

Statement by

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

**at the Security Council Briefing on
Post-Conflict Peacebuilding**

15 July 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 deserve the particular attention of the Security Council:

First, the Commission continues to place particular emphasis on ways 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 engaging the members from the region and sub-region in support of the peacebuilding processes in Burundi, CAR and Guinea-Bissau. This will continue to be a major priority for the Commission.

Second, the Commission continues to recognize that its membership structure should also shape the nature and scope of its advisory role to the United Nations principal organs. I am pleased to note that, thanks to Rwanda's efforts and commitment over the past year, the reporting period witnessed significant progress in identifying practical modalities for informal interaction between the Commission and the Security Council. The evolving practice of aligning the Commission's calendar of field visits with the Council's periodic consideration of mission mandates have proven particularly useful. At the same time, there is room for further improvement. In view of the Commission's engagement in a variety of post-conflict contexts, there is a particular need for greater clarity in the Council of the Commission's areas of strengths and limitations in each specific context. The members of the Commission that are also members of the Security Council can play a central role in ensuring that the Council is able to draw more effectively on the Commission's unique membership structure and outreach.

Third, through its engagement with Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Commission is constantly reminded that peacebuilding is a process fraught with challenges that are typically context-specific. Our engagement, therefore, takes 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:

- a) The Commission's country-specific engagement over the past year confirmed that its accompaniment function 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, continues to advocate for mutual accountability and commitments between the countries on the agenda and their main partners.
- b) While it will continue to prioritize its resource mobilization function, the Commission has repeatedly confirmed that it is not a viable fundraising mechanism. Instead and as an intergovernmental body, the Commission provides a platform for highlighting the imperative for the timely deployment of targeted resources, especially in crisis 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 year and in Guinea-Bissau this year. The enhanced synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund has made these timely interventions possible.
- c) Addressing the challenge of competing agendas and fragmentation of peacebuilding activities remains a central objective of the Commission. The Commission undertakes its function of forging coherence by promoting greater focus on strategic opportunities that must be seized and by pointing to strategic gaps in response to peacebuilding priorities in the countries on its agenda. The complementarity between the roles of the Commission and the United Nations senior leadership in the field is a key factor for fostering coherence of messages and actions. This was increasingly manifested last year in the Commission's engagement with Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

Mr. President,

The transition from the security and politically focused United Nations missions to the development-oriented UN Country Teams highlights the interlinkage between the Commission's three core functions. In 2013, the Commission positioned itself to support the Security Council's decision to draw-down of, and subsequently close the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The transition of the UN presence to a UN Country Team has ushered Sierra Leone onto a new phase of its transformation towards socio-economic development. The Council has also requested the Commission to support of the planned transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), where the dynamics and needs are quite different from those that prevailed in Sierra Leone. The Working Group on Lessons Learned decided to dedicate its work in 2014 to identify areas where the Commission can effectively deploy the appropriate combination of its three core functions in support of transitions of Security Council mandated missions.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the important contribution of women to peacebuilding efforts, 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 the transformative role of women in post-conflict societies. A high-level event on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding was convened in September 2013 and was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia. The event resulted in a political declaration which affirmed the commitment of the Commission's members to women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding. A meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned in December 2013 also reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming in planning, priority setting, design and delivery of national reconciliation processes.

Mr. President,

The Commission convened its first ever annual substantive session on 23 June 2014. The decision to convene annual sessions was taken during the reporting period with a

view to potentially strengthen the Commission's contribution to the development of inter-governmental policy in areas which can improve outcomes for the people in countries emerging from conflict. The first annual session demonstrated the Commission's unique convening power of Member States, UN entities, International Financial Institutions, regional development banks and civil society. It also confirmed that the Commission is a unique platform for exploring the multidimensional nature of peacebuilding and the policy-related opportunities and challenges.

Mr. President,

This year will mark the end of the second five-year review cycle for the peacebuilding architecture. A second comprehensive review by the General Assembly and the Security Council will take place in 2015. The Commission has initiated advance informal preparation that currently explores the potential scope and the suggested Terms of Reference of the review. The outcome of this informal preparation will be transmitted to the General Assembly and to the Security Council in the context of the next annual report for consideration.

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 during the reporting period.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I must emphasize that 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