

Statement by

H. H.E. Abulkalam Abdul Momen

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Immediate Past Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission

United Nations

**Presentation of the Report of the Peacebuilding Commission
on its Sixth Session**

General Assembly

26 March 2013

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), I am pleased to present the report of the Commission on its sixth session as contained in document (A/67/715–S/2013/63).

This report is organized around the main functions and work of the Commission placing particular emphasis on the results achieved and the challenges and opportunities related to the impact of the Commission in the field and its relations at UN Headquarters. It mainstreamed the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and has incorporated a forward agenda for 2013 as an implementation framework for the recommendations.

Mr. President,

Allow me to highlight a number of issues of particular importance from the report.

First, the reporting period has witnessed particular focus on institutional consolidation which is crucial for the Commission's future role and impact. The Commission launched an ambitious exercise to improve and clarify the Commission's working methods, especially as it relates to its linkage and collaboration with the work of key actors in the field. It also aimed at facilitating the workload of CSC Chairs to achieve goals on the ground. This process is among the main highlights of the Commission's work in 2012.

Second, during the reporting period, the Commission has embarked on a work programme designed to support the Commission's engagement with the six countries on the agenda, namely Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The peacebuilding process in each of these six countries is at a different stage, presenting different opportunities and posing different types of challenges.

Some highlights of the Commission's country-specific engagement during the reporting period included (i) provision of support for the launching of a national reconciliation strategy and the first regional hub for security and justice in Liberia, (ii) support to the successful conduct of elections in Sierra Leone, and (iii) resource mobilization for peacebuilding pillar of a new poverty reduction strategy in Burundi, including through the support to the successful organization of the Geneva Burundi Partners' Conference in October 2012, (iv) the Commission has also initiated a resource mapping exercise in Guinea as an initial step in the eventual development of national aid management and coordination system. I thank the respective country leadership for their commitment and support without which the Commission would have not been sufficiently effective to achieve goals. Conversely, the disruption of the presidential electoral process through an unconstitutional change of government in Guinea-Bissau on 12 April undermined the progress in peacebuilding that had begun to take place in that country. This and the violence witnessed in CAR towards the end of 2012, underlined that the role of the Commission has to be more comprehensive, targeted, and well coordinated. Secondly in the absence of broader, more vigorous, dynamic and continuing national commitment and without coordinated efforts to address the root causes of instability, the role of Commission may be challenged.

Third, parallel to the Commission's country-specific engagement, the work undertaken by the Commission on policy development in 2012 has prioritized partnerships as an area which gives substance and value to the Commission's main functions in sustaining attention, forging coherence and resource mobilization for the six countries on its agenda.

The work of the Commission, therefore, has focused on strengthening the partnership with the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Commission has taken important steps towards better alignment of national peacebuilding priorities in the countries on the agenda with the engagement of both banks in these countries, thus ensuring greater degree of coherence of

efforts as well as sufficient focus on peacebuilding objectives in these countries. Given the nexus between 'peace and development', the Commission is also pursuing a thematic focus on job creation and rule of law assistance in partnership with banks and other stakeholders.

Fourth. Similarly, the Commission sought to deepen its working relationship with key United Nations actors in the field, especially the Regional Political leadership and also with senior UN leadership. An informal dialogue with Executive and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in agenda countries was launched in April 2012. In addition, initiatives have been taken to forge better relationship with regional groups like African Union in last September, 2012. This is certainly a crucial partnership requiring deeper and continuing commitment and support from the Commission's membership and the United Nations' top management, alike.

Fifth, partnership with United Nations principal organs is of no less significance. The report stipulates that members elected from each of the three principal organs need to lead the efforts to deepen and substantiate the relations with the Peacebuilding Commission. We had meetings with ECOSOC, UNSC and UN Secretariat. This is an area which we expect to advance in 2013. In 2012, however, and in view of the need to strengthen the links with UN field missions and enhance impact in the field, the Commission placed particular emphasis on the relationship with the Security Council and it had a very meaningful interactive dialogue with the members of the Security Council last summer.

In fact, the consideration of the Commission's report on its fifth session last July at the Security Council offered an opportunity to revive the discussion on what the 2010 Review described as "the potential to create a new dynamic between a more forthcoming Security Council and a better performing PBC". Suggestions to energize the relations between the two bodies have been followed-up, including through the Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned which explored last December the scope of the Commission's advisory role to the Council on

transitions of UN missions in countries on the agenda. The Commission could potentially demonstrate value added by supporting a process of draw-down and withdrawal of UN missions that is not only grounded in sound analysis and in country-specific realities and national needs, but also which ensures that the international community remains committed to and cognizant of the essential links between peace and socio-economic development beyond the lifetime of UN peacekeeping and political missions.

Mr. President,

Sixth, much discussion has taken place around the extent to which the Commission is delivering on the high expectations that accompanied its creation in 2005. Therefore, 2012 was, a year when the question of collective responsibility and commitment of the membership took centre stage in the Commission's deliberations. I must say that while we collectively managed to instill some sense of urgency to this topic, the task of translating such commitment into concrete actions and contributions remains unfulfilled.

To this end, the High-Level Event on "Peacebuilding: The way towards sustainable peace and security", which was presided over by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in September 2012, brought together, for the first time, a number of Heads of State and Government, Ministers and senior officials from among the Commission's broader membership. The consensus Political Declaration that emanated from this event reaffirmed and reinvigorated the political commitment to key principles, objectives and priorities which the Commission has consistently promoted, both at the policy and at the country-specific levels.

Seventh. Commission also arranged a session with the PBF to harmonize allocation of resources to priority areas.

Finally, the Commission continues to receive direct and substantive support from the Peacebuilding Support Office. As the Commission further seeks to strengthen

these linkages, and ensure deeper collaboration and synergy with PBF and other stakeholders including philanthropic, civil society, private and business sector, it is imperative to strengthen the PBSO office.

Mr. President,

Let me close by stressing the need to envisage a new paradigm for south-south and triangular cooperation which could reinforce national ownership in peacebuilding through focused support on national capacity development and institution-building in critical peacebuilding priorities. This is an area which requires further commitment from Member States and the UN system at large. The Peacebuilding Commission is uniquely positioned to become a platform for the development of this new paradigm by piloting concrete projects of cooperation in the countries on its agenda. The Peacebuilding Commission can certainly facilitate the matching of needs identified by these countries with the most relevant experience and expertise, especially from the Global South.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the pace with which the United Nations and the global peacebuilding agenda are evolving testifies to the urgency of the need to address sources of protracted instability and drivers of relapse into conflict. To this end, we can no longer afford to remain in the custody of traditional and business-as-usual approach to the link between security and socio-economic development. We shall continue to face systemic challenges, but we must commit to face these challenges with the requisite resolve and determination. We have to take bolder and more courageous steps to have sustainable peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President