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PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Statement by the
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

**ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

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[Please check against delivery]

Madame President,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this important debate in my capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. The theme for this debate is intrinsically linked to the Peacebuilding Commission's mandate and its objective to build lasting and durable peace and to prevent relapse into violent conflict.

Inclusion is a central aspect of peacebuilding. War and conflict within countries mar society's social fabric with deep rifts and hatred. Mending these ruptures often requires dialogue involving warring parties and non-military groups, as well as mechanisms to allow broader engagement in political processes, social structures and development strategies.

Political exclusion is often a key factor behind the relapse into violent conflict. Political exclusion is particularly dangerous when it coincides with other forms of inequality, for example along social, cultural, judicial or economic lines. Grievances related to exclusion, inequalities or outright discrimination – perceived and real – are often at the root of armed conflict.

Competition over control of natural resources has been shown to have a particularly negative impact on the likelihood of violent conflict. There are many situations where the benefits from natural resources are unequally shared within a society and only a few are benefiting. Groups seeking to control natural resources exploit these grievances in order to create political strife and fuel armed conflict.

These challenges highlight the interdependence among the security, justice and developmental initiatives in the promotion of peace. The mutually reinforcing nature of development, peace and security and human rights are well recognized and were central to the thinking behind the creation of Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. This action, taken in the World Summit in 2005, sought to reinvigorate and reinforce the broader United Nations' peace and security architecture.

Recognizing the interdependency between these distinct approaches should not lead us to suggest that the Council should take on responsibilities regarding development matters. Other bodies, such as the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission, are in a better position to explore those issues, in conjunction with UN mandated development organizations. It does, however, emphasize the need for us to coordinate our approaches and work with greater synergy.

The Peacebuilding Commission is well positioned to provide advice on issues that touch on the concerns of the Security Council and the General Assembly, such as ways in which inclusive socio-economic development contributes to peace and security and reduces the risk of emergence or relapse into violent conflict. The Commission's advisory function to both the General Assembly and the Security Council should be fully utilized to this end. The upcoming review of the peacebuilding architecture should help us further reinforce this role of the Commission.

Madame President,

I would like to point to a few cases where the Peacebuilding Commission has contributed to more inclusive societies.

In Burundi, the Peacebuilding Commission, worked closely last year with the Government of Burundi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the Country Team to promote a more inclusive political environment. Despite concerns about some isolated security incidents involving youth wings of political parties, these joint efforts have helped to promote greater trust between the Government of Burundi, political parties and civil society. The deepened political dialogue involving Government and political parties, contributed to the consensual adoption of a roadmap for free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful 2015 elections, a code of conduct for the upcoming elections and a new electoral code, which was adopted by the National Assembly in April 2014, before being ratified by the President. Currently, the electoral process continues and the voters' registration phase ended with about 3.7 million registered. The Commission continues to encourage all stakeholders to maintain a conducive environment to peaceful elections and to reject violence as a way for achieving political goals.

In Guinea, the Commission supported the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa to facilitate a dialogue between the Government and political parties. The dialogue process resulted in an agreement, which laid a solid foundation for successful and inclusive parliamentary elections in 2013. Although there are still considerable challenges ahead, the Parliament, inaugurated in 2014, may be considered inclusive and representative of the political groups of Guinea

In Guinea Bissau, the Peacebuilding Fund in collaboration with the Commission has supported the set-up of the first ever Women Situation room (“Case de Veille”) which has greatly contributed to increase women’s representation and participation in the monitoring of the Presidential and Legislative elections.

In Sierra Leone, the Government and the international community have shown that a rapid recovery from war is possible. Sierra Leone has established political stability, restored basic security, reinvigorated democratic processes, built important national institutions, and generated economic growth. In the process, it has also proved that the United Nations can tackle complex peacebuilding and development challenges in a coordinated fashion. It has demonstrated that investment by international and regional partners in peace can reap significant dividends.

Let me stress, Madame President, the importance of gender-based inclusion as a key element in every peacebuilding effort in war-ravaged societies. In this context, I wish to point out that the Commission has also called specifically for the inclusion of women in peacebuilding and political processes and economic recovery, including through a political declaration adopted in September 2013 and a special event in September 2014.

In Liberia, the Commission has advocated strongly for an inclusive reconciliation process. The Statement of Mutual Commitments which the Commission concluded with the Government of Liberia in November 2010 highlighted inclusive reconciliation as a priority. On this basis, the Commission actively supported the launch of Liberia's National Reconciliation Roadmap in 2013 after a two-year consultation process.

The Commission has drawn the attention to the possible political implications of the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as the disease has threatened to erode social cohesion and undermine the functioning of key state institutions. An inclusive recovery process that addresses perceived inequalities among groups and reinforced key political institutions will be important to protect the gains made in the peacebuilding processes.

Madame President,

In its third informal interactive dialogue with members of the Security Council in July 2014, the Commission underscored the importance of focusing attention on inclusive political processes that would reinforce national ownership, rebuild the fabric of fractured societies and the establishment of a new social contract. This should be the cornerstone of our collective efforts aimed at building lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict.

As the General Assembly and the Security Council prepare to conduct the ten year review of the peacebuilding architecture this year, we should seize the opportunity to ensure that the United Nations response would live up to the aspirations of millions of people in countries emerging from conflict. The relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations must be assessed against its ability to help create the necessary conditions for inclusive security, human rights, justice and economic development.

Thank you Madame President