

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Ambassador and  
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, in his capacity as the  
Former Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission to The General Assembly  
24 July 2023, 10 am  
Trusteeship Council Chamber**

**Mr. President,**

I thank you for convening this meeting today. In my capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for its sixteenth session, I am pleased to brief the Assembly on the work of the Commission through February 2022 to January 2023.

At the outset I wish to express my appreciations to the fellow Vice Chairs – the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Dominican Republic – for their support and contributions to the Commission’s work during the reporting period. I also thank the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Morocco, Sweden and Switzerland for their able stewardship of the work of the Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic, Liberia and Burundi configurations, respectively. During the reporting year the mandate of the Burundi configuration concluded successfully.

My most sincere appreciations to all the members of the Commission for their active and fruitful engagements throughout the year and for supporting my delegation to effectively realize the ambitious agenda that we collectively set for the Commission during the 16<sup>th</sup> Session. I wish to also acknowledge the excellent secretarial support we received from the Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar and her team at the PBSO for which I remain most grateful.

**Mr. President,**

The Commission had a reasonably high workload during its Sixteenth Session. Many countries who engage with the Peacebuilding Commission continued to seek more opportunities for partnership to overcome the lapses caused by the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences. The Commission also received requests for engagements at the country and regional level in various thematic areas of the Commission's programme of work, such as, institution building, women peace and security and climate change, among others.

Early in 2022, the Commission adopted a forward-looking and ambitious annual work plan. Aimed to be guided by feedback and requests from the countries who seek the Commission's support, the work plan focused on national ownership and inclusivity. It also considered relevant recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda as they pertained to the requests received from countries and regions who engage with the Commission.

All in all, the Commission held 27 Ambassadorial level meetings during its 16<sup>th</sup> session which included meetings on 14 separate country- and region-specific settings and other thematic priorities.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to highlight briefly on some key activities and achievements of the Commission during its sixteenth session:

**First,** the Commission has successfully enhanced its advisory, bridging and convening role in 2022. The Commission managed to send 17 advisories to the Security Council in 2022, almost double in number, compared to the previous session. Pursuant to the agreement, the annual work plan of the Commission was, for the first time, formally shared with the General Assembly and the Security Council. Also, for the first time, the Commission started receiving the advance copies of SG's reports to the Security Council on some countries, regions and issues considered by the PBC which has enabled the members of the Commission to come up with more practical suggestions in its advisories. The Commission has also enhanced the engagements with General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

The Commission's engagements with these three principal organs of the UN resulted into total 65 outcome documents, which paved ways for the UN, the member States and other partners to calibrate their support mechanism for the countries in need.

**Second,** as planned, the Commission broadened its areas of engagements in more geographic settings. In 2022, the members of the Commission, for the first time heard and engaged with Timor-Leste and South Sudan in country-specific setting and with Central Asian countries in a regional setting. Commission's engagements with Pacific Island countries continued in 2022.

**Third,** the Commission pursued its cross-cutting and thematic engagements through dedicated meetings and within the framework of country-specific and regional discussions.

Throughout 2022, guided by its gender strategy, and its action plan, the Commission continued to prioritize women and peace and security objectives and to enhance the

full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. For example, the Commission heard from the women of the Central Asian region regarding the negative impact of climate change on women. A dedicated meeting was convened on Women, Peace and Security to explore complementarity of the roles of uniformed women peacekeepers and women peacebuilders. The rate of participation of women peacebuilders in Commission meetings continued to grow, reaching 87.5 per cent in 2022, a notable increase from 22 per cent in 2019 and 74 per cent in 2021.

In addition to holding a dedicated thematic meeting on youth and peace and security, the Commission continued its advocacy to support the critical role of young people and youth organizations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Commission also saw a rise in its engagements with civil society representatives last year. In 2022, 27 civil society representatives participated in the meetings of the Commission.

The Pacific Island countries used the PBC's platform to raise awareness on the negative impacts of climate change on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Commission had also a meeting on the New Agenda for Peace where the member States discussed ideas for shaping the Secretary-General's policy brief on the Agenda and explored potential role of the Peacebuilding Commission in its realization.

**Fourth**, in 2022, the Commission strengthened its role in promoting the system-wide coherence of the United Nations, bringing together a broad range of United

Nations entities at the field and Headquarters levels. In addition to holding a dedicated joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council on United Nations coherence, the Commission engaged with FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, demonstrating that the Commission continues to strengthen its outreach to a wide range of humanitarian, development and peace actors. The Commission continued to hear from representatives in the field, especially peacekeeping operations, special political missions and other United Nations political presences, who accounted for 24 per cent of all United Nations briefers at its meetings. Meanwhile, representatives of United Nations country teams accounted for 15 per cent of all United Nations briefers at the Commission's meetings in 2022.

**Fifth,** Partnership remained a high priority for the Commission in 2022. The annual session of the Commission was focused on partnerships with regional development banks. The Commission was briefed by representatives of regional banks on their respective strategies and approaches. It was first ever meeting of the Commission dedicated to the participation of regional development banks. In addition to dedicating the theme of its annual session to the topic, throughout 2022, the Commission continued to strengthen its engagement with partners outside the Organization, including international and regional financial institutions.

In addition to the joint meeting of PBC and AU-PSC held on 28 November 2022, the Commission had good engagements with African Union throughout the sixteenth session.

**Sixth,** the issue of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding has been at the peak of its momentum last year. Building on the work of the previous sessions, the Commission continued dialogue on this issue,

especially in the lead up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding financing. The Commission issued its advice to the General Assembly calling for an action-oriented outcome and to consider all options for enhanced financing for peacebuilding, including voluntary, assessed and innovative financing. This was reflected in the landmark resolution 76/305 on financing for peacebuilding, which was adopted later in September 2022. In addition, throughout the year, the Commission underscored the Peacebuilding Fund's contribution in supporting national peacebuilding priorities of the member states.

**Mr. President,**

The Peacebuilding Commission has come a long way since its inception in 2005 and through its demand-driven and inclusive approach it has gained trust and confidence across stakeholders. As we engage and strive to strengthen multilateralism to advance solutions to the problems of our present and future generations, the Peacebuilding Commission holds tremendous potential to become an effective actor to complement the efforts and the capacity of the international community to build and sustain peace.

I thank you, Mr. President.