



Statement

by the

Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Peter Wittig

on the occasion of the conclusion of his term of office as

Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission

United Nations

26 January 2011

(Check against delivery)

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,
Ambassador Amb Eugene-Richard Gasana, Chairperson-elect of the PBC,
Ms. Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding
Support,

A year ago, the members of this Committee entrusted me with a responsibility to chair the Peacebuilding Commission. It was a critical juncture of its evolution. I assumed this responsib

Furthermore, we convened the first dialogue with the AU Peace and Security Council. It confirmed that the PBC and the AU would mutually benefit from working in partnership in the areas of political accompaniment and advocacy for the countries on the Commission's agenda. I was personally pleased with the degree of enthusiasm demonstrated by the members of the AU PSC and the AU Commission. It calls for intensifying our common work at the HQ and country-levels.

I also participated in the first global meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding which took place in Dili, Timor Leste last year. The meeting provided a good opportunity to learn more closely about the objectives and scope of this interesting initiative and the areas of potential collaboration in countries where the PBC and the Dialogue are involved. It would be important for the PBC to explore how the dialogue may contribute to enhancing resource flows for critical peacebuilding priorities and gaps.

Second: enhancing the role of the PBC's instrument of engagement as framework for mutual accountability and for monitoring progress towards broader peacebuilding objectives.

In 2010, the Commission responded to a new request for advice from Liberia, making it the fifth country to be placed on our agenda. Liberia challenged the Commission to demonstrate its ability to diversify and adapt its approach to the varying needs and priorities of countries in different stages of its peacebuilding processes. More than that: it offered an opportunity for the Commission, the Liberian and UN actors to design an

instrument of engagement around the principals of national ownership and mutual commitments: with clear targets and a review mechanism to help deliver and monitor these commitments. I am confident that under the guidance of His Royal Highness, Prince Zeid Al Hussein, and with the serious engagement of the members of the Liberia Configuration, the Commission can deliver in this crucial area which w

is increasing openness on the part of the Council to draw on the advice of the PBC in this area. All peacebuilding related statements made by the respective Council presidents confirmed this sentiment. Most recently, the

International Civilian Capacities. The PBC also continued to engage in policy discussions on the role and activities of the Peacebuilding Fund, which is an important catalytic instrument.

I trust that under the guidance of Ambassador Gasana, the PBC will continue to pursue additional progress towards meeting these broad objectives.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and of Assistant Secretary-General Cheng-Hopkins, in support of the Commission's work and activities. Despite being faced by enormous capacity challenges and high turn-over of staff, PBSO has still demonstrated the necessary dedication and professionalism which the PBC will continue to count on. The role of the PBSO assumes particular importance as the PBC seeks to draw on the expertise and commitment of operational entities within and outside the United Nations.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

We should take satisfaction in the fact that "peacebuilding" is gradually evolving as a key feature of the United Nations' role in post-conflict countries. We should count on the engagement of the Secretary-General to ensure that peacebuilding becomes a strategic priority for the Organization. His recent reports on peacebuilding and on women's participation in peacebuilding, speak for his increasing commitment.

Let me conclude by noting that there is increasing conviction that the international community can no longer afford to fail in shouldering its

responsibility towards the populations in countries affected and emerging from conflict. We learned our lessons in many places and we promised to do better the next time. Let us insist that we will deliver on this promise. Let us start from here: the Peacebuilding Commission.

Thank you.