

United Nations - Nations Unies

**PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

Statement by the  
Outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

Ambassador Olof Skoog, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Mr. Oscar Fernandez Arango, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support,

We finally meet to wrap up the eighth session and inaugurate the ninth session of the Peacebuilding Commission. I congratulate all newly elected and selected members of the Committee. I trust you would all agree that the delay in convening today being caused by the inexplicable delay in the election process serves as a reminder that after ten years from its inception, the innovative election process associated with the Peacebuilding Commission continues to challenge many of us in regional groups and in the Secretariat.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

A year ago, this Committee has entrusted Brazil with the responsibility to lead the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. Today, I wish to thank you all for the trust placed in Brazil and for the support you offered throughout the year.

While it remains a tall order to accompany countries emerging from conflict as they take confident strides on what we would all hope to see as an irreversible path to peace, stability and development, it is truly rewarding to be associated with such an effort. These countries need the sustained attention and solid commitment that the Commission must continue to catalyze.

I must, therefore, pay tribute to colleagues leading the Commission's specific



The gender dimension of peacebuilding deserves our continuing attention and unwavering commitment. While women endure the tragic consequences of violent conflicts, they are also the main agents for societal transformation and emancipation in post-conflict societies. The special event which the Commission hosted in collaboration with UN Women last September shed light on local peacebuilding initiatives led by women in diverse contexts.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

The sharpening of the Peacebuilding Commission's approaches and adapting them to changing circumstances and needs is very much a work in progress. In this respect, the 2015 review offers a timely opportunity to ensure that the Commission is further strengthened as an instrument of strategic utility to the United Nations.

The Terms of Reference for the review, initially developed by and consulted within the