

PBC Chair's remarks at the General Assembly debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace

24 July 2023 (5 – 7 minutes)

Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Croatia as the chair of the Peacebuilding Commission this year is delivering these remarks as agreed by the States, members of the Commission.

Croatia is grateful to its predecessor, Bangladesh, especially its former and current Permanent Representatives, Ambassador Rabab Fatima and Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, for ably chairing the Commission in 2022. We find ample evidence of that in the report we are discussing here today. This is making our work this year easier.

We would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Morocco and Sweden for their work as the Chairs of the Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic and Liberia configurations, respectively. We are thankful to the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Denmark and Egypt for their work as the informal coordinators for the Commission's relations with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, respectively.

The interlinked crises that we have been facing have clearly shown a unique value of the Peacebuilding Commission as a platform to link all relevant stakeholders engaged in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It is also a space where partnership can be forged to accompany countries and regions in their path to lasting peace, while adhering to the mandate.

The increased activity of the Peacebuilding Commission last year can be seen both in the number of advices to the Security Council which significantly increased last year and in widening geographical scope as it had meetings for the first time engaging with Timor-Leste, South Sudan and Central Asia.

The Commission continued to address cross-cutting issues related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as well as root causes of conflict in line with its mandate, including through its engagement with the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.

We saw last year the Commission broadening its role in promoting the system-wide coherence of the United Nations, as well as strengthening engagement with partners outside the UN, in line with the mandate.

Financing for peacebuilding continued to be high on the agenda and efforts are made to encourage consensus, considering all options for enhanced financing for peacebuilding, including voluntary, assessed and innovative financing.

The Commission will also remain seized of the discussions and recommendations pertaining to resolution 76/305, and will continue to engage with the Peacebuilding Support Office within the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA/PBSO), members of the PBF Advisory Group and the countries that engage with the PBF to ensure that it is informed of the activities of the Fund.

Building on these good practices, Croatia's current chairing of the Commission is continuing to focus on expanding geographical scope based on national ownership. Up to now four new countries have engaged voluntarily with the PBC this year: Mozambique, Honduras, Canada and Norway. This is also contributing to improving the knowledge about peacebuilding and further strengthening the PBC's role as a platform for sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

