

Draft Statement by H.E Macharia Kamau, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Kenya AND Former Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission during the briefing of the Security Council on the PBC Annual Report on its 10th session: 19 June 2017

The President of the Security Council, H.E Mr Sacha Sergio Lorentty Soliz(Bolivia)

The Chairperson of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea)

Distinguished members of the Security Council

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

I am pleased to be here today to present the Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its tenth session, as contained in document A/71/768-S/2017/76. I congratulate you for ascending to the Presidency of the Council and commend you for the manner you have conducted its affairs.

Allow me to commend the Republic of Korea as Chair of the PBC at its 11th session, for his leadership, and all PBC members, including members of this Council for their continued commitment to the work of the Commission.

I also wish to thank you, Mr President, for your decision, to convene this morning the annual informal interactive dialogue between members of the Security Council and the PBC immediately after this briefing. We look forward to that informal exchange as an opportunity to further enhance the advisory role of the Commission to the Council.

Mr President,

I will now turn to the presentation of the Commission's annual report for its 10th session. 2016 was an important year for the PBC, marked by the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and by several activities the Commission undertook to implement those resolutions.

In April last year, General Assembly and Security Council not only reaffirmed the relevance of the PBC as an intergovernmental advisory body, but also stressed the Commission's importance in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and bringing sustained

international attention to sustaining peace, serving a bridge among the principal organs, and as a platform to bring together UN, Member States and a broad range of partners.

Allow me to highlight the following for the attention of the Security Council:

First, the Commission diversified its engagement and expressed its ability to be flexible in response to requests of the Member States. It convened a range of country-specific, regional and thematic discussions. The Commission's consideration of peacebuilding opportunities and challenges after the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, was well informed by a PBC Chair's team visit to the region which explored the sub-regional peacebuilding opportunities and challenges. Throughout, the Commission provided an important platform to address requests of Member States to discuss cross-border and sub-regional challenges and, at the same time, to improve coherence among various stakeholders. The Commission also benefited from expert briefings from DPA, DPKO and UNDP, evidence of a further step forward in the Commission's efforts to enhance coherent approach to peacebuilding .

Second, the value of the PBC rests in its ability to fully utilize its diverse membership to reinforce its bridging role among the principal organs and entities of the United Nations. We all agree that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, while acknowledging that development itself cannot guarantee peace, like peace alone cannot guarantee sustainable development. That is why, we worked with the General Assembly and ECOSOC, discussing possible synergies between peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development. When requested, we provided advice to the Security Council in a holistic manner for example in the case of Liberia and Guinea Bissau

Third, throughout the tenth session, the Commission also made important progress in building stronger relations with key partners, including international financial institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations, and other bodies within the UN system. The Chair engaged the African Union Peace and Security Council on issues of mutual interest and potential areas of future cooperation with the Commission as required in the twin resolutions. I urge the Commission to continue in that direction and to look for opportunities to strengthen its collaboration with Member States, civil society organizations and, where relevant the private sector.

Fourth, peacebuilding efforts require predictable and sustained resources. In this connection, in 2016 the Commission continued its efforts to strengthen the synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund. In the tenth session, we had several opportunities to build those synergies. The meeting on financing for peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan (October 2016) is only one example of how the Commission can provide a platform to PBF recipient countries to discuss the impact of the Fund in support of national peacebuilding efforts. I hope that Kyrgyzstan will be followed by other countries in actively seeking engagement with the PBC as a platform to share their Peacebuilding experience and success stories.

Fifth, the General Assembly and Security Council encouraged the PBC to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility. Following the adoption of the resolutions of April 2016, the Commission conducted a review of its rules of procedure and working methods with a view to, *inter alia*, examine possible forms of engagement of the Commission and enhance its advisory role, including by aligning its workplan to relevant Security Council meetings.

Mr President,

Beyond these five points, there is a lot more that the Commission did in 2016 to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through its country-specific activities, as indicated in the annual report. I am confident that, under the capable chairmanship of the Republic of Korea, the PBC will continue to evolve into an even more dynamic and important platform for the membership to engage on challenges and opportunities for building and sustaining peace.

In conclusion, allow me to thank ASG Fernandez-Taranco and his entire team at the Peacebuilding Support Office for their support throughout the tenth session and their dedication to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

I thank you.