

PBC Annual Session 2018
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel region
Interactive Session

India Intervention
by
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Second Secretary

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We welcome this discussion and its focus on Sahel region.

We thank the previous speakers for their valuable remarks.

PBC has an important role to play in highlighting the importance of sustainable and inclusive development for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

India has been associated with PBC since its inception.

In Sahel region, especially Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger continue to be impacted by the expanding terrorist threat.

India welcomes the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, which demonstrates the willingness of African nations to take charge of their own security to address the threat of terrorism, as well as the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime in the region.

India has extensive and expanding partnership with Africa. Our ongoing projects in the Sahel region amount to more than half a billion US dollars. These include agriculture and food processing projects, rural electrification and power transmission projects, low cost housing and economical buildings, potable water projects, etc. As always, our efforts will be driven by the priorities of our partners.

We think that focusing on 'institution building' and 'unemployment' could contribute in achieving long-term stability.

On 'institution building', the host country should identify specific requirements based on their understanding and analysis of the prevailing situation. PBC can play a pivotal role to frame the 'needs assessment' for the country based on its expertise. This would go a long way in helping the country to identify and concretize its own requirements, which in turn would help in receiving focused and coherent international support.

To tackle 'unemployment', the focus should be on skill development including vocational training. Here again, the host country, with the involvement of its youth and women, should provide direction, indicating their specific needs and requirements. This would help the international community to consider feasible areas of support, according to the expertise and resources available at their disposal.

Thank you.