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**Statement**

By

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**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**Ambassadorial-level Meeting of the PBC Sahel Configuration**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair and thanks to the briefers for their presentations.

We appreciate the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission in the areas of development, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace in the Sahel region.

The active engagement of international, regional and sub-regional organisations and all other partners is imperative to ensure that all pillars of the UNISS are implemented. We reiterate our full support to all actors for their engagement in efforts to combat the challenges facing the region. We also encourage greater coherence between the PBC and its partners to help enhance the regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063.

The security situation in the region remains of grave concern. In particular, the continued attacks against civilians, security forces, and peacekeepers by terrorist and extremist groups. The risk of further coastal and intercommunal violence threatens to undo the efforts made by the Multinational Joint Force Taskforce, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and other security forces. In this regard, we commend these efforts and encourage the countries of the region to continue implementing the Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, including through enhanced coordination with international partners.

While the pandemic has hampered the meaningful participation of women in decision-making and peace processes, all over the world we are encouraged by the number of peacebuilding initiatives that will promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Sahel region. We also underscore the importance of including youth in these peacebuilding processes.

We further commend the efforts of the PBC in addressing the impact of climate change and encourage a continued focus on the nexus between climate and food security.

To conclude, we reaffirm our continued support of the PBC's ongoing efforts for long-term stability and security across the Sahel region. We underscore the essential role of the regional and sub-regional organisations and encourage them to maintain close coordination with UNOWAS.

Thank you.