

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Statement by

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United Nations

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

Security Council debate

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(Check against delivery)

Madame President,
Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to present the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifth session.

We have come a long way to appreciate the imperative of complimenting the investment in peacemaking and peacekeeping with a long-term vision for sustainable peace. Today, we know that peacebuilding is more than a set of activities and tasks to be mandated, undertaken and reviewed. Peacebuilding is rather a “state of mind” - a “culture” in policy-making, planning, funding and implementation of activities in post-conflict settings. Today, we know that peacebuilding is a term used to describe the continuum which spans all efforts to lay the foundation for sustainable development and for resilient societies and institutions. Today, we have a platform which could help the UN and the international community to conceive such a long-term vision for peace and to sustain attention on critical priorities. Today, we have the PBC which we are yet to tap into its full potentials.

Madame President,

In the reporting period under review today, the PBC 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. 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. This is a country which has not emerged from an armed conflict, is not on the agenda of the Council and where no mandated mission is deployed. In Guinea, the PBC is up for a new challenge to accompany the country in a crucial political and socio-economic transition phase.

In the other five countries on the Commission's agenda, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the PBC has continued to accompany each country through different stages of and challenges facing the peacebuilding processes.

The reporting period also witnessed the Commission's initial effort to respond to the Security Council's resolution 1947 (2010) concerning the outcome of the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (2010 Review). At the beginning of the year, the Commission adopted a "Roadmap of Actions" as an implementation framework to take forward relevant recommendations emanating from the review, with special emphasis on enhancing the Commission's impact in the field.

Madame President,

Allow me to highlight only three elements from the annual report before us today:

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. In view of the complexity of peacebuilding

challenges and the multiplicity of actors, the need for coherence and partnerships can not be overemphasized. Building and strengthening “partnerships” with relevant actors has been identified as a key area of potential added value for the Commission. In this regard, the PBC devoted the majority of its efforts and time to engage with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), especially the World Bank and the African Development Bank. In the particular instance of the African Development Bank, the reporting period laid the foundation for deep and diverse partnership which promises to align the Commission’s and the bank’s engagement in the countries on the agenda.

Second, the Commission has an enormous capacity to promote knowledge and experience-sharing. To this end, the Government of Rwanda, together with the PBC and in collaboration with the African Development Bank hosted a high-level meeting on “Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: the Experience of Rwanda” in Kigali on 8 and 9 November 2011. The event represented an innovative effort by the Commission to serve as a platform for promoting experience sharing between the six countries on its agenda and other countries which have undergone peacebuilding and statebuilding processes. There is real need to nurture this type of cooperation among the countries of the South. The PBC is best suited to become a platform for such cooperation.

Third, the Commission has continued to prioritize the need for strengthening the interaction with - and its advisory role vis-à-vis- the principal organs of the United Nations. Briefings by the Chairs of the country configurations to the Security Council have become systematic

ahead of the Council's periodic considerations of the situations in and mandate involving the countries on the Commission's agenda. 2011 has also witnessed the introduction by the Council of the "informal interactive dialogues" on certain country situations.

The 2010 review has particularly highlighted the potentials for developing a dynamic linkage between the Commission and the Council. Fourteen out of the fifteen members of the Security Council are currently members of the PBC in its various configurations. The joint membership offers a natural interface which would facilitate the Council's drawing more pro-actively and regularly on the Commission's advice. I would like to echo the Secretary-General's point on the need for clarity from the Council regarding the specific areas for which the PBC's advice could be sought.

The reporting period also witnessed the continuing development of the Commission's relationship with ECOSOC. The jointly organized special event on the "Millennium Development Goals in Countries Emerging from Conflict" testified to the Commission's growing advocacy role for an integrated approach to peacebuilding, including through a well-deserved focus on the socio-economic dimension of peacebuilding.

Madame President,

There is need to empower the PBC to become the central UN platform for support to countries emerging from conflict and aspiring for sustained engagement as they undertake the arduous task of building national capacity and institutions. The challenge facing the Commission in

demonstrating its full potentials, however, is to ensure that its work in support of these countries is backed by a high degree of political commitment from the Member States and the Senior United Nations leadership. This is our shared responsibility and one that we are yet to shoulder with full commitment.

As noted by the Co-Facilitators of the 2010 review report, “the Review should become a wake-up call to strengthen the collective resolve to deal with peacebuilding in a more comprehensive and determined way”.

I hope that today’s debate, will take us a step further towards realizing the full potentials of the Commission.

Thank you, Madame President.