

Statement by

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

**General Assembly  
Sixty Eighth Session**

**Item 30: Report of the Peacebuilding Commission  
Item 112: Report of the Secretary-General on the  
Peacebuilding Fund**

**26 March 2014**

**(Check against delivery)**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am pleased to present the report of the Commission on its seventh session as contained in document (A/68/729–S/2014/67).

This report presents the progress made in taking forward the recommendations of the 2010 review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and is organized around the three main functions of the Commission, namely: Advocacy and sustaining attention, resource mobilization and forging coherence. Allow me, Mr. President, to highlight a number of issues from this report that deserves the particular attention of the General Assembly:

First, and given its unique compositional structure, the Commission needs to capitalize on the wealth of experience and diverse capacities which its membership can offer in support of peacebuilding objectives for the countries on its agenda. This was a key conclusion of the 2010 review. During the reporting period, additional emphasis was placed on increasingly engaging the members from the region and sub-region in supporting the peacebuilding processes in the countries concerned. The turn of events in Guinea-Bissau and CAR over the past year, as well as the increasing focus of the African Union, through its new African Solidarity Initiative, on projecting “African solutions to Africa’s problems”, confirm that the PBC will gain greater credibility and effectiveness if its African members are fully engaged and supportive of the broader peacebuilding objectives that are being pursued by the Commission.

Second, the Commission continues to recognize that its membership structure should also reinforce the scope and modality of its advisory role to the United Nations principal organs. Progress in enhancing ownership and collective responsibility among its members should be first and foremost manifested in championing concrete and practical steps to bring key peacebuilding-related opportunities and challenges to the attention of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. I am

pleased to note that the reporting period witnessed significant progress in clarifying the scope and in identifying practical modalities in respect to the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council. At the same time, efforts aimed at achieving similar progress in relation to the General Assembly and to ECOSOC need to be further intensified.

Third, the Commission has embarked on an ambitious work programme focused on delivering on its three core functions through its engagement with Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Through its country-specific engagement, the Commission is constantly reminded that peacebuilding is not a linear process. It is rather a process fraught with challenges that are typically context-specific and that take various forms at different stages of the peacebuilding efforts. I would like to highlight the following points in relation to the three functions of the Commission:

- 1) The Commission's country-specific engagement over the past year confirmed that the advocacy and accompaniment function of the PBC depends first and foremost on the level of commitment demonstrated by national interlocutors and on the quality of the international response in support of such commitment. The Commission, therefore, promotes an approach of mutual accountability and commitments in its support for the peacebuilding processes in the countries on the agenda. Examples in this regard from Burundi and Liberia are presented in greater detail in the report that is before the Assembly.
- 2) The PBC is undertaking its resource mobilization function against the backdrop of realizing that it is not a fundraising mechanism. This is a statement based on lessons learned over eight years in operation. Instead and as an intergovernmental body, the PBC is best suited to help the countries develop and roll out national resource mobilization strategies for peacebuilding-related activities and programmes. The Commission has also projected itself as a platform to advocate for the timely deployment of targeted resources, especially in crises situations such as in the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau, or as countries approach critical milestones such as the elections which took

place in Guinea last years. The enhanced synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund has made these timely interventions possible.

- 3) Addressing the challenge of competing agendas and fragmentation of peacebuilding activities remains a central objective of the Commission. However, the PBC's function of forging coherence is being undertaken by promoting a greater focus on opportunities for peacebuilding, by pointing to strategic gaps in response to peacebuilding priorities, and by drawing the attention of key stakeholders, especially regional and sub-regional actors, to bottlenecks in the peacebuilding processes. The complementarity between the roles of the Commission and the United Nations senior leadership is a key factor for fostering coherence of messages and actions. This was increasingly manifested last year in the Commission's engagement in Burundi, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. President,

The transition from the security and politically focused United Nations missions to the more development-oriented UN Country Teams is a process which highlights the interlinkage between the PBC's three core functions. In 2013, the Commission positioned itself to support the draw-down of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) to a United Nations Country Team. In parallel to this plenary meeting, the Security Council is finalizing the decision on the closing down of UNIPSIL, thus ushering Sierra Leone onto a new phase of its transformation towards socio-economic development. The Commission will be engaged this year in support of another planned transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB). The Working Group on Lessons Learned will be dedicating its work in 2014 to identify areas where the PBC's three functions can be strategically and effectively deployed in support of this and future transitions in agenda countries.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the important contribution of women to peacebuilding, the Commission approached its thematic focus on economic revitalization and national reconciliation during the reporting period by examining the gender dimension of both themes. A partnership with UN-Women has enabled the Commission to explore, raise awareness of and draw lessons from the transformative role of women in post-conflict societies. A high-level event on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding was convened last September and was chaired by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia. The event resulted in a political declaration which affirmed the commitment of the Commission members to women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding. A meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned in December also reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming in planning, priority setting, design and delivery of national reconciliation processes.

Mr. President,

The Commission will convene its first ever annual substantive session on 23 June 2014 in order to enable closer interaction and engagement among the relevant stakeholders in New York, and on the ground, as well as from the capitals of Member States. The holding of the annual session can potentially strengthen the Commission's contribution to the development of inter-governmental policy and political support in areas which can improve outcomes for people in countries emerging from conflict.

In addition, the next reporting period, from 1 January to 31 December 2014, will mark the end of the second five-year review cycle for the peacebuilding architecture. As mandated by the General Assembly and the Security Council, a further comprehensive review in 2015 will be initiated by both organs. The 2015 review is expected to assess progress made in the implementation of key recommendations emanating from the 2010 review, and to take stock of remaining challenges. The Commission will initiate advance informal preparation where it will also identify areas of institutional and policy reforms

that can be readily put into practice through its country-specific engagement ahead of the 2015 review.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and that of Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng-Hopkins and her team, in support of the Commission's work and activities. The Office is increasingly drawing on and channelling the expertise and knowledge within and outside the UN system in support of the PBC's policy and country-specific activities.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I must emphasize the past year witnessed a number of positive and worrying developments which both call for further intensifying efforts to seize opportunities and address threats to sustaining peace. While we continue to face systemic challenges, we must commit to face these challenges with the requisite resolve and determination. We are approaching a crucial year in 2015, where we can collectively help shape the future socio-economic and peacebuilding agenda of the United Nations. These efforts must come together and must be mutually reinforcing.

Thank you, Mr. President