

Statement by

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Third, through its engagement with Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone

Mr. President,

The transition from the security and politically focused United Nations missions to the development-oriented UN Country Teams highlights the interlinkage between the Commission's three core functions. In 2013, the Commission positioned itself to support the Security Council's decision to draw-down of, and subsequently close the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The transition of the UN presence to a UN Country Team has ushered Sierra Leone onto a new phase of its transformation towards socio-economic development. The Council has also requested the Commission to support of the planned transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), where the dynamics and needs are quite different from those that prevailed in Sierra Leone. The Working Group on Lessons Learned decided to dedicate its work in 2014 to identify areas where the Commission can effectively deploy the appropriate combination of its three core functions in support of transitions of Security Council mandated missions.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the important contribution of women to peacebuilding efforts, the Commission approached its thematic focus on economic revitalization and national reconciliation during the reporting period by examining the gender dimension of both themes. A partnership with UN-Women has enabled the Commission to explore the transformative role of women in post-conflict societies. A high-level event on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding was convened in September 2013 and was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia. The event resulted in a political declaration which affirmed the commitment of the Commission's members to women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding. A meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned in December 2013 also reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming in planning, priority setting, design and delivery of national reconciliation processes.

Mr. President,

The Commission convened its first ever annual substantive session on 23 June 2014. The decision to convene annual sessions was taken during the reporting period with a

view to potentially strengthen the Commission's contribution to the development of inter-governmental policy in areas which can improve outcomes for the people in countries emerging from conflict. The first annual session demonstrated the Commission's unique convening power of Member States, UN entities, International Financial Institutions, regional development banks and civil society. It also confirmed that the Commission is a unique platform for exploring the multidimensional nature of peacebuilding and the policy-related opportunities and challenges.

Mr. President,

This year will mark the end of the second five-year review cycle for the peacebuilding architecture. A second comprehensive review by the General Assembly and the Security Council will take place in 2015. The Commission has initiated advance informal preparation that currently explores the potential scope and the suggested Terms of Reference of the review. The outcome of this informal preparation will be transmitted to the General Assembly and to the Security Council in the context of the next annual report for consideration.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and that of Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng-Hopkins and her team, in support of the Commission's work and activities during the reporting period.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I must emphasize that the past year witnessed a number of positive and worrying developments which both call for further intensifying efforts to seize opportunities and address threats to sustaining peace. While we continue to face systemic challenges, we must commit to face these challenges with the requisite resolve and determination. We are approaching a crucial year in 2015, where we can collectively help shape the future socio-economic and peacebuilding agenda of the United Nations. These efforts must come together and must be mutually reinforcing.

Thank you, Mr. President