



United Nations - Nations Unies

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Statement by the
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

at the Security Council Briefing on
Post-Conflict Peacebuilding
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Mr. President,

I thank the delegation of Chile in the exercise of the Presidency of the Security Council for inviting me to address the Council in my capacity as chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and for its commitment to advancing the Council's consideration of Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. I am pleased to recall that the first report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict was presented during your leadership of the PBC in 2009. The periodic reporting to the Security Council and the General Assembly on peacebuilding, which that first report initiated, offers an opportunity for Member States and the United Nations operational entities to assess the coherence and effectiveness of our efforts to prevent the outbreak of conflict and its recurrence, as well as to consolidate stability in post-conflict situations.

The release of the fourth report on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict and its consideration by the Council today is particularly significant coming with the launching of the ten-year review of the United Nations 'peacebuilding architecture'.

To this end, the Commission is pleased to note that the Security Council and the General Assembly decided on 15 December to endorse the Terms of Reference for the review and to formally initiate the process. As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the review will take the original vision and motivation behind the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) as its starting point. The exercise will critically assess the developments since 2005 in United Nations, global and regional peacebuilding-related approaches and practices. The review will further identify areas of progress and remaining gaps in international assistance to countries emerging from conflict. The Terms of Reference stipulate that the review will be grounded in specific country studies, which will be conducted in Burundi, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor Leste. This will help the Security Council and the General Assembly place the challenges, needs and aspirations of the countries emerging from conflict at the core of our future efforts. Adjustments and improvements resulting from the outcome of the review should aim at enabling the PBC, the PBF and the PBSO to realize their full potential and for the broader peacebuilding architecture to become more effective and relevant. It should also propose practical ways to strengthen and improve the Commission's working relationship with this Council.

The Commission also takes note of the Secretary-General's communication of the United Nations system's collective input to the review. This input signals the potential for joint ownership of the review's outcome by both Member States and operational entities of the United Nations. We should aim for greater coherence and complementarity between the United Nations' political and operational response to post-conflict situations, as well as improving the coherence in the overall international response. This is an imperative, which, unfortunately, continues to elude our collective efforts. The broad scope for the 2015 review points to Member States' acknowledgement that the political and operational components of a broader United Nations and global 'peacebuilding architecture' must work in synergy. Therefore, we welcome the Council's reiteration in the Presidential Statement prepared for adoption today that the analysis underpinning the 2015 review should also be undertaken in conjunction and synergy with the upcoming Secretary-General's review of peace operations.

Mr. President,

I strongly recommend to all a thorough reading of the Secretary General's report, which I found to be written in a particularly useful, informative and substantive manner.

The core messages presented in the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict are reflected in the Terms of Reference of the 2015 review. For instance, both documents point to the importance of further sharpening the tools at the disposal of the United Nations with a view to preventing relapse into violent conflict.

The crises in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Libya, as well as the risks posed by the Ebola crisis, remind us that our response must be multifaceted, carefully sequenced and sustained over the long term. Attention and support to nationally-owned and inclusive political, socio-economic development and institution-building processes should be prioritized.

In my intervention before the Council on 19 March 2014, I noted the centrality of building peace as a central objective of the United Nations' peace and security architecture. Despite its importance it is still not granted the sustained attention and commitment that is required by the international community to meet the complex and long-term challenges to sustainable peace. The Peacebuilding Fund provides catalytic funding in many situations, but this is insufficient to overcome the longer-term and larger scale gaps in financing and capacity that put our initial investments in peacemaking and peacekeeping at serious risks. Meanwhile, the PBC continues to focus its attention not only on the six countries on its agenda, but also on cross-cutting issues such as illicit financial flows, resource mobilization, gender, and food security. The PBSO remains a valuable source of expertise and support for our work.

The recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa has demonstrated frailty of peacebuilding gains and slow pace of institutional strengthening in the aftermath of conflict where investment in national and local institutions is insufficient. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to undertake a serious and multifaceted assessment of the long-term implications of the Ebola crisis on political and security institutions, as well as on social cohesion and economic recovery in the three affected countries. Through this assessment, the Commission hopes to draw the international community's attention to the nature of the challenges facing countries emerging from conflict, especially when their nascent institutions and recovering societies and economies are confronted with unexpected shocks. The Commission also hopes that the outcome of the assessment will shed light on the scope of technical, financial and political support required for these countries to ensure their continued progress and resilience.

Let me share with you an informal conversation that I had with the Special Envoy and Head of the UNMEER David Nabarro on the situation in the 3 most affected countries - that happen to be on the agenda of the PBC - and according to whom the impact of the outbreak would have been even more devastating if it was not for the work that the Commission had undertaken in the past years. Allow me also to remind Security Council members that a first early-warning of the peace and security implications of the epidemic was made through a statement issued by the PBC in August 2014, thereby illustrating the preventive role played by the Commission.

The drawdown of Security Council mandated missions represents a milestone that brings to light the challenges of long term peace consolidation in countries emerging from conflict. Adequate transition from emergency to development remains essential, but still to a great extent, an ideal fraught with challenges. The change in the nature of the United Nations presence and mandate on the ground in Burundi and Sierra Leone, and soon in Liberia, calls for calibrated, yet sustained, attention to ongoing political and socio-economic challenges associated with nascent national institutions, governance practices and development. On this topic, I strongly recommend the useful report recently issued by the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned which can be found on the Commission's website.

Security Council mandates have increasingly emphasized the necessity to provide appropriate support to the governments of countries emerging from conflict to establish sustainable peace . Early investment in peacebuilding activities, including security sector and justice reform as well as socio-economic development, is a necessary complement to political and security focused mandates. As the Secretary-General's report makes clear however, there continues to be serious gaps in the implementation of these aspects of Security Council mandated missions. Greater financial and technical support for peacebuilding in collaboration with international financial institutions regional and sub-regional organizations is necessary for the fulfillment of these ambitions.

Mr. President,

Securing predictable and sustainable financing continues to be a major challenge for countries emerging from conflict, limiting the provision of basic services, economic opportunities and the rebuilding of state institutions. At the same time, these countries are most affected by illicit financial flows and by unbalanced contractual arrangements for the exploitation of their natural wealth. The Commission made this particular challenge a priority in 2014. There are obvious gaps in international mechanisms to ensure timely, targeted and sustained support for countries emerging from conflict in the area of domestic resource mobilization, including curbing illicit financial flows and negotiating of fair and balanced natural resources contracts. The Commission will continue to support regional and national efforts aimed at catalyzing greater international commitment to address this challenge. Let me call attention to the forthcoming report to be issued soon under the authority of the High-level Panel chaired by former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki that will be of special interest in this regard.

Finally, the Commission wishes to underscore the importance that we must continue to attach to the contribution of women to building and sustaining peace. While they endure the tragic consequences of violent conflicts, women are also strategic agents for transformation and emancipation in post-conflict societies. In this regard, the Commission is of the view that women's empowerment greatly contributes to enhancing inclusivity and cohesion in post-conflict situations.

Mr. President,

Our collective understanding of post-conflict peacebuilding has continued to evolve over the past few years. Perhaps many of us, Member States and operational entities, tend to define “peacebuilding” in terms of certain mandated tasks or programmatic activities. But, experience generated through years of engagement with countries at different stages of their post-conflict struggle confirm otherwise. Peacebuilding is indeed the political framework within which many of the mandates and activities must be conceived, sequenced and implemented. It rests on a delicate balance between state-centric and people-centered approaches to rebuilding institutions, strengthening social cohesion and to re-generating a sense of inclusive and nationally owned vision of the country’s future. As noted by the Deputy Secretary-General, peacebuilding is at the core of the United Nations’ ambitions in countries affected by conflict. The main conclusions from the Secretary-General’s report before us today offer us a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to the peoples in the countries emerging from conflict who struggle to chart a new course towards a better future.

Thank you, Mr. President.