

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
BRIEFING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON POST CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING
25 APRIL 2013**

Mr. President,

In the first place, let me thank the delegation of Rwanda for organizing this briefing. We would like also to express our appreciation to Ambassadors A.K Abdul Momen and Ranko Villović for their presentations on the recent evolution the Peace Building Commission. We further appreciate the Report of the Commission contained in document A/67/715-S/2013/63 dated 29 January.

For us, the existence of the Peace Building Commission, in spite of its complex architecture and its own evolution that experienced its ups and downs, constitutes an important institutional link between the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, and the Bretton Woods institutions. Therefore, we believe that its creation marks an important milestone in the institutional development of the United Nations.

It became clear during the debates organized by the Presidencies of Colombia in July and of Morocco in December of last year, that there seems to be a consensus that the Peace Building Commission has not yet reached its full potential. At the same time, there also appears to be a consensus on the enormous potential of this forum to draw on the efforts of the Security Council in peacemaking and to project them to cover the reconstruction and transformation stages leading to the normality of a country emerging from conflict. In this regard, the United Nations has the experience of more than six decades in addressing the needs of societies in conflict, in the areas of peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace building, peace consolidation, and in trying to prevent countries that had already emerged from conflict to relapse into conflict. The stages of those different categories are not necessarily sequential; they overlap and support each other in a reciprocal manner. Hence, the link between the Security Council and the Peace Building Commission is especially relevant, which is the matter before us today.

Ambassador Villović told us that the main purpose of the Commission is to provide advice to the Council, particularly when it relates to countries on the agenda of the Council who form part of a specific country configuration. But, with all due respect, we believe that equally or even more important is the role contemplated in operative paragraph 2 of GA Resolution 60/180, which refers the need of all interested stakeholders in a country-specific situation – and these certainly include the Security Council and the Peace Building Commission – act in a coordinated manner and, as the saying goes, "be on the same page." Those coordinated efforts are also reflected in the 2012-2013 Strategy prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

But under either of those functions -- advisory or coordination -- it should be recognized that there is still a long way to go, as I said earlier, to meet the expectations placed on the PBC when it was created. To fulfill those expectations, certainly there are concrete actions that the Commission can adopt, and others that can and should be taken by this Council. I will mention five points.

First, although GA resolution 60/180 gives the Security Council the possibility to appoint seven members of the Commission (including the five permanent members), nothing prevents other Council members to get elected as part of the representation of the General Assembly and ECOSOC. In fact, this has happened. Last year 11 members of the Council also were members of the Commission, and we have had cases

in the past – and we have one now – where Council members have presided over country-specific configurations. Presumably, those representatives who are members of both forums should be sensitive to the potential for closer cooperation and seek mutual support.

Second, the Council should continue and broaden the practice of inviting the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to be involved in our discussions when referring to countries that appear on our agenda. This practice could also be expanded to other areas, as they would be informal consultations among Council members and the country-specific configuration, when countries that are in the process of peacebuilding slip back into a situation of conflict. The current situation in the Central African Republic and also in Guinea-Bissau, are examples.

Third, when drafting the mandate renewal for peacekeeping operations it would be worthwhile to include, when appropriate, in the resolutions some linkages with the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. At least our experts should bear this possibility in mind.

Fourth, and here I'm borrowing an idea from Ambassador Viločić – we should consider the participation of the PBC in the Technical Assessment Missions that are carried out prior to the gradual drawdown of a peacekeeping operation.

Fifth, when a Security Council mission travels to a PBC country-configuration the latter should be involved. Similarly, when a PBC mission travels to a country that is on the agenda of the Security Council, consultations between both bodies should take place.

Before concluding, I would like to refer very briefly to Ambassador Abdul Momen's statement, which is organized around the main functions and work of the Commission, placing particular emphasis on the results achieved and the challenges and opportunities related to the impact of the Commission in the field and its relations at UN Headquarters. We particularly appreciate that during his Presidency he launched, in September of last year, the initiative of organizing a High-Level Event on "Peacebuilding: The way towards sustainable peace and security", which was presided over by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The consensus Political Declaration that emanated from this event reaffirmed and reinvigorated the political commitment to key principles, objectives and priorities of the Commission.

In sum, we have the impression that both bodies tend to function like two distinct and separate compartments, with minimum communication only to fulfil formalities and apparently with little enthusiasm, as pointed out in the recent publication of the *Security Council Report* dated 18 April 2013 precisely on this matter. If you allow me to make a personal comment, being a member both of the Security Council and the PBC, I believe it is within our reach to change this situation and overcome it.

Thank you.