

Peacebuilding Commission Formal meeting

31 January 2018

Statement of the Chair

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

At the outset, allow me to warmly congratulate Ambassador Cho, outgoing Chair of the PBC, for the excellent work done last year. The Republic of Korea led the Commission at a crucial time, implementing important recommendations of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, in particular diversifying the working methods of the Commission, strengthening its convening power and enhancing its advisory role to the

Commission has undertaken over the last couple of years. **The work plan reflects 5 priorities that I have identified for the current session:**

First, the PBC regional approach. Since its first meeting on the Ebola crisis in 2014, the Commission has consistently proved its value in catalysing responses to regional and sub-regional situations. I intend to stay on this important track, with particular focus on regions.

Through its Presidential Statement PRST/2017/2 and resolution 2389 (2017), the Security Council recognized the role the Commission can play in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in these two regions. These are important opportunities to demonstrate the ways in which the PBC can use its convening power to mobilize greater commitment and partnership between the countries in the region, the UN system and other relevant international and regional partners, in support of the countries in these regions.

The PBC is well positioned to carry on a coordinated and coherent approach to peacebuilding, and to help address the root causes of conflict. Ultimately, these are opportunities to demonstrate the unique role of the PBC to advise and support the Security Council.

As demonstrated during recent discussions on Asian and Latin American experiences, peacebuilding is a universal imperative. I wish to encourage countries from various regions to consider using the PBC platform to share peacebuilding experiences and build partnerships with key stakeholders.

Second, partnerships. The PBC has demonstrated a high degree of flexibility when it comes to engaging with key peacebuilding stakeholders. I intend to further strengthen collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations (and the African Union in particular), international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and civil society organizations. We should take advantage of the critical and complementary roles of the UN and the World Bank in an integrated political, security and development framework.

One partnership that I believe should be further explored is with the private sector. International and domestic private sector actors and entities have important roles to play in implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, particularly in addressing the root causes of conflict. Political, social and economic activities associated with peacebuilding are closely related, and the main challenge of peacebuilding from an economic perspective is to create an environment favourable to sustainable development, for which private investment may be indispensable, especially in post-conflict situations.

a more diverse range of peacebuilding challenges, and in improving its working methods. I believe that this progress needs to be better known and recognized by a broader audience. I welcome the suggestion of my predecessor to have open meetings of the Commission transmitted on webcast. I believe we should explore ways to engage more consistently with the media and the broader public.

methods, ways to raise awareness on the work of the PBC. The PBC needs to continue to focus into a better perceived value to the Council and to the countries that it seeks to support. At the same time, a solid and lasting peacebuilding process needs high levels of transparency, public scrutiny, participation and consultation.

Therefore, while keeping the balance between transparency and confidentiality in the , and upon consultation with the countries concerned, I will announce when the meetings are to be open or closed. Whenever possible, we may also think to invite the media to become one of our partners in