

**Statement by Ambassador Asoke K. Mukerji, Permanent Representative on
the Report of the Peace Building Commission on its 8th Session and the Report
of the Secretary General on the Peace Building Fund on
April 16, 2015**

Mr. President,

We thank the Peacebuilding Commission for its Report (A/69/818 - S/2015/174) on its eighth session. We also thank the Secretary General for his report (A/69/745) on the Peace Building Fund.

Mr. President,

The PBC report provides a useful overview of the work of Commission during its eighth session. Deserving special mention is also work done by the Commission dealing with tragic outbreak of Ebola in three countries on the agenda, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and drawing international attention to the need to ensure that the outbreak does not create a long-term threat to the progress achieved in these three countries towards sustainable peace and inclusive development.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the important principles that need to guide peace building. This will assist us in assessing the work done by the Peacebuilding Commission during its eighth session and also provide direction to the ongoing work of the Commission during its ninth session.

Mr. President,

The willingness of the international community to provide adequate resources is a necessary condition for successful peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict countries. In this context, the theme of second annual session- "Predictable financing for peacebuilding: breaking the silos" is timely and relevant. We believe that Peacebuilding, anchored firmly in the overall peace process, can deliver results if the international community makes available predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods. It is important that advocacy must be accompanied by matching commitments in resources.

Second, it is imperative for the peacebuilding efforts to align themselves with national priorities and ensure that all plans and programmes are implemented under national leadership and through national institutions. This would ensure that gains, even if slow, are sustainable. It is necessary to rebuild institutions and infrastructure in nations torn by civil war if we want to consolidate peace and avoid a relapse into conflict. A certain amount of external guidance is implicit in peacebuilding, but it should not be at the cost of local ownership and agenda. It is the primary responsibility of national governments of countries emerging from conflict to identify priorities and strategies for peace building in order to ensure national ownership.

Third, the UN needs to go beyond short term fixes and address long term socio-economic development of the host country. Poverty and lack of opportunity pose some of the most formidable barriers to sustainable peace.

Fourth, establishment and maintenance of public order is important. A security vacuum after a peace agreement is dangerous as it would immediately lead to criminal activity. The focus, however, should be on what is do-able. Given scarcity of resources, the priority should be on ensuring impartiality in recruitment, vetting of new recruits and training, instead of seeking to make cultural change a central aspect of police reform.

Fifth, the rule of law is also important as consolidation of peace cannot be achieved unless the population is confident that their grievances would be redressed in a just manner. Peace building needs to integrate indigenous and informal justice mechanisms into judicial reforms, instead of viewing them as being incompatible with western liberal values.

Sixth, para 43 of the PBC report refers to member-states' support for synergy between Peacebuilding Architecture review and the Secretary-General's review of peace operations. We think that both review processes should look into contribution that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to early peacebuilding, including through creating a conducive environment and suggest ways to further consolidate these early gains. At the same time, it is also important to recognize that humanitarian actors, development actors, other peace builders and peace keepers all have different tasks and priorities. Therefore, integration of peace keeping and peace building should only be done to the degree that is required, to build sustainable peace.

Lastly, keeping in mind the importance of Peacebuilding we should aim to submit the 2015 PBA review to our leaders for their guidance during the 70th anniversary Summit of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We would like to underline that peace building is an area to which we attach importance and assure you of our delegation's constructive support and participation in the PBC work under the able Chairmanship of our colleague from Sweden .

Thank you.
