

Closing Remarks
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**Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the
Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
on the Impact of Cross-border Transhumance on Sustainable Peace and
Development in West Africa and the Sahel**

Closing Remarks

H.E. Mona Juul

President of the Economic and Social Council

Tuesday, 3 December 2019, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Conference Room 2

Distinguished guests,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

As we conclude our joint meeting, I would like to express my appreciation to our speakers for their inspiring presentations.

Also, thank you all for the fruitful discussion in the interactive dialogue.

The discussion around the issue of transhumance has brought to the forefront the many types of challenges characterizing the conflict between pastoralists, and farmers, in West Africa and the Sahel.

These challenges encompass socio-economic, environmental, humanitarian, and peace and security issues. It is clear that they can only be successfully tackled through an integrated, coherent and holistic approach. We have to address the causes, drivers and triggers of conflict as well as create the conditions for long-term peace and development.

We know that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals offer us the opportunity to do exactly this.

It is our shared roadmap to transform the world.

It guides our efforts to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

The effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the joint engagement of development, peace and security actors.

And it requires the involvement of all stakeholders in society.

From local and national governments, to civil society groups- including women and youth groups- to the private sector, universities, and think tanks.

Colleagues,

We know that, for the many people in the Sahel, action cannot wait. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we all collectively engage to realise the decade of action and delivery in West Africa and the Sahel, and across the globe.

ECOSOC will spare no effort in its advocacy for the international community's continuing engagement in the Sahel region.

ECOSOC will continue to work with the Peacebuilding Commission. To strengthen integrated approaches and to promote sustainable peace and development in the Sahel and other parts of the world.

ECOSOC will also continue to guide the UN system so that it provides effective collective support to respond to the challenges we discussed today.

The resolution on the Sahel currently being discussed will give this Council the opportunity to keep the Sahel high on its own agenda and to catalyse efforts towards full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the coming days, the PBC Chair and I will prepare a joint informal summary of this meeting, which will be made available on the ECOSOC and PBC websites. The summary will also be shared with the United Nations system for follow-up.

Thank you.