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FOR PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT**

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**REMARKS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON PEACEBUILDING**

**New York, 31 October 2011**

Madame President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I have the honour to update you on behalf of the Secretary-General on two peacebuilding agendas for action that stem from 1) the 2009 Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict including last year's progress report, and 2) the 2010 report on women's participation in peacebuilding. As requested by this Council last year, I am providing an oral briefing today, but next year we will prepare a written progress report.

Before I begin, I would like to pay tribute to this year's Nobel Peace Prize laureates: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkul Karmen of Yemen. We draw inspiration from them and echo the Nobel Committee's recognition of their *quote* non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work *Unquote*.

Madame President,

It's been two years since the issuance of the report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict. You will recall that the report's agenda aims at improving the UN system's support to national peacebuilding efforts in the critical first two years following the end of the main conflict and was developed with the understanding that a coordinated UN approach to peacebuilding is required given the multitude of actors who play a role in these efforts.

Let me start with the areas where progress has been made, beginning with our efforts to create more cohesive UN senior leadership teams and to respond more rapidly to leadership gaps. First of all, a collaborative approach is now in place that supports the eventual selection of complementary leadership teams. Secondly, since 2009 more than 20 senior UN officials have been surged to the field as temporary senior leaders in the immediate post conflict period. These arrangements have

become standard practice for DPA and DPKO, helping to minimize the loss of strategic momentum during critical periods.

The seamless leadership model used in Libya is also an example of good practice. The senior official leading the pre-assessment phase was subsequently appointed SRSG. This approach allowed SRSG Martin to hit the ground running and initiate the mission planning process, as he was already deeply familiar with the issues and national actors on the ground.

However, there are also extremely challenging crisis response and peacebuilding needs in countries that do not benefit from a Security Council-mandated mission. Relatively calm countries that suddenly become volatile require the same sense of urgency and attention and sometimes circumstances will require a quick adjustment to the UN leadership.

The 2009 report also emphasized the need to strengthen support for capacity development from the outset. This will be reflected in the upcoming review of the integrated mission planning guidelines in 2012 which will contain guidance on how to ensure that national perspectives and capacities are taken into account from the outset of each planning process.

[Predictable capacity]

We can also report progress in galvanizing the UN system and Member-States around the common goal of improved civilian expertise in

Peacebuilding operations. USG Susanna Malcorra has been leading and chairing a Steering Committee that oversees the system-wide follow-up to the Independent 2011 Civcap Report and the Secretary-General has prioritized its recommendations focusing on national capacity, partnerships, accountability and agility. One of the most urgent priorities is to explore modalities to broaden the scope for deploying personnel provided by Governments and other entities, particularly those from the Global South, so that specialized expertise can more easily be made available to UN field presences in key gap areas.

We are also continuing our internal efforts to clarify roles and responsibilities within the UN system for core peacebuilding functions.

Since 2009 the Secretary-General's Policy Committee has completed six reviews in the areas of (1) reintegration of refugees and IDPs, (2) security sector reform, (3) demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, (4) mine action, (5) mediation, and (6) electoral assistance.

These reviews have addressed some challenges, exposed others and set a forward agenda for additional work. They have also revealed that constructive and consistent engagement from Member States, including in how they mandate and fund us, is a sine qua non of effective delivery in the field.

Regarding partnership with the Bank, its 2011 World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development has created a new impetus for

collaboration. We are truly hopeful that the Bank's new fragile states hub in Nairobi will link up more effectively with the UN's peacebuilding efforts in the field, including in the countries on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission.

[Organized crime and drug trafficking and natural resource management]

The Secretary-General's 2010 progress report stressed the importance of two emerging peacebuilding issues: (1) organized crime and drug trafficking and (2) natural resources management.

Natural resources in fragile states are often powerful drivers of conflict not, unfortunately, of peace, prosperity, growth and job-creation. Let me in this respect mention that as part of the Peacebuilding Fund's Stakeholders Event on 22 November, my office will host a round table discussion with private sector representatives from the mining and minerals sector, post-conflict government representatives, NGO activists and other experts on ways to support the use of natural resources for economic recovery in post-conflict countries.

The other new issue on the agenda is drug trafficking and organized crime. This issue has risen to the peacebuilding agenda as it undermines peacebuilding efforts and poses a direct threat to security and stability.

This Council's recent discussions on Afghanistan, Somalia and West Africa reflect this alarming trend.

Earlier this year, the Secretary-General established a Transnational Organized Crime Task Force to bring the UN system's capacities together around this common concern. The West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) is one positive example of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the Department of Political Affairs working together to support ECOWAS and national governments' efforts in the region.

[Financing of peacebuilding]

The report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict also reinforced the importance of innovative approaches to funding for peacebuilding. In that regard, I am pleased that OECD countries are finalizing new guidelines for transition financing. In addition, the upcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, the Republic of Korea will discuss the usefulness of "transition compacts" as accountability tools among donors, conflict-affected states, and the United Nations.

The Peacebuilding Fund continues to demonstrate value-added, especially in responding very quickly to peacebuilding opportunities as they arise, with recent allocations to Kyrgyzstan, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, and South Sudan.

A word about the Peacebuilding Commission if I may Madame President. The very timely and relevant Review of the Peacebuilding architecture last

year has generated significant momentum which has reinvigorated the PBC's working methods and focused it on improving impact in the field. Work is also progressing in developing benchmarks or indicators for countries, when the time is right, to transition out of the PBC's agenda.

Madame President,

I will now turn to the Secretary-General's September 2010 report on women's participation in peacebuilding. I wish to highlight that the almost perfect working relationship between PBSO and UNWomen has made the preparation of this update almost effortless as it is in all our other joint endeavours.

As you will recall, the rationale behind this agenda is to ensure women are central to peacebuilding -- not merely to secure women's rights -- but because it is good peacebuilding practice. Quite simply: ignoring the role of women exposes us to a greater chance of failure.

This agenda focused on seven critical areas that, if implemented, would ensure that women have the opportunity to play a crucial role in making peace sustainable.

The first area of progress is in mediation and political dialogue; gender expertise is provided more systematically to on-going conflict resolution processes and through the inclusion of specialized gender expertise in mediation rosters.

Secondly, I am pleased to report that there is broad agreement among the United Nations, the European Union, and the World Bank of the importance of integrating gender into Post-Conflict Needs Assessments.

The third area of progress is in rule of law. Examples include the provision of legal support and referral services to women in Burundi, Central African Republic, Iraq and Somalia and mobile court systems in the DRC. With regard to sexual and gender-based violence, special courts have been established in Liberia, specialized expertise provided to commissions of inquiry in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya, and training to prevent and investigate sexual and gender-based crimes is being rolled out in Member States and in UN missions.

The PBF funded, UNDP-implemented project in Sierra Leone supporting an “All Political Parties Women’s Association” to increase solidarity among women across party lines and to encourage political coalitions around issues of interest to women is impressive and progressive. Unfortunately initiatives such as these are still rare. The UN’s electoral technical assistance includes a focus on assessing the potential application of temporary special measures or “quotas” for women in public office, and more will be done to improve women's representation.



I will now turn to areas where change needs to be accelerated. First, we need to do better in comprehensively engaging and targeting women in economic recovery efforts. We also need more women mediators in peace processes, including from the UN, which did not appoint any women special envoys or chief mediators last year.

Last, but not least, is our common commitment to allocate 15 percent of UN-managed peacebuilding funds to projects that further gender equality and women's empowerment as their principal objective. The Peacebuilding Fund is doing its part to catalyze more innovative approaches and recently launched a 5 million dollar Gender Promotion Initiative.

Madame President,

Let me reiterate that these two agendas for action in peacebuilding initiatives were devised as tools to improve our combined support to nationally-led efforts. The agenda for peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict is demonstrating promising impact on the ground. Of course, we cannot compare the UN to the private sector, but surely many of these initiatives are increasing our effectiveness and creating a more business-like approach.

History demonstrates that peacebuilding takes at least a generation to become truly sustainable. With these new tools and a culture shift in place, we may be able to help post-conflict countries beat the odds!  
Thank you Madame president.