

## **PBC Chair's statement**

**First, regarding the flexibility and effectiveness of the work of the commission:**

During its ninth session, the PBC was able to leverage the inherent flexibility of the commission to convene regional and country-specific discussions concerning situations beyond the PBC's established agenda. The Organizational Committee has had opportunities to discuss peacebuilding needs and less

**Thirdly, regarding inclusivity:**

Few bodies at the UN have a mandate to interact with and draw upon the expertise of such a wide range of actors, as does the PBC. During the ninth session, the PBC worked to advance interaction with a more diverse group of actors. The drafting of a Gender Strategy for the Peacebuilding Commission was initiated, which will help the Commission to systemize the way it works on gender issues, and to put empowerment of women at the core of the work.

A special session was organized to discuss how to advance the youth, peace and security agenda and champion youth participation for sustainable peace. This is an agenda I hope the PBC can keep on championing, building on the momentum of Security Council resolution 2250.

Mr President,

Beyond these three topics that I have had a chance to touch upon, there are of course many more achievements that deserve the attention of this body, not least within the country-specific configurations of the commission, as the annual report makes clear.

It is also important to note that many of the areas that I have highlighted are clearly captured in the Forward Agenda of the annual report, which charts the work of the tenth session. 2016 will be another important year for the commission, and I have am confident that the Commission will continue to evolve under the able stewardship of the Kenyan Chairmanship.

Before concluding, Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not dedicate a special word of thanks to ASG Oscar Fernandez Taranco, and to his entire team at the Peacebuilding Support Office, for the steadfast support throughout the ninth session and their never-ending determination to advance the Peacebuilding agenda at the UN.

I thank you.