

Check against delivery

**Statement by the
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

H.E. Ranko Vilošić

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations

**at the debate of the General Assembly on the
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Sixth Session
and
Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund**

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New York

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this important debate on the Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its sixth session and on the Sixth Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Fund.

At the very beginning, I would also like to thank Ambassador Momen for his presentation of the PBC report, but also, once again, for his able stewardship of the Commission in 2012. At the same time, I thank ASG Judy Cheng-Hopkins for her and the PBSO's continuous support to the PBC.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the EU to be delivered later on during this debate. At the same time, I would like to briefly add few additional comments in my capacity as the Chair of the PBC, as well as in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

This timely debate presents us with the opportunity, still relatively early in the year, to take stock of the achievements, as well as challenges that emerged during the Commission's last year engagement. At the same time, this debate opens some space for broader strategic discussions on the constantly evolving United Nations peacebuilding agenda and the Commission's crucial role in ensuring that such agenda remains at the center of the Organization's priorities for the next year. Further to this, my intention is to use the occasion to briefly touch upon the 2013 forward going part of the report and re-introduce this year's priorities and the way we intend to implement them. It is our sincere hope that the General Assembly will live up to its role as one of the founders of the PBC and substantially contribute to its work, drawing on its broader policy perspective of the security, political and developmental elements of our common endeavors.

Mr. President,

The benefits that the Commission offers, and it may sound quite familiar, could be short-branded as triple A: attention, accompaniment and advocacy. Those three A's then should be put into practice and connected by

Commission's comparative advantage of bringing together all relevant stakeholders, within the UN and beyond. That is precisely why the Commission was established and, *in ultima linea*, that is the reason why its membership is drawn from the three principal organs, as well as the top financial, troop and police contributors to the United Nations.

We fully support a new format of the PBC report and its particular emphasis on the results achieved in the main areas of the Commission's mandate, as well as challenges and opportunities related to its impact on the ground. In that context, we find particularly important detailed reference to the relevant country-specific experiences and examples, as well as suggestions for the way ahead.

Now, let me briefly turn to the Commission's priorities as established in the concluding part of the annual report, containing the agenda for action for 2013. As many of you will remember, actions adopted in the report, were further developed during my inaugural statement.

Accordingly, Mr. President, I can be really brief:

First, we all agree that the PBC's role and influence very much depend on its capability to develop and exploit the sense of collective and individual responsibility and engagement from all members of the Commission. Accordingly, it is our firm intention to re-engage the PBC's main constituencies and encourage more proactive contribution to the work and objectives of the PBC, as well as to further build upon ongoing discussions with the aim to help the Commission to finally take its legitimate role and fully realize its vast potentials.

Second, as regards the essential issue of resource mobilization, our intention is to entrench old and explore new avenues in order to achieve stronger cohesion between political, security and developmental components of the Commission's mandate, including through much stronger cooperation with and engagement of the private sector and foundations. As announced, we will continue to explore these themes through organization of thematic discussions on related issues and direct contacts to the aforementioned entities and their further engagement.

Third, having in mind the Commission's crucial policy coordination role, our intention is to pursue the path of bringing together all relevant stakeholders, including, in particular stronger relations with international financial institutions.

Fourth, the aforementioned role of the Commission, in our view, also includes efforts aimed at proper understanding of and rapprochement with all other relevant initiatives and processes. Our main goal there is to achieve cooperation and synergy in order to improve status of populations on the ground and achieve sustainable peace and economic development in the countries on the PBC agenda. Eventually, in our deliberations and actions we should be guided by the goal we are trying to achieve, and not preoccupied by the means at our disposal.

And fifth, through discussions on the Commission's working methods, our intention is to reach a common understanding aimed at enabling the PBC to conduct its work with a greater degree of predictability, help sustain institutional continuity and practically enhance its impact at the country-level. In that exercise, we would profit from the areas of the working methods in which the PBC has acquired considerable experience and has learned important lessons which can then contribute to some standardization in its approach to the work at the country-level.

Mr. President,

It is good to remember that the purpose of the Peacebuilding Fund (Fund) is to take action in post-conflict environments in which governments and other national stakeholders have demonstrated a strong commitment to peacebuilding. In that regard, it is only logical that more than half of the Fund's activities have been carried out in the countries on the PBC agenda.

As stated before, we welcome all initiatives and processes aimed at furthering our common peacebuilding goals, and, in that context, we see the SG's initiative for civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict as an important contribution to our efforts aimed at national institution-building and ensuing transformation. Accordingly, we welcome the PBF's support to this initiative, including its efforts to draw upon expertise from the Global South.

We particularly welcome the Fund's activities aimed at gender equality promotion and the empowerment of women in peacebuilding, as stipulated in SG's earlier reports. We would encourage the Fund to continue efforts to meet SG's target of allocating of 15 per cent of funds to women's empowerment

programs in the shortest possible time. In that context, we strongly support the gender promotion initiative of the Fund, launched in 2011, in a number of countries, including countries on the PBC agenda. We are expecting with interest the PBF's progress review of the Initiative announced for the second half of 2013.

Mr. President,

In accordance with our previously introduced priorities, we strongly encourage the Fund to further undertake the activities that can be scaled up or complemented by the African Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as to consider how resources of the Peacebuilding Fund may be catalytic to supporting priorities of other relevant processes, including the implementation of the New Deal in some of the countries on the PBC agenda.

At the same time, having in mind the fact that the UN missions in some of the countries on the PBC agenda are drawing to an end, we are looking forward to explore, together with the PBF, opportunities to support the sustainable peacebuilding impact of national institutions during any transition of the United Nations presence.

Finally, let me welcome the appointment of a new Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group and support the themes it selected to pursue throughout its two-year mandate. We strongly believe that appropriate consideration of those issues would significantly strengthen internal and external peacebuilding links, be it here in headquarter, back in capitals or in the field, and improve the efficiency of our engagement.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reiterate that the Commission is only as strong and functioning as its individual components, that is - its Member States - and the supporting UN system entities and mechanisms. In this critical period in the Commission's life, with upcoming comprehensive review in 2015 and other important parallel developments, including, in particular, the ensuing post 2015 development agenda, we should join our forces and help the Commission to enhance its value added and obtain its rightful place within the UN peacebuilding architecture and beyond.

Thank you, Mr. President.