

**Statement by H.E Macharia Kamau, The Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission to The Security Council on 22 June 2016 During Presentation of the PBC Annual Report at its 9<sup>th</sup> Session and Launch of PBC- Security Council Interactive Session**

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**The President of the Security Council,  
Distinguished members of the Security Council,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, I wish to congratulate once again the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Ambassador Skoog, for his capable leadership and commitment as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2015.

I would like to recognize the continuing, sterling work and commitment of all the configuration chairs and the support that the PBC gets from the membership as well as the Peace Building Support Office.

Two months ago, on 27 April, 2016 the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted two substantially identical resolutions which, building on the excellent work done in 2015 by Ambassador Rosenthal and the Advisory Group of Experts on the peacebuilding review, recognize that “sustaining peace” is a shared task to be fulfilled by the government and national stakeholders, but also needs sustained international attention and assistance to countries affected by or at risk of conflict.

Those resolutions emphasize inter alia that sustaining peace requires more coherence among the security, development, humanitarian and human rights actors of the UN system as well as more coordination among General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC.

The resolutions also emphasize that sustaining peace requires a comprehensive approach that looks at all stages of conflict, with a particular focus on prevention and the need to address the root causes of conflict. They call upon the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil a number of important functions in the areas of advocacy, coordination and partnership.

During the recently completed PBC West African tour of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal, The value of the important messages contained in the resolutions was reinforced by everything that we heard from all the stakeholders in all the countries that we visited.

**Mr. President,**

In view of the reaffirmed support by the General Assembly and the Security Council to the PBC, we have a unique opportunity to move forward the peacebuilding agenda. Allow me to outline key initiatives that the Commission has undertaken and our plans for the remainder of the current session.

**Firstly,** the regional approach to addressing peacebuilding challenges and opportunities. The Commission convened two important meetings (in January and in April) to discuss trends and challenges to peacebuilding at the regional and sub-regional level. PBC members, as well as additional countries from West Africa, heard presentations by DPA, DPKO, UNDP and PBSO on the most recent developments affecting peacebuilding in that region and discussed thematic and cross-border initiatives. Both meetings were welcomed by Member States as they represented important opportunities to make use of the convening role of the Commission as an inclusive platform for policy discussions.

It is my intention to use the mandate of the Commission, updated recently with new functions, to expand this approach to other regions, starting with Central Africa and East Africa in the second half of the year.

Furthermore, on the margins of the UN Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the AU, I had informal conversations with members of PSC of the African Union and agreed that we should pursue deeper conversations with the African Union with a possibility of undertaking a visit to Addis Ababa and a retreat with the PSC.

**Secondly,** the role of peacebuilding in post -Ebola recovery.

Humanitarian crises around the world has shown themselves to be great disruptors of peace and security. They disrupts and destroy communities, sometimes causing great loss of life and at other times

uprooting entire communities resulting in displacement of people with the consequence of triggering migration and refugees outflows.

As a follow-up to the important work done by the Commission during the Ebola crisis, I just returned from a visit to West Africa, where together with a delegation composed by Chairs and Countries on the Agenda, I assessed and witnessed firsthand the road to recovery from the Ebola emergency in the three most affected countries. What we witnessed was resolute determination and success in beating back a plague that was billed to be of at the onset, to be one of biblical proportions. Besides the tragic loss of life of thousands of people and the horrible suffering of many more, what Ebola has done is that it has exposed the fragility of the affected countries and compounded and setback what were already difficulty economic and Peacebuilding challenges.

But I also came away from West Africa with another impression, one of governments and people determined to not only completely eradicate Ebola from the midst but to also turn around their countries by building their economies, integrating their societies and nurturing sustainable peace. The gratitude expressed for the support received from the international community was everywhere we visited and in this regard I must commend the United Nations Security Council for its swift and determined response that drew the attention of the world to the onset of the crisis two years ago and the resultant and extensive support extended to the affected region.

We came away from the mission to West Africa convinced that the countries were on a strong recovery path but sustained support is needed from the international community would need to be kept in place over the next 12 to 24 months to complete Ebola recovery efforts.

**Thirdly**, partnerships. A key value of the Commission rests in its ability to engage not only with such key partners as regional and sub-regional organizations, but also with International Financial Institutions and civil society organizations.

We have witnessed the important value to transitions that partnerships can give to all our peace building efforts.

Tomorrow, the Commission will convene its third Annual Session to discuss the topic of Transitions. That meeting represents an important opportunity for the Commission to strengthen its relations with key partners.

I wish to invite all Council members to actively participate in the discussion, particularly in view of the relevance of the topic for the Council's deliberations during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates. In this connection, I wish to thank the decision of the President of the Security Council to attend the closing session.

As stated earlier it is my intention to further strengthen the relations between the commission and the African Union as the Union is one of PBC's key strategic partners, and I plan to visit their headquarters in the second part of the year.

**Mr. President,**

Partnerships also include the cooperation between PBC, General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC. I look forward to the Informal Interactive Dialogue that the President of the Security Council has organized for this morning, as well as to the joint event of ECOSOC and PBC scheduled for this coming Friday. This is truly a "Peacebuilding week". For what we hope will be a historic peace building year.

**Fourthly,** and finally, Mr. President, working methods. Ten years after the creation of the PBC, Member States are calling for a more effective and efficient Commission. To be able to fulfil its advisory role according to the General Assembly and Security Council, and ultimately to be able to assist countries affected by conflict, the PBC needs to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility.

It is my intention to dedicate the second half of the tenth session to convening discussions in the Organizational Committee on revising the provisional rules of the procedure of the PBC and exploring options to diversify its working methods.

We need to consider going beyond the rigid mechanisms of country configurations and be ready to respond, in a flexible way to any request

of interested countries in accordance with the relevant provisions while maintaining national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding.

We need to be able to consider cross-cutting and thematic issues. Most importantly, we need to work towards a PBC whose members are engaged and ready to bring forward the work of the Commission.

We hope the Security Council will give its concurrency and support on all the foregoing matters moving forward.

**I thank you.**