

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**REMARKS TO SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE
ON POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING
New York, 20 December 2012**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I commend Morocco for its initiative in convening this open debate.

Peacebuilding is one of the main objectives of the United Nations. It brings together actors from across the UN system:

-- my envoys and representatives, whose negotiation and mediation efforts help to achieve and sustain political settlements;

-- political and peacekeeping missions, which assist in implementing peace and transition agreements and lay the foundations for sustainable peace;

-- and the agencies, funds and programmes, whose efforts deliver peace dividends, support recovery and kick-start development.

In my 2009 report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, I identified the first two years after the end of conflict as the key window of opportunity to begin building sustainable peace. I also laid out an action agenda for an improved response by the United Nations system during this period.

The United Nations has made significant progress in advancing this agenda.

United Nations missions and country teams are working more closely together.

The United Nations has also become more agile in deploying senior leaders, specialized experts and staff to the field.

We have strengthened and expanded our partnerships, including with the World Bank and regional organizations.

And through the CivCap initiative, we are broadening and deepening the pool of institution-building expertise in key capacity gap areas.

Strengthening institutions means strengthening the rule of law. Member States have recognized, in the Declaration on the Rule of Law adopted by the General Assembly in September, the importance of rule of law institutions that are accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of all individuals, and which promote trust, social cohesion and economic prosperity. Efforts in this area should include ensuring full and equal access to informal institutions, as well as strengthening the interface between formal and informal institutions.

Good governance and rule of law as well as effective, transparent, accountable and democratic institutions are critical for sustainable development. Member States recognized this at this year's Rio+20 conference, and the current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda offer an opportunity to take this recognition forward.

Mr. President,

Building institutions and other peacebuilding tasks can take a generation. This highlights the need for sustained international political and financial support. It also underscores the importance of mutual accountability over the long term, which creates a more balanced partnership between donors and recipient Governments. This approach is