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**PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

Formal Meeting of the Organizational  
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Statement by the

**Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

**H.E. Abulkalam Abdul Momen**  
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United  
Nations

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**Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,**

**Ambassador Ranko Vilotić, Chairperson-elect of the PBC,**

**Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support,**

**We have come to the end of the sixth session of the Peacebuilding Commission.**

**A year ago, this Committee entrusted me with the responsibility to lead the Commission's continuing efforts of institutional consolidation and building collaboration aimed at enhancing its relevance, value-added and impact.**

**We are pleased to let you know that we have developed better rapport with the UN Security Council and our interactive dialogue with the Council was very helpful. We continued our dialogue and discussion with the World Bank and the African Union and tried to solidify our relationship with regional banks, like the African Development Bank (AfDB), which my predecessor had initiated. We also initiated our first ever coordination meeting with the SRSGs/ERSGs and with the Advisory Bureau of the PBF and to enhance and re-energize political commitment to PBC, our High-level Meeting that we organized last September was a success. However, although we have done our homework to engage private sector and philanthropic or such other organizations, we could not engage them effectively yet on the ground. We leave this for our new Committee. My experience as PBC Chair although challenging but with the support and commitment of CSC Chairs, Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, support of representatives of the PBC agenda countries, members of this Committee and the PBSO was truly rewarding. I am thankful to all of you.**

**Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

**We have just adopted a report on the Commission's work this year. The report, in its new format and orientation, not only testifies to the continuing learning process that the Commission is undergoing, it also confirms that the Commission is capable of adapting to lessons learned. There continues to be one objective in mind, namely to respond to the needs and expectations of the countries on the agenda.**

**In 2012, the Commission has yet again embarked on an ambitious work program across its various configurations. I had the privilege to work with dedicated colleagues in the Chairs' Group to ensure that our individual efforts are guided by the Commission's continuing commitment to take forward relevant recommendations from the 2010 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The Roadmap of Actions in 2012 has served as the basis for such efforts.**

**To this end, 2012 was a year when the question of the collective responsibility and commitment of the membership has taken centre stage. I must say that while we collectively managed to instill some sense of urgency to this topic, the task of translating such commitment into concrete actions and contributions remains unfulfilled. I take pride in the fact that the Committee has decided to prioritize this topic in the Commission's forward agenda for 2013.**

**In this connection, I sensed the urgent need for reinvigorating the commitment to "peacebuilding" at the highest political level in our governments and also look forward to exploring ways and criteria of graduation from the Commission.**

**As noted in the 2010 Review the lack of strong political support from capitals is affecting the PBC's potential to make a tangible impact in the field.**

To this end, the High-Level Event on “Peacebuilding: The way towards sustainable peace and security”, which was presided over by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in September 2012, brought together, for the first time, a number of Heads of State and Government, Ministers and senior officials from among the Commission’s broader membership.

The Political Declaration based on consensus that emanated from the event reaffirmed the commitment to key principles, objectives and priorities which the PBC had consistently promoted, both at the policy and the country-specific levels. In my view, the Declaration laid the foundation for a political narrative and reference point on peacebuilding which reinforced the Secretary-General's main recommendations presented in his most recently issued report on Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict.

In the same vein, Bangladesh has also placed particular emphasis in 2012 on the relationship between the Commission and the Security Council. The consideration of the Commission’s report on its fifth session at the Security Council last July offered an opportunity to revive the discussion on what the 2010 Review described as “the potential to create a new dynamism between a more forthcoming Security Council and a better performing PBC”.

Suggestions to energize the relations between the two bodies have been placed before the Security Council by this Committee. The initial response from the Council was encouraging. The Chairs of the PBC Country Configurations on Liberia and Sierra Leone were invited to brief on specific issues of interest to the Council in the context of the mandate renewal of UNMIL and UNIPSIL last September. In addition, the follow-up by the Working Group on Lessons Learned to explore the scope of the Commission’s advisory role to the Council on transitions of UN missions in countries on the agenda has further confirmed that this is an area where the PBC could potentially demonstrate its value added.

**Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,**

**As much as we have advocated for reinvigorating the political commitment to peacebuilding, we have also paid equal attention to ensuring that the Commission make specific and concrete advances in performing its core functions. In 2012, Bangladesh has placed particular emphasis on developing the understanding, approach and policy for the Commission's role in marshalling resources. This is an area where the Commission is expected to deliver results at the country-level. Building on the Commission's experience and nature as an advisory political platform, we have taken initial, yet important, steps in defining our niche in this area.**

**In our view, the PBC should continue to conceive its role in this area around three main themes: 1) supporting national governments to manage and coordinate aid and resource flows, identify gaps in international assistance and devise effective national resource mobilization strategies; 2) deepening the partnerships with the International and regional financial institutions, as well as with non-traditional actors such as private corporations and philanthropic organizations; and 3) promote a new paradigm for South-South and triangular cooperation.**

**The pilot resource mapping exercise in Guinea which has been undertaken by the Working Group on Lessons Learned and the Guinea Configuration, and the evolving Aid Management System (AIMS) development in Liberia, with support from the European Union, are promising examples for supporting the development of national capacities for aid coordination and management with particular emphasis on securing sufficient funding for peacebuilding priorities.**

**The partnership with the World Bank and the African Development Bank has continued to evolve in 2012 drawing upon the momentum created by the work of my predecessors over**

the past three years. Our partnership with both institutions is conceived on the basis of complementarity of our respective roles in support of national strategies and priorities at the country-level, as well as around key peacebuilding-related themes, such as job creation, gender involvement, natural resources management and access to justice.

The work of the PBC on the future role of South and trilateral cooperation for peacebuilding is yet to take off. We have started a discussion with the Civilian Capacities team in 2012 and I hope that we can advance our collaboration in 2013, including through piloting of specific initiatives in countries on the agenda.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

I started my statement by noting my role in leading efforts of institutional consolidation and collaboration in 2012. This is a crucial role which the Organizational Committee must continue to play in support of the Commission's country-specific engagement. In this respect, there is a need for clear and established working methods which would enable the Commission to undertake its most challenging mandates, define its niche and manage expectations of and interactions with our interlocutors at the Headquarters as well as at country-levels. We have taken an important first step in this direction last year and I invite you all to complete this ambitious exercise. I also like to add that, as PBC Chair, my goal was also to help assist the Chairs of country configurations to strengthen their working process and I shall again appeal to member states and to assist them to discharge their enormous responsibilities.

I wish to conclude my remarks by acknowledging the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office and especially of Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng-Hopkins and her team, in support of the Commission's work and activities.

**Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,**

**In closing, I wish to affirm Bangladesh's continued commitment to the goals of the Commission and its efforts in support of the needs and aspirations of the people and societies in the countries on its agenda. When Bangladesh achieved its independence through a devastating war in 1971 in which 3 million were killed, 10 million had to take shelter as refugees in neighboring India including me, 30 million were displaced from their homes and nearly 250,000 of its young girls and women were dishonored or raped, the devastated new country that was termed by Western World as 'bottomless basket' has re-emerged through hard work and innovative country-owned programs and at times, with the support of our friends, could overcome those miseries. Now our economy is vibrant with an average of over 6% GDP growth rate, our food production has increased by 3.5 times, our exports have gone up by 85 times, our country credit rating by Standard & Poor, JPM Morgan, Moody's etc is one of the top in Asia, and in spite of natural calamities and resource constraints, we have achieved or on target in achieving most of the MDGs, including poverty alleviation. In contrast, out of 32 post conflict countries, none of the fragile post conflict countries could achieve a single MDG and recurrence of violence is common in post-conflict countries. Therefore, peacebuilding is essential and I have no doubt that with little support and encouragement, and through sharing experience, the post-conflict countries especially those that are on our PBC-agenda are sure to achieve the ultimate goal of sustainable peace and development. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believes in people's empowerment as a way towards achieving sustainable development and long lasting peace. She believes that by empowering people through skills, training and education, or by guaranteeing them participation in governance, or by eliminating poverty and hunger, or by including the excluded people, eliminating all sorts of discrimination, deprivation and ending terrorism, and by providing jobs, people will be empowered and once they are empowered, they can face and manage their problems; and such could lead to sustainable development and lasting peace.**

**Let us recommit ourselves to put the needs and aspirations of the people in the countries on the PBC agenda on top of our priority list for 2013 and work for their empowerment. This is an important commitment and we must persevere for the good of mankind.**

**I thank you.**