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SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE

**“POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING: REVIEW OF THE PEACEBUILDING
ARCHITECTURE”**

H. E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United
Nations**

and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

23 February 2016

Mr. President,

First, allow me to congratulate you for your elevation to the Presidency of the Security Council for February 2016 and also commend you on the manner you have conducted the affairs of the Council.

I thank you for organizing this timely open debate of the Security Council on peacebuilding and circulating an informative concept note to guide us. I also thank you for the initiative of inviting me to address the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. President

We at the Peacebuilding Commission welcome very much not only the opportunity to be here but also the concept note that you circulated for our debate today. The note clearly spelled out some of the crucial challenges that peacebuilding is facing and why we must redouble our efforts at better peacebuilding within the collective United Nations family.

We agree with your Note that the Security Council and the General Assembly have acknowledged, for some time now, the Peacebuilding Commission can contribute to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, as acknowledged by the landmark Security Council Resolution 2171 on conflict prevention, adopted in 2014.

The work of PBC and its configurations continues to work in this vein and we continue to be thankful for the support and acknowledgement we receive from the Council in this regard.

Mr President,

This debate comes at a crucial moment. As you Mr. President pointed out in your concept note, the reviews of the peacebuilding architecture under consideration in the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly call upon member states to see peacebuilding in a broader perspective and to face it with greater determination.

The review of the peacebuilding architecture is currently at its final stages and the United Nations is being called to re-examine its entire approach to peacebuilding in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that we all adopted in 2015, while remaining true to the Principles espoused in the UN Charter. I will highlight some of salient elements of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, which I believe deserve the particular attention of this Council and the wider Membership.

First, the AGE report, entitled “The Challenge of Sustaining Peace’ reiterates the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace. In my understanding, the report is not introducing a new concept but merely restating what we all know needs to be done to achieve lasting peace; the main purpose for which the United Nations was created. Its key message is a lesson we have all learned over the years; that investments in prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict are considerably less expensive and sustainable than merely reacting to crises.

Secondly, the current review comes at a time when there have been increasing calls pressing the need to address fragmentation in UN system’s efforts and a growing unanimity on the importance of building coherence in our collective

efforts across the Peace and security, development and human rights engagement of the United Nations at intergovernmental and operational levels. The Peacebuilding Commission, in its advisory role to the Security Council, stands ready to serve as a bridge between Security Council and other principal intergovernmental organs, with a view to strengthen the collaboration and enhance the impact of their collective work of peacebuilding in the world.

Thirdly, building lasting peace requires predictable, sustained and adequate financing to address the root causes of conflict. According to the Report of the Advisory Group, while countries emerging from conflict require significant financing over extended periods, funding is often channelled at short-term emergency responses that would produce immediate tangible results. This dilemma often invites the obvious question: Could there be reduced need for emergency conflict responses if peacebuilding and prevention efforts were prioritized? The United Nations experience shows the critical role peacebuilding efforts and the Peacebuilding Commission can play in the mobilization of long-term and sustained international support to critical national capacity needs.

Mr President,

The role of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing financing to countries on their request has evidently been important, but remains, by far, limited in its impact. Clearly, the fund needs to be enhanced. Currently, multi-donor pooled funds for peacebuilding seems to be the single most attractive option for peacebuilding. However, we would like to call upon all Member States, including non-traditional donors and other partners, to consider making or increasing their multi-year commitments to pooled funds, in support of sustainable peace.

Furthermore, all financing-related proposals of the Report of the Advisory Group, including those aimed at appropriately resourcing peacebuilding programs during transitions needs to be comprehensively considered by Member States during the current review. We need to address the predictability and sustainability of financing. We must consider all the viable options available to maximize the potential and the predictability of the Peacebuilding Fund.

Mr President,

The importance of enhanced partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as with international financial institutions in building peace need not be overemphasized. The African Union and European Union, in particular, are among strategic partners as Africa remains important to the United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

We shall work closely with the African Union, the EU and other regional organisations to ensure that peacebuilding initiatives are not only nationally owned and reflect the interests and needs of local populations, but are also regionally anchored and internationally supported based on each other's comparative advantage. The importance of strengthening World Bank – UN collaboration, as a way to promote sustainable peace and channel resources to peacebuilding is something we intend to deepen alongside collaboration with the regional financial institutions such as the African Development Bank.

But while Africa continues to be the priority destination for peacebuilding activities, we would not wish to create the impression that only Africa is crying out for peacebuilding interventions. Anyone who reads the daily newspaper knows that Africa has no monopoly on violence and the absence of peace, on the contrary. As time moves on we will need to ask ourselves what more the Peacebuilding Commission could be doing in other parts of the world to deepen the roots of the peace and help stop violence.

Mr President,

As we work together to operationalize the outcome of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, we shall need to develop the links between our collective efforts to build sustainable peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing this the Peacebuilding Commission working with The Peacebuilding Support Office and the United Nations Development Group will continue to look for ways to entrench its peacebuilding efforts in the relevant aspect of the work of the United Nations and the upcoming Quadrennial

Comprehensive Policy Review present a good opportunity to deepen this relationship.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I am fully aware of the high expectations for a more effective Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission will work to leverage the collective weight of its membership, particularly the members of the Security Council and to bring together partners, regional organizations, UN system actors, academia and civil society and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations to contribute to greater coherence and commitment to building sustainable peace.

Together, we will be able to:

- i) Mobilize attention to drivers and root causes of conflict, thus contributing to preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict;
- ii) Give greater focus and priority to the regional dimension of building sustainable peace and provide a platform to promote the perspectives of regional actors;
- iii) And provide political support to practical integration of security, political, human rights and developmental responses over the medium to long-term engagement.

I Thank You.