

Check against delivery

**Statement by the
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this important debate on the Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its sixth session and on the Sixth Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Fund.

At the very beginning, I would also like to thank Ambassador Momen for his presentation of the PBC report, but also, once again, for his able stewardship of the Commission in 2012. At the same time, I thank ASG Judy Cheng-Hopkins for her and the PBSO's continuous support to the PBC.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the EU to be delivered later on during this debate. At the same time, I would like to briefly add few additional comments in my capacity as the Chair of the PBC, as well as in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

This timely debate presents us with the opportunity, still relatively early in the year, to take stock of the achievement

Commission's comparative advantage of bringing together all relevant stakeholders, within the UN and beyond. That is precisely why the Commission was established and, *in ultima linea*, that is the reason why its membership is drawn from the three principal organs, as well as the top financial, troop and police contributors to the United Nations.

We fully support a new format of the PBC report and its particular emphasis on the results achieved in the main areas of the CommissionuJ0.00c(3sTf0.0009)-(6)

Third, having in mind the Commission's crucial policy coordination role, our intention is to pursue the path of bringing together all relevant stakeholders, including, in particular stronger relations with international financial institutions.

Fourth, the aforementioned role of the Commission, in our view, also includes efforts aimed at proper understanding of and rapprochement with all other relevant initiatives and processes. Our main goal there is to achieve cooperation and synergy in order to improve status of populations on the ground and achieve sustainable peace and economic development in the countries on the PBC agenda. Eventually, in our deliberations and actions we should be guided by the goal we are trying to achieve, and not preoccupied by the means at our disposal.

And fifth, through discussions on the Commission's working methods, our intention is to reach a common understanding aimed at enabling the PBC to conduct its work with a greater degree of predictability, help sustain institutional continuity and practically enhance its impact at the country-level. In that exercise, we would profit from the areas of the working methods in which the PBC has acquired considerable experience and has learned important lessons which can then contribute to some standardization in its approach to the work at the country-level.

Mr. President,

It is good to remember that the purpose of the Peacebuilding Fund (Fund) is to take action in post-conflict environments in which governments and other national stakeholders have demonstrated a strong commitment to peacebuilding. In that regard, it is only logical that more than half of the Fund's activities have been carried out in the countries on the PBC agenda.

As stated before, we welcome all initiatives and processes aimed at furthering our common peacebuilding goals

programs in the shortest possible time. In that context, we strongly support the gender promotion initiative of the Fund, launched in 2011, in a number of countries, including countries on the PBC agenda. We are expecting with interest the PBF's progress review of the Initiative announced for the second half of 2013.

Mr. President,

In accordance with our previously introduced priorities, we strongly encourage the Fund to further undertake the activities that can be scaled up or complemented by the African Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as to consider how resources of the Peacebuilding Fund may be catalytic to supporting priorities of other relevant processes, including the implementation of the New Deal in some of the countries on the PBC agenda.

At the same time, having in mind the fact that the UN missions in some of the countries on the PBC agenda are drawing to an end, we are looking forward to explore, together with the PBF, opportunities to support the sustainable peacebuilding impact of national institutions during any transition of the United Nations presence.

Finally, let me welcome the appointment of a new Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group and support the themes it selected to pursue throughout its two-year mandate. We strongly believe that appropriate consideration of those issues would significantly strengthen internal and external peacebuilding links, be it here in headquarter, back in capitals or in the field, and improve the efficiency of our engagement.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reiterate that the Commission is only as strong and functioning as its individual components, that is - its Member States - and the supporting UN system entities and mechanisms. In this critical period in the Commission's life, with upcoming comprehensive review in 2015 and other important parallel developments, including, in particular, the ensuing post 2015 development agenda, we should join our forces and help the Commission to enhance its value added and obtain its rightful place within the UN peacebuilding architecture and beyond.

Thank you, Mr. President.