

Statement by

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on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission

## Post-conflict peacebuilding

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Madam President,

I have the honour of addressing the Council on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission.

In its previous considerations of the Secretary-General's reports on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict and Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, the Security Council sought the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission as the Secretary-General embarked on the implementation of the recommendations contained in both reports. At the same time, the reports anticipated the completion of the 2010 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture which generated a number of important recommendations aimed at further strengthening the Commission's role and impact in the evolving United Nations peacebuilding agenda. The Council welcomed the Review and encouraged the implementation of relevant recommendations. In response, the PBC adopted an action oriented « Roadmap for Actions » focusing on reinforcing the Commission's impact in the field. Therefore and with an expanded agenda of six countries and with its ongoing efforts to adapt its tools of engagement with the countries on its agenda, the PBC is increasingly becoming a central political platform to promote a shared and coherent United Nations peacebuilding agenda.

Madam President,

From the Commission's particular experience of concrete peacebuilding work on the ground, I would like to highlight how the PBC's activities are complementary to the Security Council's work and how the Council can benefit from the Commission's *experience and advice* for the countries under its consideration and beyond.

- Being a creation of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and with some of its Members designated by the Economic and Social Council, the PBC has a unique convening power that allows it to bring together interested and committed Member States, as well as competent and relevant actors from inside and outside the UN system.

In the years since its inception, the PBC has been able to help build a knowledge base in matters of post-conflict peacebuilding, including on issues of interest to the SC, whether regarding the link between peacebuilding and peacekeeping, the preparation of elections in the countries on its agenda, or concerning issues of regional relevance such as the fight against organised crime and drugs in West Africa. In this regard, the country-specific configurations (CSCs) for Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone organised a joint meeting this June, together with UNODC, to deepen their knowledge of the problem and seek common solutions to a problem affecting all four countries. The PBC, especially through its country configurations in collaboration with the Working Group on Lessons Learned, stands ready to present more regular reports documenting its findings to the Council and to deepen discussions with the Council on issues on the Council's agenda, such as resolutions or statements regarding the PBC agenda countries that have a significant impact on the situation on the ground. Another way to deepen the relationship is to have the CSC Chairs participating in the Working Groups of the SC when dealing with the country concerned, such as the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

- The PBC is developing a body of experience with UN engagement in a range of settings with a variety of field presences, from full-fledged peacekeeping missions such as in Liberia to integrated peacebuilding offices such as in Sierra Leone or the Central African Republic to RC-led UN presence such as in Guinea: this engagement, and the lessons learned from it could be used to enhance policy processes that are also of direct interest to the Council. In addition to the follow-up of the 2009 Report by the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict, a similar reporting structure could also be applied to the Civilian Capacity Review, the DPKO and PBSO Early Peacebuilding Strategy or the follow-up to the 2011 World Development Report. The Chair of the Central African Republic configuration has written to USG Malcorra, suggesting to her to take the Central African Republic and other PBC agenda countries as pilot countries for the Civilian Capacity Review.
- The PBC can help to provide an integrated and holistic perspective for taking into account the interdependence between security and development as well as the social and economic situation on the ground in the countries on its agenda. It has the mandate and composition to address development issues in a country in transition, in particular when a peacekeeping mission withdraws. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as has often been affirmed in this Council, and as is reaffirmed in the DPKO and PBSO's new Early Peacebuilding Strategy, should not be seen as sequential activities. Peacebuilding activities are essential to establish the basis for sustainable peace and should start at the earliest stages of UN engagement, regardless of the form of the UN presence. Country-specific configurations are capable of providing continued, political attention to situations not constantly on the Council's agenda. In the case of Sierra Leone, the PBC played a supporting role with respect to monitoring the aftermath of the March 2009 violence and will be called upon again over the course of the coming year as the elections process moves forward. This is done in a spirit of partnership, national ownership and mutual accountability for results that permit the establishment of a relationship going beyond what the Council, with its very busy agenda, is able to sustain.

- By bridging the different points of the continuum between conflict, early recovery, transition and development, the PBC country-specific configurations can play an essential role for strategic coordination. With its mandate from the General Assembly and the Security Council, and given its composition and tools, the PBC can encourage and pursue coherence and coordination between the various actors of the UN system as well as bilateral actors, including on the ground, and to improve relations between headquarters and the field, all the while respecting the sovereignty and ownership of the process by the country concerned. In Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, known as “aid orphans”, the work of the PBC country-specific configuration has helped to increase the number of partners engaged with the country, both in terms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese speaking countries (CPLP) have, for example, developed a stronger cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, especially with regard to SSR and issues that require a regional approach, such as drug-trafficking. In the case of the Central African Republic, the World Bank, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) have deepened their cooperation with the Central African Republic. African countries have also stepped up their bilateral cooperation with Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic. In Sierra Leone, the PBC has explicitly aligned its work on the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the “Agenda for Change”. In Burundi, the PBC facilitated the timely support to the national authorities in the PRSP-2-process by providing an expert in order to ensure that strategic planning was done in a more “conflict-sensitive” manner.
- In addition to more coherence and harmonisation, the country-specific configurations are also playing an increasingly important role in terms of resource mobilisation. The Central African Republic configuration managed to mobilise resources for DDR and the elections; it organised a high-level event in the margins of the 2010 MDG summit with the World Bank and a Round Table in Brussels with the Central African Republic government and support from the World Bank, UNDP and the African Development Bank to raise awareness for the priorities in the draft second PRSP. In the case of Guinea-Bissau, the CSC has been providing enhanced support to the country in its efforts to address major economic imbalances, as well as advocacy for the recognition that Guinea-Bissau had reached the completion point of the HIPC initiative. The World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund have all taken steps to increase resources in key sectors. As the Chair of the Guinea configuration, I am working with partners on solutions to fund the retirement of some 4000 military personnel from the Guinean army to kick-start the Security Sector Reform that is a crucial element of Guinea’s peacebuilding agenda. But we have to recognize that we need to do more in terms of mobilization of partners and resources to increase the relevance of the PBC for the countries on its agenda. Efforts are being undertaken through the Working Group on Lessons Learned to pursue more effective resource mobilization and to improve coordination among various actors in order to achieve a more efficient engagement of the PBC.
- As mentioned earlier the PBC has started to build partnerships with regional and sub-regional bodies, most notably the African Regional Economic Communities: ECOWAS

in the context of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the East African Community in the context of Burundi or the ECCAS and CEMAC in the context of the Central African Republic. This also applies to IFIs like the African Development Bank which we will visit as the PBC Chairs' Group in Tunis at the beginning of November. We are happy to share the results of our consultations with these bodies with the SC or to contribute to deepening and strengthening the partnerships between the Council and these increasingly important regional actors.

- Finally, the PBC has a clear role in bringing about the conditions that allow for the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions, as well as the graduation of countries off of its own agenda. In new contexts, like Guinea, the PBC's work to accompany the process of consolidating peace and democracy is also a way to help the country to stay out of conflict and thus off the Security Council's agenda, and to contribute more broadly to the stabilization of the sub-region. In the context of Sierra Leone, the PBC will have an important role to play in ensuring that the United Nations' long and costly investment in the country is not subject to unnecessary political and financial shocks when UNIPSIL withdraws and the UN moves to an RC-led presence focusing on development. As foreseen by the founding Resolution 1645 (2005), the Security Council "*recommends* that the Commission terminate its consideration of a country-specific situation when foundations for sustainable peace and development are established or upon the request by national authorities of the country under consideration". In the context of Burundi, first discussions have begun on a further change in approach of the PBC engagement and on a path towards leaving the PBC agenda, although several members of the configuration think this would be premature. The ongoing visit of the Chair of the country configuration to Burundi will provide an opportunity to further pursue these discussions.

I thank you for your attention.