

Joint Debate

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its 12th Session Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

INDIA STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu
Deputy Permanent Representative**

United Nations General Assembly

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Madam President,

We thank the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the Report (A/73/724-S/2019/88) on its twelfth session, which provides a useful account of the activities of the Commission during the last year.

2. We also thank the Secretary General for his report (A/73/829) on the Peacebuilding Fund that gives a good overview of the Fund's situation and projects.

3. The annual debate provides us an opportunity to reflect on the progress made so far as well as discuss the next steps. It is particularly important as the Member States have started exchanging views on the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2020.

4. 2018 has been a significant year for peacebuilding activities. The high-level meeting in April reflected on the comprehensive nature of issues involved with the broader concept of sustaining peace. We have demonstrated our collective commitment to move forward which was evident with the adoption of a consensus resolution following the high-level meeting.

Madam President,

5. Today's conflicts are increasingly intra-state, involving non-state actors and international terror networks. The complex and interlinked nature of conflicts have much wider implications across countries. We, therefore, have a collective interest in building and sustaining peace.

6. The concept of sustaining peace requires the engagement of all the pillars of the United Nations. We appreciate Secretary-General's focus on the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in the context of ongoing reforms.

7. India believes that the efforts undertaken by the PBC in various countries and regions will result in sustainable outcomes if national ownership is strictly followed. The peacebuilding activities should align with the national priorities and implemented with the involvement of the country's leadership and national institutions. This would ensure that gains are long-term and prevent any relapse.

8. We recognize and welcome the importance of expanding cooperation with regional organizations in peacebuilding efforts. The working sessions on partnerships during the Annual Session on Sahel and the informal interactive dialogue with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union reaffirmed the usefulness to strengthen strategic partnerships between the UN and regional and international organisations.

9. We support the advisory, flexible and convening role of the PBC in its interactions with its parent bodies - the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with the objective of pursuing a coherent and integrated approach to building and sustaining peace.

Madam President,

10. We note that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), during last one year, supported projects worth US\$ 183 million in 40 countries. The high donor contributions to the Fund in the last two years is a clear sign of confidence in the contribution of the UN to peacebuilding. We welcome the specific financing options presented by the Secretary-General in his report,

including voluntarily committing unspent peacekeeping funds to the Peacebuilding Fund. Some these option are already being considered for implemented by select Member States.

11. The role of women and youth in peacebuilding, including in decision-making is important. We commend PBF for exceeding its own record of previous years by allocating 40% of funds in support of gender equality and women's empowerment during 2018. Skill development and employment generation for youth plays a significant role in building and sustaining peace.

12. The contribution of the Fund to UN's efforts in designing and implementing peacebuilding programmes that prioritize the inclusion, participation and leadership of young people; cross-border programming, mission transitions and transboundary peacebuilding initiatives, as also its partnership with regional organisations and other multilateral funds are positive steps.

Madam President,

13. There is a clear recognition of the importance of a sustainable and inclusive economic growth and political processes in preventing conflict as well as undertaking effective peacebuilding efforts. India continues to expand its development partnership efforts with fellow developing countries to assist in their developmental priorities.

14. As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception, India looks forward to working with all its partners to strengthen the Peacebuilding Architecture and play a constructive role in pursuing the objectives of achieving peace and prosperity for our peoples.

Thank you.
