



United Nations - Nations Unies

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Presentation by the

**Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission**

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Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

To the

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**Mr. Vice President and distinguished colleagues,**

On behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am pleased to follow the footsteps of my predecessors who briefed the Economic and Social Council's substantive sessions over the past three years. This annual occasion for the PBC Chairperson to brief the ECOSOC testifies to the linkage between peacebuilding and socio-economic development. ECOSOC can play an important role in ensuring that socio-economic development remains at the centre of the international community's support to and engagement with countries emerging from conflict. I believe that a strong partnership between ECOSOC and PBC represents a crucial step to ensure a coherent and coordinated support to post-conflict countries.

On 4 June 2012, ECOSOC and PBC organized their 4<sup>th</sup> joint event to address critical challenges faced by countries emerging from conflict. The theme of this year's joint event was *Partnerships for job creation for young people in countries emerging from conflict*. The discussions which took place at the event affirmed the need for a common approach to job creation in countries emerging from conflict. The role of youth and job creation in post-conflict situations have been identified in many countries on the PBC agenda as a key priority which needs to be addressed, if peace is to be sustainable and if foundations for sound economic growth and development is to be achieved. I trust that this will continue to be an area where the partnership between the PBC and ECOSOC will continue to be highly needed and appreciated.

**Mr. Vice President and distinguished colleagues,**

Since the conclusion of the 2010 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, and through the adoption of roadmaps for actions in 2011 and in 2012, the PBC has taken important steps to implement key recommendations of the Review. In particular, it has focused on improving its relations with the UN principle organs, enhancing coordination, and improving its working methods. Such focus was conceived with a view to enhancing the Commission's impact in the field. To this end, the Commission is working towards improving its role in resource mobilization, building partnerships, and in supporting national ownership and capacity-building.

Earlier this month, the Organizational Committee of the Commission had a very useful interaction with Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet and Chair of the Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities, on the role that the PBC can play in preparation for and implementation of the upcoming progress report of the Secretary-General on the Civilian Capacity.

**Mr. President and distinguished colleagues,**

The success of the Commission will continue to be measured by its contribution to the success of national peacebuilding processes. In this regard, the Commission's engagement with the six countries on its agenda, Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, will continue to define all our efforts. In this regard, I must recognize the work undertaken by the Chairs and the members of the six country configurations.

Now, please allow me to share with the Council a short synopsis of our country-specific engagement.

**Burundi:**

Over the last 12 months, the Burundi Configuration continued its discussions with the Government of Burundi on their future engagement, through the review of the “Outcome Document” that was adopted in April 2011. The review of the “Outcome Document” was formally adopted by the Commission last week, on 18 July. At the same time, the second poverty reduction strategy paper, PRSP-II, has been completed by the Government of Burundi in cooperation with its partners. The PBC’s focus, going forward, will be to help the Government of Burundi mobilize resources to address the peacebuilding priorities identified in the PRPS II. A donor event will be convened in Geneva this fall to generate the much needed engagement from Burundi’s partners.

**Central African Republic:**

In November 2011, the CAR Configuration finalized the second review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic and adopted its conclusions and recommendations. Since then, it focused its attention on building support for the country’s DDR programme which, after many delays, was showing signs of picking up momentum again. The Configuration also continued its deliberations on the nature and scope of the new instrument of engagement, to succeed to the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, which had expired at the end of 2011. At the same time, the PBC will continue to support CAR mobilize resources for the peacebuilding priorities incorporated in the most recently finalized and revised second Poverty Reduction Strategy.

**Guinea:**

Guinea, on the agenda of the PBC since February 2011, is the most recent addition to the PBC’s agenda on the basis of a request from the Government of President Alpha Condé. Last September, the Configuration adopted the instrument of engagement between the Commission and the Government of Guinea. The Statement of Mutual Commitments reflects the three peacebuilding priorities identified by the Government of Guinea as the basis for its engagement with the PBC, namely: i) Promotion of national reconciliation and unity; ii) Security and defence sector reform; iii) Youth and women’s employment policy. On 6 June 2012, the Configuration completed the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments and adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations. With the support of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, the Configuration is conducting mapping of resource flows and actors in Guinea. The Mapping exercise represents a practical approach to resource mobilization and should also feed into enhancing the Government’s capacity to develop an effective national aid coordination and management system.

**Guinea-Bissau:**

In the first months of 2012, there were a number of events in Guinea-Bissau that greatly influenced the work of the Configuration. On 9 January President Malam Bacai Sanhá passed away, making it necessary for the Government of Guinea-Bissau (GoGB) to focus on the organization of anticipated presidential elections. Consequently, CSC’s focus was driven towards providing immediate financial support to the electoral process, an objective that was successfully

achieved. All these efforts were eventually stalled following the 12 April coup d'état. Since then the PBC has been striving to facilitate dialogue and coordination among the main international partners of Guinea-Bissau, with a view to support the restoration of constitutional order in the country.

### **Liberia:**

In its first year of engagement with Liberia, the Commission drew on a range of expertise to become conversant with the conflict, history and culture of the country as well as the technical aspects of the three peacebuilding priorities: rule of law, security sector reform and national reconciliation.

On the 20 April 2012, H.E. Mr. Staffan Tillander of Sweden was elected as the new chair for the Liberia Configuration. Under his chairmanship, on 9 May 2012 the Configuration adopted the first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments (SMC). The Outcome Document reports on the progress made by both the Government of Liberia and the PBC as per their commitments in the SMC. Through the linkages of key strategic documents, the Liberia Configurations' plans for resource mobilization are well aligned with Government priorities in the three agreed upon peacebuilding sectors – Security Sector Reform (SSR), Rule of Law (RoL) and National Reconciliation. A draft “Resource Mobilization Strategy & Work Plan” for the Configuration is being finalized. In addition, the alignment of the SMC with the activities of the UN has greatly facilitated a cohered approach by the PBC with that of the UN. UN departments, funds and programmes contributed to the finalization of the SMC shaping both the commitments and deliverable targets for measuring progress towards realizing each commitment. These targets closely mirror those of UN's indicators, namely UNMIL's benchmarks.

### **Sierra Leone:**

The Configuration continued its engagement with Sierra Leone on the basis of the peacebuilding elements of the Agenda for Change of the Government of Sierra Leone, namely: good governance and the rule of law; youth employment; and combating drug trafficking, with gender and regional perspectives as cross-cutting issues. The Commission is now focusing its attention on the preparations for the 2012 elections by providing briefings, highlighting challenges and conveying to the Government and the political parties the expectations of the international community. In parallel, it is also focusing on drug-trafficking and organized crime in the region, particularly by establishing a stronger working relationship with ECOWAS and supporting implementation of WACI programme (along with Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia Configurations).

### **Mr. President,**

Let me conclude by reminding that as an intergovernmental body that is dedicated to addressing the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, the PBC is working hard to promote a comprehensive approach to sustainable peace. As I noted in a most recent debate at the Security Council, however, the Commission's unique membership structure suggested that such a comprehensive approach will be generated through engagement of and commitment from a broad range of the most relevant global actors. These actors include the PBC's own members that are drawn from the membership of the three principal organs, as well as drawn from the top

financial and the top troop and police contributors to the UN. Therefore, we count on the members of ECOSOC that are members of the PBC to guide us towards deepening our partnership with the Council. One such area will naturally be the Council's role in guiding better coherence and integration of efforts by all UN operational and development actors on the ground. We should also draw on our common interest of involving non-traditional actors, most importantly philanthropic organizations, foundations and private sector.

I hope that the year ahead could mark concrete steps in this direction.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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