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**REMARKS AT THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC
AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:
“BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE:
THE UN ROLE IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS”
Washington, D.C., 7 May 2012**

Dr. Brzezinski,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this very warm welcome. It is a great pleasure to be with you this morning.

And it is a special pleasure to share this occasion with you, Dr. Brzezinski. You have been at, or at least near, the center of global affairs for many decades now. And you have always been a good friend of the United Nations. For that we thank you.

And our thanks, as well, to the Centre for Strategi

We also fielded another 15 political missions, some with explicit peacebuilding mandates.

Our record of achievement in nurturing recovery from conflict is long.

Of course, there have been setbacks.

But the bottom-line is clear: the UN is there where we are most needed. And just as clearly, our engagement has helped many societies make a new start.

Peacebuilding saves lives.

It protects human rights and promotes the rule of law.

It saves money, with costs that are a fraction of military operations and of the economic damage caused by of conflict.

So it is quite natural that peacebuilding is taking on a greater profile in the work of the United Nations for peace.

And so, it is good to be here, today, to mark six years since the establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and its support office.

These institutions were created to provide sustained political support to post-conflict countries, and to provide fast and catalytic funding to peacebuilding efforts.

Last year, the Fund allocated \$100 million for activities in 14 countries.

Our challenge is to sharpen this tool. That is what we are here for. (s)15.9464.961(a)-3.66520-a Ouo.e

With its robust mandate, that operation helped to stabilize the country. Today, our peacekeepers are gone. In their place, we have a small political mission — with less than 100 full-time staff.

When violence between political parties erupted in Freetown in 2009, the mission leadership on the ground and the Peacebuilding Commission in New York worked in tandem to forge an agreement.

The Peacebuilding Fund, meanwhile, has supported steps to help young people and others participate in the country's political life.

Yet one and a half billion people still live in fragile or conflict-affected countries. For them, the world does not feel safer. For them, insecurity, injustice and

At times, however, limited local capacity is an obstacle. So is the tendency of some donors to support projects that might satisfy constituencies back home but that do not reflect local priorities.

We have also seen some governments reluctant to focus on the key peacebuilding priorities of their people.

Myanmar, from which I have just returned, offers an example of a transition in which a stated programme of change has been backed up by concrete reforms. The

Resources means people, too. Civilian capacities are crucially important, and we are taking steps to be able to deploy the right experts to the right place at the right time.

Seventh: the inclusion of women in peace processes and post-conflict planning is fundamental for their legitimacy – and for the results to take hold.

Organized sexual violence is often a tactic of war, yet just 17 of 585 post-1990 peace accords mention it. And less than 6 per cent of post-conflict spending is budgeted specially to empower women or promote gender equality.

I am pressing to do more than double such spending – and to ensure that 40 per cent of UN-sponsored post-conflict temporary employment opportunities are made available to women. We are also working to increase the percentage of women in UN Police, and achieving good momentum in that effort.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations is the only organization that can bring all the necessary elements of peacebuilding to bear: political, security, human rights, humanitarian, rule of law and development.

In our missions and country teams on the ground in our planning at