

**PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

**First Annual Session**

Closing Statement by

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Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

**23 June 2014**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Mr. President of the Security Council,

In addition to marking the “Peacebuilding Day”, this first annual session marks the evolving role of the Peacebuilding Commission in the development of global policy directions relevant to countries emerging from conflict.

In the opening segment of the

The discussions in the first working session touched upon critical ~~goals~~ ~~policy~~ in intergovernmental action to ensure timely, targeted and sustained support for countries emerging from conflict in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, and to combat illicit financial flows from countries emerging from conflict.

In this ~~regard~~, key questions were addressed, including the role of the international community in a) sustaining financial inflows from external sources towards peacebuilding objectives; and b) acting multilaterally, in a more concerted way, to help reduce the ~~overall~~ negative impact of illicit financial flows.

I was glad to notice that during our first working session, on domestic resources mobilization and revenue generation, participants were able to put forward different perspectives and very concrete policy recommendations, bearing in mind the specificities of ~~post~~ conflict situations.

They were able to address national and international dimensions. Attention was given to the interrelated issues of public finances management, institutions and capacity ~~building~~ ~~human~~ resources management, combat of illicit financial flows, including through combating trade misinvoicing, among many others. The need for further policy development on those issues was highlighted, as well as the contributions of different ~~organizations~~, as well as national and international actors.

A particular emphasis was placed on the opportunities of regional and sub ~~regional~~ ~~approaches~~, including for technical assistance. The role of civil society was also mentioned. I believe the session was particularly successful in placing those aspects of resources mobilization in the strategic context of some fundamental questions: ~~what~~ ~~do~~ we want to mobilize resources for; how do we ensure maximum benefits for local populations in situations of scarcity, volatility and huge needs; how do we enhance national ownership and timely assistance to overcome the challenges of fragile

stability; how, when, and with which instruments do we engage in very risky situations. I believe the session proved very useful for addressing these very complex matters from the specific point of view of the political economy of post-conflict situations, and I com

conclusions that we draw from the substantive deliberations of this session would also highlight areas requiring additional attention from the UN Architecture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this commemoration of “Peacebuilding Day”, we can find encouragement in the fact that the international community has made considerable progress in addressing some of the critical challenge facing countries emerging from conflict. At the same time, our discussions today confirm that we still need to pursue vigorous and practical policy making.

This first annual session has demonstrated the potential for the Peacebuilding Commission to serve as an intergovernmental platform for Member States to gather, address and share perspectives on critical policy areas for peacebuilding. It is, however, only the opportunity of its sort. I trust that for future annual sessions, we will continue to bring to the fore issues and themes requiring our attention as we try to shape and further improve our response to conflict challenges.

As previously agreed, the Chair will summarize the deliberations of the first annual session in a report that will be shared with the members of the Commission. Policy recommendations that may be concluded from these deliberations will be the subject of a further consultation within the Peacebuilding Commission with a view to incorporating these recommendations in the Commission’s next annual report to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

I wish to thank you all for your attendance. I wish to thank and recognize Member States who participated by delegations from the respective capitals. I also thank delegations and international organizations who participated in and made valuable contributions to the deliberations in the two informal working sessions.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to Assistant Secretary General Judy Chen Hopkins for