

PBC Chair's remarks at the General Assembly debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

24 July 2023 (5 – 7 minutes)

Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Croatia as the chair of the Peacebuilding Commission this year is delivering these remarks as agreed by the States, members of the Commission.

Croatia is grateful to its predecessor, Bangladesh, especially its former and current Permanent Representatives, Ambassador Rabab Fatima and Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, for ably chairing the Commission in 2022. We find ample evidence of that in the report we are discussing here today. This is making our work this year easier.

We would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Morocco and Sweden for their work as the Chairs of the Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic and Liberia configurations, respectively. We are thankful to the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Denmark and Egypt for their work as the informal coordinators for the Commission's relations with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, respectively.

The interlinked crises that we have been facing have clearly shown a unique value of the Peacebuilding Commission as a platform to link all relevant stakeholders engaged in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It is also a space where partnership can be forged to accompany countries and regions in their path to lasting peace, while adhering to the mandate.

The increased activity of the Peacebuilding Commission last year can be seen both in the number of advices to the Security Council which significantly increased last year and in widening geographical scope as it had meetings for the first time engaging with Timor-Leste, South Sudan and Central Asia.

The Commission continued to address cross-cutting issues related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as root causes of conflict in line with its mandate, including through its engagement with the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.

We saw last year the Commission broadening its role in promoting the system-wide coherence of the United Nations, as well as strengthening engagement with partners outside the UN, in line with the mandate.

Financing for peacebuilding continued to be high on the agenda and efforts are made to encourage consensus, considering all options for enhanced financing for peacebuilding, including voluntary, assessed and innovative financing.

The Commission will also remain seized of the discussions and recommendations pertaining to resolution 76/305, and will continue to engage with the Peacebuilding Support Office within the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA/PBSO), members of the PBF Advisory Group and the countries that engage with the PBF to ensure that it is informed of the activities of the Fund.

Building on these good practices, Croatia's current chairing of the Commission is continuing to focus on expanding geographical scope based on national ownership. Up to now four new countries have engaged voluntarily with the PBC this year: Mozambique, Honduras, Canada and Norway. This is also contributing to improving the knowledge about peacebuilding and further strengthening the PBC's role as a platform for sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

A number of countries have so far shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in dealing with issues that are relevant for them in their peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, such as transitional justice, Indigenous Peoples and importance of reconciliation. Further mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, including through the implementation of the Commission's Gender Strategy (2016), Gender Action Plan (2021) and Strategic Action Plan on youth and peacebuilding in the meetings of the PBC is also high on Croatia's agenda.

Promoting integrated, strategic and coherent approaches to peacebuilding in countries and regions under its consideration, noting that peace and security, development and human rights are closely inter-linked and mutually reinforcing, continues to be an important element of the PBC's work this year too. In this regard, strengthening follow up and impact in the country concerned is essential. The Chair is working on finding ways to strengthen the follow up possibly through vice-chairs and membership.

The Commission, in line with its mandate, is also continuing to bring all relevant parts of the United Nations system together and strengthens its bridging role, through fostering greater coherence in the United Nations system, including between the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC, and within and across the UN Secretariat, UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions as well as with regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions.

The Commission is exploring more ways to increase outreach and interaction including through work of informal coordinators for the Commission's relations with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC as well as by issuing timely press releases, in accordance to our working methods, whilst providing timely advice to the Security Council at its request. In this vein the Chair is meeting every two months with the President of ECOSOC.

The Chair will continue to advocate for adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and forge better collaboration with the Peacebuilding Fund.

As the UN is discussing the New Agenda for Peace and while preparations for the Summit of the Future are ongoing, this gives us further opportunity to strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission in the run up to the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2025. In this regard, the PBC ministerial-level meeting that will be held on 22 September will be an opportunity for our ministers to give their vision and political guidance on how this can be achieved. We hope that all PBC members will participate at the ministerial level.

Many thanks once again to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh for great chairing last year. Many thanks to all PBC members for their contribution during our chairing this year. Our thanks also go for the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office.

I thank you.