



Statement by

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**Presentation of the Report of the Peacebuilding Commission
on its Fifth Session**

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am pleased to present the report of the Commission on its fifth session.

Accompanying countries emerging from conflict on the path to sustainable peace and development continued to be at the core of the Commission's work in 2011. During the reporting period, the Commission responded to the request for advice and accompaniment from the Republic of Guinea, thus becoming the sixth country to be placed on the PBC agenda. This was the first time that such a request was directly submitted to the Commission from the Government concerned. Guinea is also the first country to be placed on the agenda where no full- fledged mission would be kept by the representative Commission (political

Mr. President,

Having provided this brief overview, allow me to highlight only a few points from the report which deserve particular attention from the General Assembly:

First, the report underscores the activities undertaken by the Commission's various configurations to reach out to and engage a number of critical actors within and outside the UN. A significant step in this direction has been taken by the PBC Chairs' Group when it paid its first ever visit to the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, in November 2011. A key objective of the visit was to explore potential avenues for partnerships in the context of the Commission's resource mobilization and improving coherence. By deepening the collaboration between the Commission and the AfDB, there is now much better clarity on concrete areas where both institutions could jointly work in support of peacebuilding priorities in African countries on the Commission's agenda. These include resource mobilization and advocacy, policy dialogue on critical peacebuilding issues, joint work on youth employment in the countries on the PBC agenda, and possible complementarity with the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Subsequently, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and the AfDB developed a workplan in order to take forward each of the aforementioned areas of collaboration in practical terms. This is a promising partnership for the PBC and the countries on its agenda, which

would enable the Commission and the PBF to play their respective catalytic roles for longer-term and targeted support to national peacebuilding efforts.

Second, the report refers to yet another crucial step taken by the Commission to fulfil its mandate in developing best practices in peacebuilding, by demonstrating its potential as a unique platform for knowledge and experience-sharing among the countries on its agenda and between those countries and other countries which have undergone similar experiences in post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.

To this end and on 8 and 9 November 2011, the Government of Rwanda together with the PBC and in collaboration with the African Development Bank organized a high-level meeting on “Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: the Experience of Rwanda” in Kigali. The meeting brought together the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, the Prime Minister of Cote d’Ivoire and other high-level dignitaries from the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, as well as Haiti, Timor Leste, South Sudan, senior officials from the African Union and the World Bank, members of the PBC Chairs’ Group and the PBSO.

The event represented an opportunity for frank and focused discussion on critical peacebuilding challenges, such as inclusive ownership and leadership; innovative approaches to nation-building and socio-economic development; and the strategic use of aid. PBSO and the African Development Bank are in consultations with the World Bank and the UN Civilian Capacity Review Team in order to explore practical steps to take forward the outcome of the Kigali High-Level meeting. There is real need to

nurture this type of cooperation in the area of peacebuilding among the countries of the South. The PBC is best suited to become such a political platform for cooperation, which could be considered, possibly further down the line, as one of various forms of engaging countries seeking the Commission's advice.

Third, while the Commission continued to pursue actions focused on enhancing its impact in the field, expanding its outreach and partnerships, and explore its unique role as a knowledge and experience-sharing platform, the report highlights efforts aimed at strengthening the Commission's relationship with key actors at the Headquarters, namely the United Nations principal organs and lead operational entities. However, there is certainly much room for deepening and diversifying these relationships. In this regard, it is crucial that the general membership consider ways to invest time and effort to engage in the activities and work of the PBC and draw on its tremendous potential to become a bridging

peacebuilding by contributing to policy development in these two crucial areas.

Mr. President,

The most serious test that the UN is collectively facing is to muster the political will to develop adequate structures and policies which will ensure that it will remain relevant in the evolving global security and socio-economic development realities of our times. The new UN Peacebuilding Architecture, made up of the PBC, the PBF and the PBSO, could lead system-wide efforts in this regard. This will, however, can only materialize if the membership becomes more actively engaged in the work of the PBC, contribute to the PBF and support the PBSO in its convening role within the wider UN system.

I hope that today's debate could take us a step further towards realizing the full potentials of this new Architecture to deliver on the promises to respond to the needs to millions of peoples in the countries emerging from conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.