Remarks by the Chair of the PBC
at the Organizational Committee
31 January 2018, 10:00 am

x The last one year was a very special and rewarding year for me
personally: Special because I was given the honor to serve as the
Chair of the PBC working together with such distinguished
colleagues as Ambassador Kamau of Kenya and Ambassador Gomez-Camacho of Mexico as Vice-Chairs, as well as Ambassador Lauber of
Switzerland, Ambassador Hilale of Morocco, Ambassador Vieira of
Brazil, Ambassador Skoog of Sweden, and Ambassador Blanchard of
Canada as Chairs of the five country specific configurations;
Rewarding because I was able to make small contributions to moving
the Commission towards a body that is more visible, relevant and
effective in the peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations,
working closely together with ASG Oscar Fernandez-Taranco of PBSO
and his staff. Without their full cooperation and commitment, the
small achievements I made as the Chair would not have been
possible and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the
entire team in PBSO for their dedicated support to me. I also wish to
thank all the members of the Commission for your strong support
and encouragement in fulfilling my duties as the Chair.

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x First, in addition to the good work of the existing country specific
configurations on Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau,
Liberia, and Sierra Leone, the Commission continued to expand its
work by considering other countries and regions in the
Organizational Committee. x Most notably, the PBC started to assist The Gambia in its critical time
of transition by sustaining international attention on the country
after the Security Council stopped deliberations on its situation. x The Commission also discussed the situation in the Solomon Islands,
Colombia and Sri Lanka at their request, which contributed to Sri Lan

x Most notably, the Commission agreed with the World Bank to hold
annual meetings on the countries supported by the PBC. In fact, when
we met with the President, senior officials and Executive Directors of
the World Bank in Washington last June, I was very encouraged to see the Bank’s strong interest in the Commission’s work. I believe the
participation of Mme. Kristalina Georgieva, CEO of the Bank, at the
PBC Annual Session in June attests to this interest. We should seize
upon this opportunity, especially the annual meetings with the Bank,
to help mobilize resources for the countries supported by the PBC.
Building partnership with the African Development Bank is another
remaining task of the Commission in this regard. x As for the partnership with regional organizations, building on the
work of my predecessor, Ambassador Kamau, I visited the AU last
December together with the Ambassador himself and other PBC
Ambassadors. I was impressed by the seriousness with which the AU
engaged in the discussions with us during the visit. was impressed by the agreeto

x Within the United Nations, the interaction between the PBC and the
Security Council in particular has been improving. Last year, the
Council asked the Commission to advise on a number of regional and
country-specific issues including, among others, the Sahel and the
Great Lakes as well as Liberia and Burundi. In order to continuously
improve the perception of the PBC within the UN, the Commission
should continue to mobilize relevant stakeholders and provide
quality advice to its parent bodies.
x Towards this end, the Commission also held a joint meeting with
ECOSOC in June to address the social and economic dimensions of the
challenges of the Sahel. We should continue to deliberate on how to
better work with these bodies to bring about a cross-pillar, coherent,
and integrated approach to peacebuilding.
x Third, the Commission further diversified its working methods last
year.

x In addition to the regular bureau meetings with the two Vice-Chairs
last year, the Chairs of the country specific configurations briefed the
Organizational Committee on a quarterly basis with a view to
promoting the idea of a ‘one PBC’. PBSO also regularly briefed the
PBC on the activities of the PBF, helping to enhance their synergies.

x The Commission also appointed focal points on thematic issues such
as gender, youth, financing, institution-building and national
ownership. We should continue to explore ways for all members to
actively engage in the work of the PBC, especially in the countries
supported by the Commission. In my view, the PBC’s convening role
should not necessarily be confined to holding meetings only. PBC
members can consider more practical ways to support the countries,
which may include regular visits to, or exchange of visits with,
international financial institutions to advocate for mobilizing
resources, engaging with potential bilateral and multilateral donors,
and connecting relevant stakeholders in areas of interest to the
countries concerned , among others.

x And for all of this to happen, we should continue to strengthen the
capacity of PBSO so that it can better support the PBC. When the
Secretary-General briefed the PBC last year for the first time in nine
years, he mentioned that the PBC’s mandate was the source of his
inspiration for his vision of the UN reform, and expressed his
commitment to strengthen the Commission as well as the hinge role
of PBSO. I hope we will continue to support the Secretary General’s
vision and leadership to this end. x As Vice-Chair of the Commission for this year, together with my
German colleague, I will remain committed to further strengthening
the Commission by supporting the incoming Chair, Ambassador Jinga
of Romania. x Expressing once again my wholehearted congratulations to you,
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