

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, ON POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING [REPORT OF THE
PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ON ITS 5TH SESSION] AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PLENARY ON MARCH 19, 2012

Mr President,

I thank you for organizing today's session and to the Peacebuilding Commission for the work carried out by them during the year. This is also an occasion to extend our warm appreciation to Ambassador Gasana for his able stewardship of the Commission's work. My delegation also wishes to felicitate Bangladesh on their assumption of the PBC Chair. With Bangladesh at the helm, we see a unique and timely convergence between peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks and experiences.

Mr. President,

2. Peacebuilding and peacekeeping-peacebuilding are and will remain core activities of the United Nations in times to come. The working relationship of the PBC, the newest organ of the UN, with the Security Council and the General Assembly is of critical importance. As a founding member of the Commission since its inception, my delegation favours close, regular, and substantive interaction between the Commission, this Assembly, and the Council, so that the United Nations can deliver coherently when it comes to setting the peacebuilding agenda.

Mr President,

3. Peacebuilding is a cooperative and collective effort. The United Nations requires working with other peacebuilding actors, including international financial institutions. This will have a positive impact on peacebuilding and on the growing need for resources for peacebuilding initiatives. In an arena with many players, the United Nations must, however, be conscious of the need for it to retain the high ground in developing the normative basis for peacebuilding.

4. My delegation stresses that the United Nations must play the central role in identifying a common peacebuilding vision and in acting as a bridge between national authorities and various peacebuilding and development actors. Our unique strength lies in our people on the ground. We must ensure that this unique ability of ours does not remain unspotted while we scout for expertise elsewhere. To retain field relevance, the peacebuilding concepts and frameworks should evolve in due regard to field expertise and inputs.

5. We have made strides in streamlining peacebuilding architecture during the year. Given the challenges on resource front, it is advisable that the existing

mechanisms are allowed and encouraged to perform to their optimum potential. In this regard, the Headquarters should enhance its facilitative role that grants field leadership space for thoughts and action. An approach that overly relies on manuals and guidelines which are constructed in abstract and detached from conflict zones fail in contributing to this aspect of our efforts in the field. My delegation will be keen to see our field expertise leading the process at the Headquarters. The expertise we develop must derive from a geographically diverse catchment. Specialist cadres that are non-representative is a beginning with a weak step.

Mr President,

6. Peacebuilding emerged from peacekeeping. India has been in the forefront of peacekeeping from its inception. We firmly believe that the peacebuilding actors must strive to make the best out of peacekeeping attainments. Like peacekeeping, subsequent peacebuilding components come with inherent challenges be it Security Sector Reform, DDR, Rule of Law, Developmental quests, or economic recovery and employment generation. In this regard, efforts undertaken by PBF need further elaboration in the context of cross-cutting synergies across the UN system.

7. National ownership is the key for success in peacebuilding. The international community has the duty to make available appropriate capacities to national authorities. The solutions and capacities that these authorities seek are those that have been tried and tested in similar environments. Countries that have undergone state-building and democratic transitions hold special relevance to our peacebuilding efforts. It is also the responsibility of the international community to provide the resources in a predictable manner and at an appropriate level over extended periods.

Mr President,

8. India strongly supports the role and relevance of regional players in post-conflict scenarios. We are greatly appreciative of the role of the African Union's efforts to develop Post-Conflict Reconstruction capacities.

9. The Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes must also do more to become effective players with better coherence.

10. In concluding, I would like to underscore that India has regularly contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund and we are committed to PBC process and will continue to remain fully engaged.

Thank you, Mr President.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)