UNDP, aimed to meet some of the immediate stabilization needs of the region by helping local authorities extend effective civilian security and improve the delivery of basic services. He informed the Commission that the indicative budget for the implementation of the strategy is 1.5 billion USD.**

