



BRAZIL

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota

**on the occasion of Brazil's election as Chair of the
Peacebuilding Commission**

**United Nations
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(check against delivery)

Ambassador Vladimir Drobnyak, outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC),
Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support,
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegations of the members of the Organizational Committee,
Distinguished colleagues representing the countries on the PBC agenda and those serving in the
capacities as Vice-Chair, chairs of the PBC country configurations and the Working Group on Lessons
Learned,

I thank the members of the Organizational Committee of the PBC for the trust placed in Brazil to assume this responsibility. I count on your help and support to steer the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in the year ahead. I am privileged to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors, whose efforts will continue to guide us as we collectively contribute to national peacebuilding efforts in the countries that sought the advice and support of the PBC. A special word of gratitude to Ambassador Drobnyak, whose leadership, experience and commitment guided the Commission during the last 12 months.

This Commission was given the mandate of accompanying countries as they tackle the complex challenges associated with rebuilding critical national institutions, while also delivering peace dividends and sustainable livelihoods to their populations. In over 8 years since its establishment, the Commission has undoubtedly demonstrated added value in certain contexts and in specific areas of its core functions. However, the process of fine-tuning and sharpening the PBC's approach and tools is very much a work in progress.

As a diplomatic platform that brings together key regional and global actors, the PBC is uniquely placed to catalyze the potentials within the international system to further improve our collective response to post-conflict challenges and to sustain our commitment to the countries emerging from or affected by conflict. After all, we should know by now that peacebuilding is not a linear process and is, indeed, a

long-term endeavour. The very nature of peacebuilding, therefore, runs contrary to the established logic and practice of many interventions designed in and led by the United Nations. This is no small challenge for the PBC. Yet, as we witness in various situations, the importance of conflict prevention, long-term engagement, and due consideration of the root causes of conflicts is today as relevant as ever.

From the very outset of the PBC's establishment, and indeed of its inception, Brazil remained committed to the cause of elevating and placing peacebuilding at the intersection of the UN security and development policy. Brazil assumed the responsibility of coordinating the PBC's engagement in Guinea-Bissau as early as 2007. It has also contributed, through its continuous membership of the Organizational Committee, to the PBC's engagement in all the other five countries on the agenda. During its most recent non-permanent membership of the Security Council, Brazil highlighted the imperative of developing a UN integrated and comprehensive approach to the challenges of security and development when it organized an open debate on this topic in February 2011.

As Chairman of the PBC in 2014, I intend to promote our collective efforts in order to further deepen the UN commitment to sustainable peace and development in the countries on the Commission's agenda. To this end, I am also looking forward to working closely with the chairs and members of the country configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Brazil's experience as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration can serve as a valuable standpoint for the Chairmanship of the PBC as a whole. I have just returned from a PBC visit to Guinea-Bissau, where I could assess not only the needs for long-term support and improved coordination, but also the importance of the PBC's contribution as a uniquely designed political platform, a body able to bring together key actors and help forge greater harmony between sub-regional, regional and international dimensions. I hope to be able to promote, with your engagement, similar complementarities between the work of the country-specific configurations, the Working Group on Lessons Learned, and the discussions within the Organizational Committee.

In Guinea-Bissau, I also had the opportunity to meet with women's organizations. I was struck by their commitment to strengthening the economic role of women and thus helping forge a more inclusive political culture in the country. I am convinced of the transformative potential of greater women's participation in the economic and political spheres as a key dimension of peacebuilding efforts. A focus on women's participation, needs and concerns can bring an invaluable contribution to the promotion of more peaceful, democratic and prosperous societies, and I intend to continue to pursue such a focus in our work.

Excellencies and colleagues,

The PBC is approaching another five-year review by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 2015. There are a number of important discussions which need to take place in preparation for this review. I look forward to working closely with you to identify areas and approaches where the PBC can practically demonstrate its relevance, ways to improve its key relationships with the Security Council, the General Assembly, and ECOSOC, and ideas on how the work of country-specific configurations can produce even greater positive effects on the ground. I intend to continue to promote greater interaction and coordination between the PBC and the Security Council. As Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration, Brazil has always sought to provide the Security Council with relevant advice from a peacebuilding perspective. I note with satisfaction that Resolution 2134 adopted yesterday by the Security Council, on the situation in the Central African Republic, recognizes the importance of the role of the PBC in mobilizing international commitment in support of the UN and regional efforts in the country.

The forward agenda presented in the PBC's report on its seventh session, which we just unanimously adopted, outline the areas requiring particular attention. One is the need to continue to reflect on how we, Member States, define and undertake our commitment to the PBC's engagement in the

countries on the agenda. The great potential of the PBC resides in its composition and intergovernmental character. It is ultimately up to us to make the most of it, in terms of providing strategic guidance, forging greater coherence, and strengthening national and regional ownership. Here, I turn in particular to our African colleagues, in highlighting the importance of their engagement and vision.

Africa today experiences major political evolutions, economic growth, and the rapidly changing features of dynamic societies. African regional and subregional organizations are displaying an unprecedented level of coordination, political will and ability to promote regional solutions. The continent is again ascertaining its independence and its invaluable contribution to respond to global challenges. I will therefore very often seek the advice of our African colleagues on how regional and sub-regional perspectives can be further integrated into our work.

Secondly, the PBC is convening its first ever annual substantive session on 23 June 2014. This is an important development which we need to utilize strategically. The annual session should become a standing occasion to consider specific themes and issues of common interest with our partners in the UN system, regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society. I intend to initiate consultations shortly aimed at arriving at an early agreement on the content and programme of the first annual session.

Colleagues,

Our work in the various configurations and our discussions in the Organizational Committee this year can be an important input to the 2015 Review. Our country-specific engagement covers a wide range of situations, from relapse into conflict, as we see in the Central African Republic, to advanced peace consolidation, as in Sierra Leone. It is only natural that we examine the practical arrangements that, bringing to bear the full intergovernmental weight of the PBC, can best reflect this multiple and plural spectrum of situations. This can be a very important discussion in the context of the 2015 Review. I invite your contribution to this exercise. I also understand that PBSO, under the leadership of ASG Cheng-Hopkins, will be facilitating a parallel process within the UN system to develop inputs to the 2015 Review.

In this context, I wish to emphasize the importance I attach to the support provided by PBSO and Ms. Cheng Hopkins to the various aspects of the PBC's work and activities. Madame ASG - we will continue to count on your support and advice. I also want to make sure the PBC is positioned to provide you and the Peacebuilding Fund with the best possible strategic input, so that our efforts are increasingly coordinated and mutually reinforcing.

In closing, I wish to stress that while sustaining peace is a central objective of the United Nations' peace and security architecture, we face the systemic challenge of the short span of attention and commitment from the international community to the latent, complex and long-term challenges to sustainable peace. Our effort to address this systemic and ongoing deficiency is still as relevant today as it was back in 2005. As for our ability to make a difference, I am convinced that we cannot go wrong if we place the well-being and the improvement of the livelihoods of the populations of the countries in PBC's agenda at the center of our commitment. They have struggled and survived under adverse situations for which they are not responsible. I derive inspiration from colleagues with the PBSO, who recently highlighted the importance of empathy and humility in our work. I believe this attitude should continue to guide us in 2014.

Thank you.