



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

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Concluding Session

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H. E. Vitaly Churkin, President of the Security Council,
H. E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you for the closing of this annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Let me begin by thanking you, Ambassador de Aguiar Patriota, for the kind invitation to be part of this closing session and also congratulate you for the leadership you have shown in steering the work of PBC. I am confident that under your able leadership, the body will grow even stronger and meet its objectives successfully.

As we all know, the PBC was established in 2005, it was established with high expectations to tackle the daunting challenges of reconstruction and development in countries emerging from conflict. Undoubtedly, over the last three years the PBC has made important strides towards implementing its mandate and core functions as an intergovernmental advisory body of the UN.

As parent organ alongside the Security Council, the General Assembly had a primary role to play in its inception and continues its engagement by participating in the work of the PBC, as well as reviewing its work.

Excellencies,

Over the last nine years or so, the PBC has proven its value in addressing root causes and challenges associated with conflict, instability and underdevelopment, to prevent post-conflict countries from relapsing into conflict.

Countries that have been referred to the agenda of the PBC have benefited from constructive international attention with a focus on their specific needs and challenges. The Country Specific Configurations have provided a platform to foster dialogue and cooperation among all parties involved in the recovery efforts, including original actors, major financial and troop contributors, financial institutions and UN Representatives.

At the country level, integrated peacebuilding strategies have led to better dialogue among governments, civil society, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders. Successful partnership between the Commission and these entities have resulted in much needed progress on the ground.

Yet at the same time, the PBC has focused on national ownership, which remains fundamental in assisting post-conflict countries to rebuild their institutions and sustain peace and development. To this end, we commend the Governments of Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau for their active role in rebuilding their respective countries. In recovering nations such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea we have witnessed the fruits of the collaboration between the PBC and host countries.

Another success story is the PBC's close relationship with the United Nations and cooperation with relevant organs and institutions, including the General Assembly, Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

As the mandate of the Commission spans across the three pillars of the United Nations - peace and security, development and human rights - the PBC is in a unique position to explore and advocate for policy developments in a more holistic manner. In this context, I encourage enhanced and continued support for strengthening these relationships. In particular, I believe the review of the report of the Commission by the General Assembly provides a useful platform for Member States to consider peacebuilding perspectives and challenges and how they relate to other areas of the Assembly.

Next year, the General Assembly and the Security Council will conduct a mandated year review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. This review will be an opportunity to explore how to strengthen the capacity and authority of the PBC to provide advice and specific recommendations on policies that improve the lives of people in countries emerging from conflict.

Distinguished Delegates

An important milestone in the transition of a postconflict country is its removal from the agenda of the Security Council. It is an important benchmark to celebrate, but it is also a source of risk in D F R X Q W U \ | V W U D Q V L W O R Q H I U R P I Z I O U W E R S U R D E F H technical, financial and political and attention from the international community. These resources are likely to decline with the departure of the Council's mandated mission.

The PBC was created to ease the transition in light of these risks and one of its primary roles has been to mobilise the required resources in postconflict countries. Almost ten years since the establishment of the Commission, this main objective of the PBC remains more critical than ever before. For this reason, the theme for this first annual session H Q W L W O H G 3 6 X V W D L Q D E C S H D F H E X L O G L Q J W K H G R P H V W L F D Q G L Q W H U Q D W L R Q D O D V

I understand that deliberations since the beginning of this first annual session have been positive and constructive. The discussions and themes you selected in your interactive working sessions are all instrumental in charting a way forward to ensure sustainable support for peacebuilding.

Indeed, peacebuilding requires substantial financial and human resources. While a short W U D Q V L W L R Q D O D V V L V W D Q F H V X R U C H D E V W A S S I S T A N C E % T H E H Q Y H O R also a greater need for long-term, sustained financial support to enable postconflict countries to consolidate peace and stability.

