Peacebuilding Commission Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee 20 December 2013

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 20 December 2013, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Croatia, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Informal adoption of the PBC report on its seventh session; (2) Update on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund; and (3) Other matters.

Informal adoption of the PBC report on its seventh session

- 1. The Chairperson presented to Member States the draft Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its seventh session. He noted that the Report follows the agreed structure of last year's report by streamlining the reporting on progress in the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 Review. In this regard, the Report addressed progress made in the implementation of the 2013 Forward Agenda, as well as achievements and challenges in the Commission's performance of its three core functions, namely: advocacy and accompaniment; resource mobilization and partnerships; and forging coherence. He stressed that the Report emphasizes the links between these three functions and the need for the PBC to perform them within an overarching strategic vision of what added value it can and should bring in each country specific context.
- 2. The Chair also noted that the Report places particular emphasis on enhancing the role and contribution of its membership across the board; its links with the three UN Norway, Rwanda and South Africa.

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- 3. The Chair further noted two key highlights of agreement reached on convening an annual session (2) The initiation of advance preparation for the 2 actions envisaged under the Forward Agenda for advance preparation.
- 4. After the Committee informally adopted the Rep focused their interventions on the following issues:

- Welcoming the decisions to hold an annual session of the Commission in connection with the annual stakeholders meeting of the Peacebuilding Fund; and to initiate preparation for the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture;
- Welcoming the emphasis placed on the need for increased participation of a broader segment of the PBC membership in guiding and supporting the activities of the Commission at the policy and country level;
- Improving the working methods of the Commission. A proposal was introduced by
 one delegation to seek PBSO's advice on options for improving the participation
 of Member States and its connection with seating arrangements in PBC meetings.
 This, it is believed, can help facilitate interactive and more result oriented
 discussions among members.

Update on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund

- 4. The Chair invited the representative of PBSO to present the progress made by the Peacebuilding Fund in 2013 and its priorities for 2014. The Chair underlined the importance of the synergy between the PBC and PBF in promoting coherence and strengthening partnerships. Both pillars of the Peacebuilding Architecture share the same objectives in the countries where we are engaged, namely support national peacebuilding efforts and objectives. The briefing by PBSO was structured around key points from the report of the 7 8 October meeting of the Secretary General's Advisory Group of the PBF. The Chair of the Advisory Group could not brief the PBC in person following the October meeting due to issues of logistics.
- 5. The presentation highlighted the results of PBSO's enhanced strategy in 2013 aimed at improving PBF allocations from a relatively low level in 2012 while strengthening the quality of peacebuilding interventions. As of December 2013, allocations stood at about \$84 million which commensurate with the Fund's Business Plan target of a \$100 million a year. To achieve these results, PBSO noted that it instituted a more proactive approach to assist in country project/programme design, focused attention and resources on a select list of priority countries, and continued to intensify efforts to improve collaboration with International Finance Institutions (IFIs). Specific reference was made on how the more nimble, agile and risk taking Immediate Response Facility (IRF) was utilized in countries, such as Guinea Bissau and CAR with suspended Priority Plan and programmatic Peace and Recovery Facility (PRF) support. The IRF allocations were aimed

at supporting renewed political engagementoTd(Bissjant)7003 to TTP/TTT1Tff00000021Td f0.22262Tc002780)To

- 8. PBSO further shed light on its efforts to support Liberia with the development of a peacebuilding financing dashboard. This was a result of a joint project with the EU to help the country track and monitor financing for peacebuilding. PBSO noted that the PBC may find this financial tracking tool useful and applicable in other countries on its agenda.
- 9. Following the presentation, Member States took the floor and made the following points:
 - Expressing satisfaction with the work and trajectory of the PBF. took