

**Mr. President,**

I am pleased and I thank the Presidency of the Russian Federation for the opportunity to participate in this meeting on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in my capacity as chairman of the (PBC). This is indeed an important occasion to reflect on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission with one of the principal bodies through whose instrument, resolutions A/60/180 and 1645 of the General Assembly and the Security Council, it was created. I am equally pleased that the General Assembly has scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of February a similar debate which I hope will provide an opportunity for a wider participation by the membership of our organization a fact which we in the PBC welcome.

Although, the PBC has been in existence for less than a year, questions are already being asked about the results it has achieved during this period. This is a legitimate concern and it speaks to the high expectations that the international community, in particular the Member States have about this new organ of the United Nations.

Yet, we should recognize that peacebuilding is by nature a complex and long term process which requires persistent and long term commitment by all. This debate today, I hope, will contribute in mobilizing the commitment needed so that we move faster, providing more clarity in the discussion of some outstanding procedural issues in the workings of the Commission. Let us all agree that our theoretical differences in New York are meaningless to those who are directly suffering from the consequences of conflict on the ground. What matters for them are concrete action and not just eloquent statements.

**Mr. President,**

The PBC will only be relevant and succeed if it paves the way for an engaged partnership and practical actions by its members as well as by the donor community, regional organizations and multilateral financial institutions and by the government, civil society and the private sector of countries under consideration by the PBC. It is this active partnership that will produce the incremental and tangible results we are seeking. Our common efforts are aimed -- and should be -- at reinforce confidence in the post conflict communities, ensuring that the countries do not relapse into conflict and move swiftly on the path of stability, recovery and development.

The fact that allocations were made from the Peacebuilding Fund for both Burundi and Sierra Leone is an important first step to underline international commitment and attention. But, we do need a long term commitment from donors to remain engaged with the country throughout the peacebuilding effort. Equally, the two countries need to make greater efforts to lay the foundations for sustainable peace.

I am particularly pleased that we are about to decide on Country Specific Plans of Action and a Programme of Action for the Organizational Committee which I believe will allow the PBC to review and monitor the implementation of its decisions on a more regular

basis. The recent staffing of the Peace Building Support Office is also a welcoming development. This Office should continue to be given the necessary attention and resources as it constitutes a vital instrument for the functioning of the Commission.

I am pleased by the contributions recently made to the Peacebuilding Fund. This is an encouraging trend, though the amount available is still insufficient when compared with the needs in the two countries and the urgency in meeting those needs.

The PBC is a body to which this Council has dedicated much valuable time to establish. It is your body and it will only perform in accordance to the means you and the international community will put at its disposal, in order to meet the high expectations of the populations from the countries emerging from conflict. In order to meet the objectives expected from it on the ground, the PBC must be a real bridge for all stakeholders, to Marshall Resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post conflict peacebuilding recovery, in conformity with the decision of the Heads of State at the September Summit.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to seize this opportunity to commend both the Governments of Burundi and Sierra Leone for providing the legal and political framework by establishing the national bodies and the suitable environment to facilitate the work of the Commission on the ground. This is their primary responsibility and the role of the national ownership. As stated by the former SG, Kofi Annan, “Where peacebuilding succeeds, it is always the leadership of domestic actors that is essential ingredient of success. No amount of international engagement can substitute the domestic political leaders shouldering their responsibility and leading their people towards peace and development,”

Finally I want to acknowledge the fact this new body has a number of issues to address in order to improve its effectiveness and enhance its impact. While we have to acknowledge that the PBC is still in the early phase of its existence, we also need to be decisive in tackling some of the critical challenges in relation to its work methods and strategic vision. This requires a collective commitment and I hope that as we move forward, all members of the PBC and of the United Nations will contribute to that effort.

**Thank you.**