Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor this year, let me wish you, the Peacebuilding Support Office and all the other delegations gathered here a very successful year.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ambassador Ion Jinga for his work as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2018. I would also like to join others in congratulating the new Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Guillermo Fernandez De Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia, as well as the new Vice Chairs, the Permanent Representatives of Romania and Egypt, as well as the Chairs of the country-specific configurations for assumption of their responsibilities. On behalf of our delegation, I wish to assure of all possible support.

Building peace and prosperity for all remains a major objective for the international community. India has unique experience of nation-building in a large, complex and diverse setting and we are continuously striving to give our people a meaningful life through a development focus. This has allowed us to develop multifaceted capacities relevant to development. We have shared this experience and expertise with a number of countries and are happy to continue to extend support for nation building initiatives and cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding activities. India is also committed to expand its development partnership initiatives to assist partners in their sustainable development priorities. At the same time, we are also conscious that development and peacebuilding in the 21st century demands unprecedented forms of integration, collaboration and partnership.
The report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace last year provided useful suggestions on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the UN system in supporting Member State-led efforts, on strengthening partnership with relevant stakeholders and on ensuring predictable and sustainable funding of peacebuilding activities.

This year is important for the Peacebuilding Commission as we will be preparing for a comprehensive review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture in 2020. We hope that the review will result in adoption of necessary changes to the peacebuilding architecture which will make it more responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of countries recovering from conflicts.

We look forward to working with all partners in playing a constructive role in pursuing the objectives of achieving peace and prosperity for our peoples.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.