

Mr President,

It is a great pleasure to be here today to present the Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission(PBC) on its tenth session, as contained in document A/71/768-S/2017/76.

Allow me to commend the Chair of the PBC at its 11th session for the manner and dexterity he has continued to steer the affairs of the Commission and to all PBC members for their continued commitment to the work of the Commission.

Before I turn to the report of the 10th session, and in my national capacity as representative of Kenya allow me to commend the Secretary-General for prioritizing prevention and sustaining peace during his inaugural address to the Security Council. President, for convening an important and timely high-level plenary meeting of this Assembly to discuss building synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace. The report in front of us reflects policy and country-specific activities that the Commission conducted in 2016, a year that was marked by the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. In addition to reaffirming the critical role of the PBC, the resolutions introduced “sustaining peace”, which inter-alia places emphasis on conflict prevention, the primacy of politics, national ownership,

inclusivity and reaffirming the important role women and youth can play in peacebuilding efforts.

The tenth session marked a very productive year for the Commission as it built on the momentum generated by the twin resolutions to further improve the relevance, effectiveness and flexibility of the Commission.

Mr President,

Today, I wish to highlight four areas from the annual report which underscore the progress made during the 10th session.

First, flexibility,

The Commission with with consent the consent of all concerned countries convened a range of country-specific, regional and thematic discussions beyond the six Country Configurations currently engaged with the PBC.

The PBC continued its consideration of peacebuilding opportunities and challenges in West Africa, including a Chair's visit to the region to explore the sub-regional peacebuilding opportunities and challenges following the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic. Throughout, the Commission provided an important platform to improve coherence among different stakeholders and, at the same time, to address cross-

border and sub-regional challenges. The Chair also engaged the African Union Peace and Security Council on issues of mutual interest and potential areas of future cooperation as required in the twin Resolutions.

The Commission studied the work of Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). In October, we convened a meeting to study the results of PBF Engagement in Kyrgyzstan with senior representatives of the Government of Kyrgyzstan. This provided an opportunity for the country to discuss the progress made in reconciliation and peacebuilding thanks to the PBF. Activities such as these represent important ways to further strengthen the synergies between the PBC and the PBF.

Second; deeper Partnerships and more coherence

We focused on the importance of regional and sub-regional organizations, as key partners in peacebuilding efforts. The involvement of senior representatives of DPA, DPKO and UNDP further enriched our discussions, and it was a good step forward in the Commission's efforts to enhance coherence in the UN System.

Throughout the tenth session, the Commission also made important progress in building stronger relations with international financial institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations (particularly the African Union), and the UN system. I urge the Commission to continue

in that direction and to look for opportunities to strengthen its collaboration with civil society organizations and the private sector.

Third; financing for peacebuilding

The United Nations has a unique tool at its disposal to support conflict affected countries and prevent violent conflicts: the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund. To be truly effective the PBF needs to work in synergy with the PBC and be mutually reinforcing. In this regard and during the tenth session, we had several opportunities to build on the synergies. The meeting on financing for peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan that I mentioned earlier is only one example of how the Commission can raise attention on the work of the PBF. I invite other countries who are receiving funds from the PBF to come forward and use the PBC as a platform to present their success stories.

Mr. President,

I would like to stress the importance of investing in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Kenya, alongside Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom, organized a pledging conference for the PBF. Although the total amount pledged fell short of our intended target of \$300 Million, the Conference was well received. The conference sent an important political statement to Member States and the United Nations to seek solutions for long-term funding.

I am glad to note that under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Korea, the Commission is continuing in this effort by having the theme of this year's session as "Financing for Peacebuilding."

Fourth; Working Methods

The Commission achieved important results in regard to formulating relevant reference documents to guide its work. In September 2016, the PBC became the first intergovernmental body to adopt its Gender Strategy. The Strategy, which is the outcome of a process initiated by my predecessor, is an important tool to help guide the work of the Commission on gender-related aspects of peacebuilding. It also reiterates the important role of women in peacebuilding-and-sustaining peace.

In effort to make the Commission more efficient and effective it conducted a review of its rules of procedure and working methods during the 10th session. This was in line with requirements in the identical resolutions.

Mr President,

Beyond these four points, there is a lot more that the Commission did in 2016 to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through its country-specific activities, as indicated in the annual report.

The value of the PBC rests in its ability to engage with a broad range of stakeholders and partners to reinforce its bridging role among the principal organs and entities of the United Nations and provide advice to the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC, when requested. I believe that by strengthening its convening role, and providing advice, the Commission can become truly effective and relevant in contributing to peacebuilding as well as the nexus of sustainable peace and sustainable development.

Finally, the annual report contains, in its Forward Agenda, important priorities that the Commission will address in 2017. I am confident that, under the capable chairmanship of the Republic of Korea, the PBC will continue to evolve.

Finally, allow me to thank ASG Fernandez Taranco and his entire team at the Peacebuilding Support Office for their support throughout the tenth session and their dedication to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to make one final point in my national capacity. I wish to commend the Secretary-General's prioritization of prevention and sustaining peace at the very onset of his current term in office during his inaugural address to the Security Council. I also commend you Mr. President, for convening an important and timely high-level plenary meeting of this Assembly

entitled «Building Sustainable Peace for all: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and sustaining peace». This is an indicator that the PBC agenda is in full alignment with the current vision of the United Nations.

I thank you.

I thank you.