



Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations
New York

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ENTITLED “POSTCONFLICT PEACEBUILDING”.**

(New York, 20 December 2012)

Mr. President:

At the outset, let me thank the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco for organizing this open debate. We also express our appreciation to Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins and Ambassador A.K. Abdul Momen for their presentations, as well as the Secretariat for the submitted report, all about the progress made in improving the coherence, efficiency and internal accountability in the activities related to peacebuilding.

Seven years after its establishment, the Peacebuilding Commission has not yet reached its full potential, nor has it entirely fulfilled the purpose for which it was originally established. However, it is clear that it has made significant achievements; the contribution of the Commission to the countries under its care is increasing over time. Evidence of this is the expansion of country configurations through the advisory role of the PBC, working to secure the foundations for lasting peace and national reconciliation.

Mr. President:

Building on what was discussed by the Security Council last July, when we met to consider the Fifth Report of the Peacebuilding Commission, my remarks will focus on the following six points:

First, the Peacebuilding Commission should assist and facilitate that donor support be in line with the national peacebuilding plans, accommodating national priorities that address the roots causes of conflict and the actions to overcome them. We agree with the Report of the Secretary General, and the practice already established in the Commission itself, that directly concerned countries must set the course and provide leadership in the implementation of those plans.

Second, the Commission should help ensure that the collective effort begets coordinated and coherent action in the field by all stakeholders, including exploring alternatives, such as simple and flexible collaboration with other partners such as foundations and the private sector. This aid must at all times complement and support the efforts and

initiatives undertaken by national actors and the whole process should be upon the request and consent of the country under consideration.

Third, to enhance its role in building partnerships within and outside the United Nations system and with the competent authorities of the affected country, the Commission should be, as far as the UN is concerned, the builder of bridges between various intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, such as the Security Council, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council. In that sense, and as we pointed out last July in this same hall, the Commission is a link between the Security Council, whose mandate is limited to the maintenance of international peace and security, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. These last two bodies have mandates on development and democratic governance.

Because of this, the frontier between peacemaking and peacebuilding is not clear, which is why a good understanding between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission would enhance compliance with the mandates of both bodies, especially on the ground. It is important to forge alliances between these bodies, and between the United Nations and the multilateral financial institutions.

Fourth, the Report of the Secretary-General prominently discusses the issue of women's participation in the processes of peacebuilding. We endorse the notion that women are key agents for attaining lasting peace. During our Presidency of the Council last October, we promoted a presidential statement on the matter. In that respect, we recognize all efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to ensure the participation of women and the availability of experts on gender issues in peace processes, especially processes of peacebuilding.

Fifth, in any peace process it is critical that from its early stages there be inclusivity to broad sectors of society and a wide range of relevant national actors (stakeholders) to better address the root causes of conflict, and give greater legitimacy to the consolidation of peace and all that it entails. The active participation of national actors supports the national responsibility in the achievement of goals for peacebuilding and ensures that national policies are developed in such a way that benefits the common good. In this, women can also play a conciliatory role.

Sixth, all efforts made by the United Nations and partners on the ground will be for naught if national capabilities are not generated and democratic institutions whose role is recognized and respected by the population are not built. Therefore, it is timely to refer to civilian capacity and the availability of experts in developing countries to which the State can turn, to help develop national capacity and institutions in support of peacebuilding. Here we combine both the notion of national ownership, participatory processes, and focused international cooperation, which also favors South-South cooperation.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we have taken note of the suggestions and recommendations that the Secretary General makes in his report (S/2012/746), and we can say that we welcome the vast majority of them without hesitation.

Thank you very much.