

Draft Statement at PBC Chair hand-over, PBC meeting on March 9, 2015

Your Excellency Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC),

Your Excellency Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support;

Distinguished Ambassadors and delegations of the members of the Organizational Committee,

Distinguished representatives of the countries on the PBC agenda and those serving in the capacities as Vice-Chair, chairs of the PBC country configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned,

Let me begin by thanking all of you for electing Sweden as the new Chair of the PBC. We are humbled and excited to take on this important responsibility, and we will make every effort to honor your confidence and trust. *[Personal comment on just having landed in New York]*

I wish to first of all thank H.E Ambassador Patriota and his team for their tireless efforts to advance the UN peacebuilding agenda during 2014. Building on the impressive achievements of the very successful Brazilian Chairmanship, we look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the PBC, making real difference for the counties in need of our support.

As you all know, 2015 is an important year for the UN. In a number of pivotal high-level conferences on critical global challenges, the membership will be called upon to strengthen our multilateral response. 2015 is also a critical year for the UN peace and security architecture with both the peacebuilding review and the peace operations review. We must seize this opportunity and make sure that the UN is better equipped to meet the increasingly complex global security challenges. This includes better support for countries emerging from conflict, towards sustainable peace and development.

This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the PBC. This gives us reason to pause, to look back and to reflect. The original motivation for the creation of the PBC, as first laid out in the Secretary General's report "In Larger Freedom", was to more effectively address the challenge of helping countries transition from war to lasting peace, and to fill an institutional gap in the UN system, including by;

- 1) improving strategic planning for sustained peacebuilding,
- 2) supporting efforts to strengthen national institutions,
- 3) ensuring predictable and flexible funding,
- 4) improving coordination of the many international post-conflict activities,

- 5) and providing a forum in which the troop contributors, the bilateral development partners, regional actors and most importantly the country concerned, could come together to ensure greater coherence of support and extend the period of political attention.

This vision remains equally relevant today. And by working together we can take further steps during 2015 to realize this vision.

Excellencies,

The guiding principle for our Chairmanship will be how to make the biggest possible difference for the countries seeking our support. The PBC should continue to strengthen its convening role by bringing together all relevant actors.

Therefore, we want to work closely with all the country configurations, finding ways for the PBC OC to add further value to the country specific work. We want to listen carefully to the countries on the PBC agenda and to build on their best practices. We are also keen to engage with other countries emerging from conflict on how the PBC could provide relevant and flexible support to them.

Beyond this, and in line with the Forward Agenda set out in the Annual Report, we see four priorities for the next 6 months.

Firstly, the peacebuilding review. An impressive group of panelists have just started their work. We are looking forward to their findings that will provide important input to the intergovernmental process in the fall. As Chair of the PBC we intend to act as conveners, ensuring broad participation and buy-in to the review process. We will also seek to facilitate informal expert-level discussions on relevant topics that can provide further input to the review process.

Secondly, peacebuilding in Ebola recovery. The three most affected countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, are all on the PBC agenda. In August last year, the PBC helped draw international attention to the emerging crisis. In November, we held a meeting to initiate discussion on the post Ebola recovery and requested to the UN Secretary General to conduct an assessment on the impact of Ebola. Moving forward, the PBC will have an equally important role to play. First and foremost, as was also stated in the outcome document from the Brussels High Level Conference on Ebola, we need to make sure that peacebuilding-related priorities are addressed in the Ebola recovery efforts, including the need to accelerate support for institutional capacity building.

Thirdly, support for and coordination with regional organizations. We need to better integrate the perspectives of regional actors in our work, and not least the African Union. By drawing upon the work initiated by the chair last year, for example with the visit to Addis Ababa, we should deepen the dialogue with regional organizations to see how our different

comparative advantages can best be drawn upon. We should also look at ways to develop joint strategies as a way to forge closer and mutually reinforcing modes of cooperation. In doing this, we should specifically look at how to improve coordination and collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations in support for the countries on the PBC agenda.

Fourthly, financing for peacebuilding. The proposed theme for the Annual Session of 2015 is “Predictable financing for peacebuilding – breaking the silos”. This session should on one hand provide important input to the peacebuilding review process. But we are also hoping to build on the political momentum generated in view of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July, and that the findings from our annual meeting can have an impact also in the outcome from this Conference. In addition, and as a follow-up to the Annual Session in 2014, we are planning to organize a meeting with former President Mbeki to present the findings of the African Union High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows out of Africa.

Excellencies,

Sweden has for a long time been a strong supporter of UN peacebuilding efforts, both politically and financially. We have served as Country Configuration Chairs for Burundi and Liberia, and we are a top contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope to bring commitment and relevant experience from past engagement to the PBC Chairmanship. Foremost, we look forward to collaborating closely with all of you in enhancing the impact of UN’s peacebuilding in 2015.

I thank you.