

*REPUBLIC OF RWANDA*



Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Eugène-Richard GASANA**

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to  
the United Nations

On the Occasion of his Election as Chairman of the  
Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

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- **Ambassador Peter WITTIG, outgoing Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC);**
- **Distinguished Vice-Chairpersons of the Peacebuilding Commission;**
- **Distinguished Chairpersons of Country Specific Configurations;**
- **Mrs. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General Peacebuilding Support Office;**
- **Distinguished Permanent Representatives of Member States of the Peacebuilding Commission;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me, at the outset, express my deep gratitude to all of you for electing me as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for the year 2011. I am humbled by the confidence you have placed in me and intend to strive to meet and, with your support, surpass your expectations of this body.

Allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to thank my friend, Ambassador Peter WITTIG of Germany, for his leadership over the last year and for his outstanding work at the helm of the PBC. Let me also congratulate all the former Chairs of the Commission since its inception, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile, Yukio Takasu of Japan and Ismael Gaspar Martins of Angola, for the foundations they have laid for effective peacebuilding activities within the United Nations, through the work of a new and ambitious institution like the PBC.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The year 2010 was a crucial year for PBC. After five years of existence, the “*Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture*” was completed last year, and I thank the co-facilitators, Ambassador Anne Anderson of Ireland, Claude Heller of Mexico and Baso Sangqu of South Africa, for a job well done.

The co-facilitators, after extensive consultations, carried out a comprehensive review of our peacebuilding architecture and proposed relevant recommendations aimed at strengthening the role of PBC in the United Nations system. As Chairman of this Commission, I will work with all of you, Members of the Commission, to take forward these recommendations, as required by General Assembly Resolution 65/7 and Security Council Resolution 1947.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The PBC has undeniably transformed our vision of conflict resolution. It is now accepted that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are two sides of the same coin. In this regard, the PBC and its Country Specific Configurations have achieved a lot in the countries on its agenda. I welcome the recent establishment of a sixth country specific configuration on Liberia, and thank the Chairpersons of all configurations for their efforts to consolidate peace and restore hope for nations emerging from conflicts.

My ambition as chair is to give a new impetus to the Peacebuilding Commission, building on the commendable progress achieved by my predecessors and on relevant recommendations proposed by the co-facilitators of the Review of the UN peacebuilding architecture.

After five years of existence, the PBC is now entering a new phase, where it is called upon to be more efficient, more ambitious and more visible. My vision as Chair is to ensure that the Commission achieves a real impact for populations in a larger number of post-conflict countries, helping women and men to rebuild their societies.

To achieve this goal, I propose the following priorities:

First and foremost, **effective national ownership**. This is now agreed as a key principle for effective peacebuilding. Peace will only be sustainable if consolidated by national institutions and other national actors of affected countries, who are better placed to understand the root causes of the conflicts affecting them and identifying the appropriate solutions to avoid relapse into conflict. Despite the specificity of every post-conflict situation, we should make sure to include, in every post-conflict reconstruction, all political forces, civil society and most importantly, women, who are the main victims in these conflicts.

The PBC will ensure that ownership starts from design and planning of peacebuilding strategies through implementation on the ground. This requires building the capacity of national administrations, including through South-South cooperation. In this regard, we shall use expertise coming from best practices and success-stories in peacebuilding, for the benefit of other countries.

I look forward to discussing with you the recommendations of the review of the international civilian capacity, to be completed in the upcoming weeks, and on the way forward.

Secondly, **innovation in resource mobilization**. Financing is a crucial element of post-conflict reconstruction. In this regard, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) plays an important role and we would call for renewed commitments from contributors to the PBF and encourage new contributors to support the work of the PBC. There is however a need to actively explore other innovative ways of mobilizing resources, particularly by engaging the private sector and foundations.

Third, **encouraging broader engagement by more post-conflict countries**. As proposed by the co-facilitators, a lighter form of engagement with the PBC, on an ad hoc basis, should be considered, in order to attract more potential candidates reluctant to engage in a fully-fledged country specific configuration.

Fourth, **coordinated regional and international partnership**. Cohesion of the international support for peacebuilding requires greater coherence and coordination between the PBC, through its Country Specific Configurations, various United Nations agencies operating in the field, the World Bank and other international actors. The PBC must play a central role in promoting coherence and partnership, with a view to simplifying international support mechanisms for peacebuilding and making it more effective for the affected populations.

Regional organizations play an increasingly role in resolving conflicts and peacebuilding. For example, the African Union has established, over the past five years, a Policy Framework for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), which serves as a framework for the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) to carry out its mission of peace building and post-conflict reconstruction. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) also has the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); not to mention various initiatives under the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

I therefore pledge to carry out more consultations with Regions, especially through the existing annual meetings between the UN Security Council

and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and any other consultative mechanism.

[French]

Cinquièmement, Mesdames et Messieurs, **une Commission plus visible.** Comme cela a été soulevé dans l'Examen des co-facilitateurs, la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix (CCP) souffre d'un déficit de notoriété. Il convient dès lors d'améliorer sa visibilité dans le monde, notamment par la nomination d'Ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, qu'il s'agisse de personnalités politiques ou artistiques, ou par la création d'un groupe de travail de plaidoyer et de sensibilisation. Notre visibilité sera aussi accrue par la qualité des résultats et l'impact de notre travail.

Sixièmement, **une consultation plus régulière entre la CCP et les autres organes des Nations Unies.** Ici, j'appelle de mes vœux à ce que la Commission soit plus régulièrement consultée par le Conseil de Sécurité, et que cette consultation ait lieu en amont, avant que des décisions sur des opérations de maintien de la paix ne soient prises. Plus d'interaction entre la CCP d'une part et l'Assemblée Générale et l'ECOSOC, d'autre part, est également l'un de mes objectifs, afin que les Etats-Membres puissent suivre plus régulièrement le travail de la Commission.

Enfin, **une meilleure prise en compte des meilleures expériences.** Le Groupe de Travail sur les leçons apprises, de même que les formations spécifiques à un pays, jouent un rôle important à cet égard. Le rôle de la CCP sera de donner une orientation générale aux discussions du Groupe de Travail, pour qu'il se concentre sur des thèmes précis, pertinents, susceptibles d'enrichir le travail de la CCP et des formations pays, ainsi que guider la préparation de formations futures.

Pour réaliser cette vision, il est évident que cela requiert un renforcement du rôle du Bureau d'Appui à la Consolidation de la Paix (PBSO), une meilleure collaboration entre le Bureau et la CCP et un réexamen de sa structure administrative, avec comme objectif, un nombre de postes permanents à la hauteur de sa mission d'appui à la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix. Je profite de cette occasion pour rendre un hommage appuyé à Madame Judy CHENG-HOPKINS, Sous-Secrétaire Générale à l'Appui et à la Consolidation de la Paix, qui dirige avec brio le PBSO, malgré des ressources humaines insuffisantes. Je suis convaincu

qu'elle et moi aurons d'excellentes relations de travail et qu'ensemble nous guideront et apporteront l'appui politique nécessaire aux différentes structures de la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix.

**Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Je ne finirais pas sans vous réitérer mes remerciements. Cette élection signifie beaucoup pour mon pays, le Rwanda, qui a connu, comme vous le savez, l'un des pires conflits du siècle passé, mais qui a malgré tout réussi, de façon méthodique, sur la voie de la réconciliation, de la reconstruction et du développement. Cela est le fruit d'une appropriation nationale de notre destin, avec l'appui de la communauté internationale.

Mon pays étant maintenant tourné vers l'avenir, entend manifester sa solidarité avec des pays post-conflit en partageant son expérience. C'est pour cela que le Rwanda s'est notamment engagé dans des missions onusiennes de maintien de la paix, dont l'une des composantes essentielles est évidemment la consolidation de la paix.

Ma présidence s'inscrira donc dans la continuité de ce partage d'expérience, et je m'engage également à m'appuyer sur l'expertise et l'expérience de vous tous, chers collègues, afin de bâtir tous ensemble une Commission de la Consolidation de la Paix qui corresponde aux espoirs placés en elle à sa création.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.