

**Closing remarks by
H.E. Mr. Vitaly Churkin
President of the UN Security Council,
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
at the Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session
(23 June 2014)**

Ambassador Ashe,
Ambassador Patriota,
Ms. Cheng-Hopkins,
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

On behalf of the members of the UN Security Council, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the invitation to attend the first ever substantive annual session of the PBC entitled: "Sustainable Support for Peacebuilding: the Domestic and International Aspects", and for this opportunity to address you today.

At the outset, I am pleased to extend to you my congratulations on a successful completion of the session. The broad-based approach to engaging a great number of actors involved in peacebuilding efforts, including members of the PBC, international financial institutions and NGOs, will certainly help the Commission draw useful policy recommendations and advice. We need to further reflect on how the annual session's conclusions would help enhance our collective capacity to support countries emerging from conflict.

The Secretariat, represented by the Peacebuilding Support Office, has played a critical role in preparatory activities, providing the necessary technical and coordinating support. In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for PBSO, who will soon be leaving her office, for her commitment to the work of the PBSO and her invaluable contribution.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 60/180 and Security Council Resolution 1645, is seen as a groundbreaking step, "a genuinely historic moment", holding new promise for the states emerging from conflict. The Commission, as a unique intergovernmental structure, was tasked with providing assistance to post-conflict countries as they face complex challenges, while also delivering peace and stability to their populations. There is no doubt that long-term successful results of such assistance are based on the principle of national responsibility for the determination of the peacebuilding priorities, as well as control over its practical realization by host governments. Over the years, the Commission has undoubtedly demonstrated added value in certain contexts and in specific areas of its core functions as a central element of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. However, it is obvious that we need to do much more and work harder to continue to fine-tune and adjust the PBC's approach and tools in intensively changing the global policy environment in support of national peacebuilding efforts.

In this regard, it seems quite reasonable that today's event, being the first step in the comprehensive discussions of peacebuilding-related themes, which are proposed to become regular, is dedicated to mobilizing resources. Today's discussions have shed light on the potential role of the Commission as a platform for drawing greater attention to specific gaps and possible policy frameworks which will help enhance resource flows to the countries concerned. The broad-based nature of the Commission's Member States' composition and its broader outreach to partners from regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society has provoked a lively and substantive exchange of views on challenges and opportunities for enhancing national and international resource flows and national capacities, including in the context of UN missions transitions.

All parties concerned efficiently used this valuable opportunity to share views on the mobilization of financial and human resources both on national and international levels, with due consideration for the principle of national ownership and the fundamental objective of providing sustainable support to post-conflict societies.

The PBC as a diplomatic platform mandated to advise the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well bring together the main actors is uniquely placed to promote greater harmony between sub-regional, regional and international dimensions of post-conflict response.

Positive progress in accompanying peacebuilding in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone is a good example of the Commission's added value to broader UN and regional efforts. This trend should be developed further, and we encourage the PBC's continued close engagement in Burundi. On the other hand – the Commission should reflect on lessons learned from unfortunate relapse of the Central African Republic and the earlier unconstitutional change of government in Guinea-Bissau. There is a need for the Commission to advise on the causes for these setbacks and on ways to prevent them in the future.

The PBC is also an important platform for the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, including through their full and effective engagement and participation in election processes.

Continued bilateral informal interactions with the Security Council will help the Peacebuilding Commission to maximize and capitalize on its advisory role and to produce and share ideas that can be subsequently reflected in Security Council resolutions.

In conclusion, I am convinced that today's event, along with the upcoming 2015 review of the UN Peacebuilding architecture, will allow us to examine experience gained, to highlight more clearly the areas and approaches where the PBC can practically demonstrate its continuing and growing commitment to UN efforts aimed at consolidating peace and development, and to give renewed impetus to the further evolution of this valuable intergovernmental instrument.

Thank you.