

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION AT THE
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 25, 2009

Mr. President,

We appreciate the timely scheduling of today's debate on the Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission. Let me begin by placing on record our appreciation for the good work being done by Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, the Chair of the Commission, who brings a wealth of experience to this assignment, the new Chairs of the country-specific configurations, the Chair of the Working Group on the Lessons Learned, and congratulate Ms Judy Cheng Hopkins on her appointment as the Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office. My delegation will remain constructively engaged in the process and assure them of our fullest cooperation and support.

Mr. President,

The report of the Secretary General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict rightly acknowledges the imperatives of national ownership and for anchoring peacebuilding efforts at the country level. Equally significant is the fact that the Peacebuilding Commission is trying to cooperate and coordinate with other UN agencies as well as other international institutions, and is trying to expand the web of stakeholders as well as their involvement in the process of peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

As a contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund and as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, India has remained actively engaged in the critical task of peacebuilding. We will continue our active association with both the Commission and the Fund with a view to enabling these institutions to fulfill in their entirety the tasks as assigned to them by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

India has always held the view that the setting up of the Peacebuilding Commission filled an important institutional gap and that the Commission can and should make an important contribution to the recovery, reconstruction and development of countries emerging from conflict, wherever it agrees to act upon a request for advice and assistance by any such Member State.

It is with this conviction India was proactively engaged in revising the terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund and had co-sponsored a resolution in this regard in May this year. We are happy to note that the Secretary General's Annual Report on the Peacebuilding Fund observes that its revised terms of reference have enabled the Fund, "to serve as a fast-disbursing, agile, responsive and risk-taking peacebuilding instrument."

In all our endeavours, it is important that the relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission and all donors is managed creatively, so as to utilize synergies in existing peacebuilding strategies.

Mr. President,

In its own unique experience of nation-building, India has developed multifaceted capacities relevant to peacebuilding and development. We have shared this experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding activities, including for development, social sector reform and rule of law and security.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by stressing two important imperatives.

First, we must always strive to ensure that there is an effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Commission itself through all stages.

Second, we need to constantly improve the governance structures of the peacebuilding architecture. It should be in a position to respond swiftly and with greater efficiency so that all available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time.

Thank you.

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