

*REPUBLIC OF RWANDA*



Statement by

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

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am pleased to present the report of the Commission on its fifth session.

Accompanying countries emerging from conflict on the path to sustainable peace and development continued to be at the core of the Commission's work in 2011. During the reporting period, the Commission responded to the request for advice and accompaniment from the Republic of Guinea, thus becoming the sixth country to be placed on the PBC agenda. This was the first time that such a request was directly submitted to the Commission from the Government concerned. Guinea is also the first country to be placed on the agenda where no full-fledged peacekeeping nor special political missions are mandated. Therefore, the decision taken by the Commission to respond positively to Guinea's request for advice marked a new phase in the evolution of the PBC by engaging with a country in a crucial political and socio-economic transition phase. Guinea also poses a significant challenge to the UN system to be able to recalibrate its presence in the country from the traditional humanitarian and development *modus operandi* to one which should be able to respond to the complexity and integrated nature of peacebuilding support. Only last week, the PBC undertook its first field visit to the country to assess progress in the implementation of the Statement of Mutual Commitments (SMC) adopted in September 2011 in the presence of President Alpha Condé.

In Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone, the PBC has adapted its engagement to critical processes and emerging priorities as these countries take additional steps towards peace consolidation. In Liberia, the PBC, the Government of Liberia and its regional and international partners began the implementation of the SMC and completed the first review of the progress in meeting the mutual commitments contained therein.

Generally, the Commission structured its support to these countries around three main tasks, namely: political accompaniment and advocacy, resource mobilization, and fostering coherence.

Mr. President,

The reporting period witnessed initial steps taken by the Commission to respond to the General Assembly's resolution A/65/7 of 29 October 2010 concerning the outcome of the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, or what is otherwise known as the 2010 Review. At the beginning of 2011, the Commission adopted a "Roadmap of Actions" which represented an implementation framework to take forward relevant recommendations emanating from the review, with special emphasis on enhancing the Commission's impact in the field, addressing key priorities for the countries on the agenda and enhancing partnerships with relevant UN and non-UN actors. The report placed before the General Assembly today contains a dedicated section describing the progress achieved towards the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 review.

Mr. President,

Having provided this brief overview, allow me to highlight only a few points from the report which deserve particular attention from the General Assembly:

First, the report underscores the activities undertaken by the Commission's various configurations to reach out to and engage a number of critical actors within and outside the UN. A significant step in this direction has been taken by the PBC Chairs' Group when it paid its first ever visit to the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, in November 2011. A key objective of the visit was to explore potential avenues for partnerships in the context of the Commission's resource mobilization and improving coherence. By deepening the collaboration between the Commission and the AfDB, there is now much better clarity on concrete areas where both institutions could jointly work in support of peacebuilding priorities in African countries on the Commission's agenda. These include resource mobilization and advocacy, policy dialogue on critical peacebuilding issues, joint work on youth employment in the countries on the PBC agenda, and possible complementarity with the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Subsequently, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the AfDB developed a workplan in order to take forward each of the aforementioned areas of collaboration in practical terms. This is a promising partnership for the PBC and the countries on its agenda, which

would enable the Commission and the PBF to play their respective catalytic roles for longer-term and targeted support to national peacebuilding efforts.

Second, the report refers to yet another crucial step taken by the Commission to fulfil its mandate in developing best practices in peacebuilding, by demonstrating its potential as a unique platform for knowledge and experience-sharing among the countries on its agenda and between those countries and other countries which have undergone similar experiences in post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.

To this end and on 8 and 9 November 2011, the Government of Rwanda together with the PBC and in collaboration with the African Development Bank organized a high-level meeting on “Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: the Experience of Rwanda” in Kigali. The meeting brought together the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, the Prime Minister of Cote d’Ivoire and other high-level dignitaries from the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, as well as Haiti, Timor Leste, South Sudan, senior officials from the African Union and the World Bank, members of the PBC Chairs’ Group and the PBSO.

The event represented an opportunity for frank and focused discussion on critical peacebuilding challenges, such as inclusive ownership and leadership; innovative approaches to nation-building and socio-economic development; and the strategic use of aid. PBSO and the African Development Bank are in consultations with the World Bank and the UN Civilian Capacity Review Team in order to explore practical steps to take forward the outcome of the Kigali High-Level meeting. There is real need to

nurture this type of cooperation in the area of peacebuilding among the countries of the South. The PBC is best suited to become such a political platform for cooperation, which could be considered, possibly further down the line, as one of various forms of engaging countries seeking the Commission's advice.

Third, while the Commission continued to pursue actions focused on enhancing its impact in the field, expanding its outreach and partnerships, and explore its unique role as a knowledge and experience-sharing platform, the report highlights efforts aimed at strengthening the Commission's relationship with key actors at the Headquarters, namely the United Nations principal organs and lead operational entities. However, there is certainly much room for deepening and diversifying these relationships. In this regard, it is crucial that the general membership consider ways to invest time and effort to engage in the activities and work of the PBC and draw on its tremendous potential to become a bridging mechanism between security and socio-economic development actors. The unique membership structure of the Commission drawing from the membership of the three principal organs, as well as top financial and troop contributing countries is yet to be fully utilized for the benefit of a more coherent and dynamic response to post-conflict situations. In view of the complex nature of peacebuilding involving multiple security, political and development actors, and in view of current pressure on financial resources, policies encouraging a "whole of government approach" and "UN system-wide coherence" are becoming more urgent today than ever before. I invite this august Assembly to reflect on its role in support of the cause of

peacebuilding by contributing to policy development in these two crucial areas.

Mr. President,

The most serious test that the UN is collectively facing is to muster the political will to develop adequate structures and policies which will ensure that it will remain relevant in the evolving global security and socio-economic development realities of our times. The new UN Peacebuilding Architecture, made up of the PBC, the PBF and the PBSO, could lead system-wide efforts in this regard. This will, however, can only materialize if the membership becomes more actively engaged in the work of the PBC, contribute to the PBF and support the PBSO in its convening role within the wider UN system.

I hope that today's debate could take us a step further towards realizing the full potentials of this new Architecture to deliver on the promises to respond to the needs to millions of peoples in the countries emerging from conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.