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**Peacebuilding Commission
Thirteenth session
Organizational Committee Summary record**

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 28 January 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Jinga (Romania)
later: Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama (Colombia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/13/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its twelfth session (PBC/12/OC/L.1)

2. **The Chair** recalled that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its twelfth session (PBC/12/OC/L.1) had been provisionally and informally approved by the Organizational Committee during informal consultations, pending its translation into all United Nations official languages. The draft report reflected the Commission's work in 2018 to implement the relevant recommendations of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the priorities identified in the annual report on the previous session, and set out key work streams for 2019. The report would be considered by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

3. It had been brought to the Commission's attention that paragraph 15 of the report, which referred to the Commission's work in Liberia, contained some inaccuracies. Following consultations with the Permanent Mission of Liberia and the Permanent Mission of Sweden, the Chair of the Liberia configuration, he suggested amending the paragraph by deleting the sentence starting with "In December" and ending with "the withdrawal of UNMIL".

4. *It was so decided.*

5. *The draft report, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Election of officers

6. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for its thirteenth session.

7. *Colombia was elected Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2019.*

8. **The Chair** said that the Group of African States had endorsed Egypt for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its thirteenth session.

9. *Egypt was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2019.*

10. **The Chair** said that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed Romania for the position

of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its thirteenth session.

11. *Romania was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2019.*

12. *Brazil was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration; Canada was re-elected as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration; Morocco was re-elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; Sweden was re-elected as Chair of the Liberia configuration; and Switzerland was re-elected as Chair of the Burundi configuration for a term ending on 31 December 2019.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

13. **The Chair** said that, during his term as Chair, the Commission had continued to diversify its working methods and to enhance its role and impact in addressing country-specific, regional and cross-cutting peacebuilding challenges. Its work in the Gambia since 2017 showed how Member States could use the platform provided by the Commission in support of their national efforts to build and sustain peace. The Commission had also brought greater coherence to international efforts in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and reinforced its position as an advisory body to the Security Council. It should strive to further align its work with the Council's calendar.

14. The Commission was playing an increasingly important role in addressing regional, cross-border and transnational peacebuilding challenges, as acknowledged by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 20 January 2017 (S/PRST/2017/2), in which the Council emphasized the importance of the convening role of the Commission in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the United Nations system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The Commission had focused on the Sahel at its annual session in 2018 and at its joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council in the same year, examining the impact of climate change on efforts to build and sustain peace in that region and ways to build the region's resilience to climate change.

15. As Chair, he had visited Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Senegal, thereby gaining first-hand insight into the peacebuilding priorities and needs of the people in those countries. Highlights had included a visit to a project funded through the Peacebuilding Fund on the border between Chad and Cameroon and

witnessing the launch of the truth, reconciliation and reparations commission in the Gambia. The acceptance by members of the Commission of the proposal to hold annual meetings with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union was a welcome development as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

16. The Commission had continued over the previous year to provide an important platform for Member States to engage on policy issues. There had been further discussion of the priorities of the Secretary-General, as set forth in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace of 2018 (A/72/707-S/2018/43), and as called for in General Assembly resolution 72/276 and Security Council resolution 2413 (2018). The ongoing dialogue with the Secretary-General on those issues was welcome and augured well for deeper cooperation between the Commission and the General Assembly in 2019.

17. *Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama (Colombia) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

18. **The Chair** said that his country's recent history and experience in peacebuilding, including as a recipient of support from the Peacebuilding Fund, would serve as a guide in the work of the Commission in 2019.

19. The Commission should reinforce its role as a bridge between the main United Nations bodies, strive for greater coherence at the intergovernmental level and further strengthen its relations with the Security Council, which had in recent years come to rely more on the Commission's advice, especially in connection with country-specific issues. That advisory role was especially significant when the Council considered the establishment of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The Commission was uniquely placed to provide the Council with a rich perspective on peacebuilding and countries such as Colombia stood only to benefit from a strong relationship between the two bodies.

20. The Commission's value as a convening platform was particularly clear when considering of regional situations. After the closing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the Commission's priority in that country was to help the Government to implement its national peacebuilding plan and to work on its national development plan. In such situations involving a range of stakeholders, the Commission was well placed to foster a consistent and coordinated focus on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. For that reason, the Security Council had requested the Commission to work

in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in mobilizing the partnership between the United Nations system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners to advance the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The Commission would continue to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel and seek to provide assistance in other regions too. In that regard, he would explore possible areas of cooperation with the Organization of American States in early 2019.

21. The Commission should seek to develop closer relations with partners such as the World Bank, with which an agreement had been reached in 2017, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union. The relationship between the Commission and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union should continue to serve as a means of focusing on conflict prevention, good governance, human rights and national reconciliation. The Commission would also look at ways of building on synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund. The experience of Colombia demonstrated the importance of coordination between beneficiary countries and the United Nations and within the United Nations system itself for successful peacebuilding.

22. Many countries in vastly different regions faced similar peacebuilding challenges and could benefit from sharing their experiences with one another. In that regard, and emphasizing the importance of national ownership, the Commission would follow up on progress in some countries and an open dialogue with others. It would also canvas Member States for input into the review of the peacebuilding architecture, which would be conducted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 2020. As Chair, he would maintain regular dialogue with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council.

23. **The Chair** invited the Vice-Chairs to make some brief remarks.

24. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) said that the Commission's country-specific configuration mechanism was a key instrument for preventing conflict and supporting countries emerging from conflict. Egypt would seek to enhance the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on peacebuilding. It was committed to reinvigorating the post-conflict reconstruction and development policy of the African Union. During its membership of the Security Council in 2016 and 2017, Egypt had strongly advocated the revitalization of the United Nations integrated strategy

for the Sahel, and had hosted a workshop on the subject in October 2018 in Cairo. The Sahel would be at the heart of a pilot project by a post-conflict reconstruction and development centre that would be opened by the African Union in Cairo in 2019.

25. **Mr. Jinga** (Romania) said that the Commission's sense of solidarity and fact-based reports would help it chart the way forward. Countries like Colombia, which had received assistance from the Commission, were uniquely placed to share best peacebuilding practices with the other members of the Commission.

26. **The Chair** invited the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to share their plans and priorities for 2019.

27. **Mr. Vieira** (Brazil), speaking as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, said that the country faced several challenges. Legislative elections, the organization of which was being financed from a fund administered by the United Nations Development Programme, were due to be held on 10 March 2019. The Commission must do all in its power to help to ensure that the elections went ahead as planned. Resources must be mobilized to address the country's financial crisis; the Government of Guinea-Bissau was struggling to provide basic social services and the education sector had been hit especially hard. Security sector reform was also important. There was a need for greater coordination between all stakeholders in their peacebuilding efforts in the country. The Security Council was due to hold a briefing on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau in February 2019. Any reconfiguration of that office should be in line with the electoral calendar and transition plans. Discussions held in 2018 on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace had been fruitful and were likely to take place again in 2019.

28. **Mr. Skoog** (Sweden), speaking as the Chair of the Liberia configuration, said that 2018 had been a landmark year for that country, with the first peaceful transfer of power since 1944 and the closing of United Nations Mission in Liberia. The Commission and the international community needed to remain engaged as Liberia went through transition. The Government of Liberia would present its new national development plan at a forthcoming meeting of the configuration and the Commission should look at how it could best support the peacebuilding components of that plan. The configuration would also share with the Commission, later in 2019, lessons learned from the peacebuilding efforts in that country.

29. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland), speaking as the Chair of the Burundi configuration, said that socioeconomic and development challenges would dominate the work of the configuration in the run-up to elections due to be held in the country in 2020. The configuration would seek to improve coherence in the approach of the international community and United Nations actors in Burundi, draw their attention to the shortfall in funding for the country's refugee return programme, encourage the East African Community to lead mediation efforts, and facilitate dialogue between international partners and the Government of Burundi on the latter's new national development plan. The configuration would do its utmost to ensure that the gains made under the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi were preserved and to support ongoing national reconciliation efforts.

30. With regard to United Nations reform, it remained to be seen how the Commission would interact with the new resident coordinator system in peacebuilding efforts on the ground. The country-specific configurations were uniquely placed to contribute to a country's progress towards sustainable peace and prosperity, because they offered a direct link between the concepts discussed at United Nations Headquarters and the reality on the ground.

31. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), speaking as the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, said that, after four successful elections in the 17 years since the civil war in Sierra Leone had ended, the configuration was now concentrating on deepening its engagement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. To that end, it had recently hosted a meeting between representatives of those two institutions, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations country team. The case of Sierra Leone was peculiar, in that democracy had to some extent been consolidated and there had been no recent conflict. The Commission should therefore focus on building institutions and helping the Government to deliver on its priorities, including by mobilizing technical assistance, working with the country team and, in the longer term, enhancing the role of the private sector. The Commission had the standing to provide reliable information on what was happening on the ground in Sierra Leone.

32. **Ms. Abbar** (Morocco), speaking as the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, said that Morocco would participate in any efforts to help to strengthen the relationship between the Commission and the Security Council in respect of the Central African Republic. It had taken an unprecedented step in that direction by submitting observations to the Council regarding peacebuilding as part of the Council's

deliberations on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. Her delegation would visit the Central African Republic in February 2019 and urged other interested delegations to join in the visit. The terms of reference for the visit would be adopted at a meeting of experts that would be held shortly. The visit would serve to provide input for the configuration's programme of work for 2019.

Work of the Peacebuilding Commission

33. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that the active engagement of Member States in the discussions convened by the Commission on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) had led to an informal active dialogue between the Commission and the General Assembly. He welcomed the Chair's decision to carry forward priorities identified by his predecessors, in particular, the need to foster stronger synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. It was vital to ensure that the Commission and the Fund worked in complementary and synergistic ways, with Member States calling for stronger system-wide coherence and the Secretary-General acting decisively to improve the efficiency of the Organization. To that end, the Commission's policy discussions must inform decisions on the Fund's activities in ways that were fully transparent but that did not compromise the Fund's independence. An informal meeting between the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission and members of the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group would be held soon.

34. One of the key objectives of the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar – which had resulted in the merger of the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Department of Political Affairs into the new Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs – had been to prioritize peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In response to Member States' call in the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture for a more comprehensive approach to supporting conflict-affected countries, the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund were providing support before, during and after conflict, with a view to reinforcing national initiatives.

35. The reforms that placed a new focus on peacebuilding and sustaining peace reflected the importance of coherent engagement by the international community in conflict-affected settings. They were intended to ensure that the Organization worked more coherently and effectively as a system and in closer

partnership and coordination with regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and women and young people. In that respect, the Commission had been a useful platform for convening key actors.

36. As part of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Peacebuilding Support Office would continue to enhance its support to the Commission in order to strengthen the latter's advisory role with the Security Council and enable the Commission to exercise its convening and coordinating role. In that connection, in its presidential statement of 18 December 2018 (S/PRST/2018/20), the Council had noted the importance of the Commission's advisory role, particularly when discussing mission mandates. The greatest outcome of the reform of the peace and security pillar would be the Organization's improved ability to engage in early, strategic and joined-up planning and strategy development, making use of the entire United Nations toolbox in efforts to build and sustain peace. The joined-up analysis of risks between the field and Headquarters would be reflected in the better system-wide linkages underpinning the Office's support to the Commission.

37. **Mr. Cho Tae-Yul** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation fully endorsed the incoming Chair's priorities for the Commission's work in the coming year. The time had come to shift the Commission's focus from discussing the situation in the countries on its agenda to exploring tangible ways to help those countries implement their peacebuilding priorities, while respecting the principle of national ownership. To that end, the Commission should engage more with United Nations funds and programmes, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and civil society, in order to help mobilize resources and expertise for the countries concerned. Commission members could also consider such practical forms of support as conducting regular visits to international financial institutions and establishing direct connections between private sector stakeholders and Governments. More countries would show an interest in working with the Commission if they observed other countries reaping the benefits of such collaboration.

38. The Commission should strengthen its advisory role with other intergovernmental bodies, in particular, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Doing so would both raise their awareness of the peacebuilding priorities of conflict-affected countries and provide the United Nations system with integrated, cross-pillar support.

39. Given that the ongoing reform of the United Nations system would yield more empowered resident coordinators, the Commission could work more strategically with them by providing the necessary support from United Nations Headquarters. Lastly, the Commission must continue to support the reform efforts to strengthen the Peacebuilding Support Office so that it could serve as a pillar-wide asset to the Commission. For his part, having recently assumed the presidency of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, he would explore ways to strengthen the interlinkages between peacebuilding and development.

40. **Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales** (Guatemala) said that in 2018, his delegation had introduced an initiative in the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States to promote closer cooperation between that organization and the Commission, with a view to enabling the two bodies to participate in interactive dialogues and exchange best practices on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the region. That initiative was in line with the Charter of the United Nations, in which Member States participating in regional arrangements were asked to make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes.

41. A more integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding would yield better results. To that end, intergovernmental institutions and regional and subregional organizations had a valuable role to play in peacebuilding activities; by providing consensual, sustained support, such entities contributed meaningfully to achieving the shared objective of sustainable peace.

42. **Mr. Gugel** (Germany) said that the Commission was at its strongest when it spoke with one voice. By agreeing on priorities and how to address them in a strategic and practical way, members could enhance the Commission's practical and political value. To that end, even difficult questions should be addressed in a spirit of collaboration and partnership. The Commission's contributions must be based on and informed by nationally owned peacebuilding strategies.

43. Given the high risk of relapse into conflict, countries that were no longer on the Security Council's agenda should continue to receive the Commission's full attention. The close cooperation between the Council and the Commission was at the core of United Nations efforts to sustain peace and prevent conflict. The Commission could help the Council focus on peacebuilding activities and priorities on the ground and

foster partnerships among a wide variety of stakeholders, broadening the range of financial contributions for peacebuilding and generating momentum for peace while supporting a common strategic vision. As the informal coordinator for the relationship between the Commission and the Security Council, Germany stood ready to contribute to efforts to enhance the relationship between the two bodies.

44. **Mr. Amayo** (Kenya) said that the work under way at Headquarters in conflict prevention, support for peace agreements and mission transitions and on questions affecting women and young people should be systematically connected to efforts to sustain and build peace on the ground. His delegation called on the members of the Organizational Committee to adopt an action-oriented workplan that integrated the recommendations and priorities set out in the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)) and other relevant documents of the Commission. It was incumbent upon the Commission to use the tools at its disposal and also national and regional initiatives already in place, in order to make peace operations more efficient.

45. Strengthening partnerships between the Commission and Governments, regional and subregional organizations and international development and financial partners was vital to upholding the Commission's broad mandate to marshal resources, convene various stakeholders and ensure focused and sustained international engagement in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Commission should also explore how to reinforce its collaborative work with other United Nations entities in order to address the challenges faced in the effort to build and sustain peace. It would be necessary to leverage the diverse membership of the Commission in a way that further harmonized its work with that of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on cross-cutting agenda items related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

46. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that his country's ability to share its own considerable first-hand peacebuilding experience with the countries on the Commission's agenda had been hampered by a lack of funding and limited diplomatic presence in those countries. Moving forward, the Commission should find ways for small countries with peacebuilding experience to participate in its work; he hoped that, with the Commission's support, his delegation would be able to make full use of its final year in the Commission.

47. In 2019, the Commission would have opportunities for fruitful cooperation with the Economic and Social Council; the lessons drawn from the Commission's experience with country-specific configurations could help improve the assistance extended to Haiti by the support group established by the Council for that country.

48. It would be incumbent upon the Commission to help the countries on its agenda address the specific challenges that would result from the repositioning of the United Nations development system. In particular, the Commission had an important role to play in helping those countries and other Member States attain Sustainable Development Goal 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions.

49. In 2018, the Secretary-General had declared El Salvador eligible for support from the Peacebuilding Fund. His Government had devoted the resources received from the Fund to facilitating the reintegration of returning migrants, fostering dialogue among political parties and ensuring the safety of citizens. Regrettably, the Commission had not reached a consensus on whether El Salvador should share its experience in implementing programmes supported by the Fund, but his delegation hoped that it would soon be given that opportunity.

50. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that his delegation had prioritized the question of sustaining peace during its tenure as president of the Security Council in April 2018, proposing that the Council adopt a resolution on the subject. Peru had also asked the Chairs of country-specific configurations to participate in Council meetings on the countries concerned. It would continue to promote new forms of collaboration between the Commission and the Council as a member of both bodies.

51. **Mr. Aalia** (Norway) said that the sustaining peace agenda had gained momentum in 2018. The Commission remained relevant and flexible, improving the quality of its advice and thereby enriching debate in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. The focus on the Sahel region in the Commission's annual meeting held in 2018 and in its joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council of the same year had demonstrated how concrete case studies and focused topics rendered such meetings relevant and operational.

52. Stronger partnerships and more collaboration were of the essence. The World Bank and the United Nations were stepping up their collaborative efforts but must work even closer together. Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the

private sector were necessary to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding efforts which, at present, were severely underfunded. He commended the Peacebuilding Fund's mobilization of additional resources; the Fund remained flexible, risk-tolerant and catalytic and had contributed to stabilization and peacebuilding in a number of countries. Lastly, both the Commission and the Fund were doing laudable work to promote gender equality and empower women.

53. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the Secretary-General's agenda for reform of the peace and security architecture should serve as the starting point for the Commission's discussions. Maintaining partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society was vital, as was securing sustained and predictable funding for the Commission's work. The Commission had an important role to play as a bridge between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Lastly, the new resident coordinator system and the repositioning of the United Nations development system would remain central to the Commission's work throughout the current session.

54. **Ms. Csernelhazi** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union shared the Commission's integrated approach, as both entities operated in a manner that upheld the principle of unity through diversity, in both their membership and their functions. Like the European Union, the Commission espoused a methodology of reform, coherence and consistency.

55. **Ms. Byrne Nason** (Ireland) said that her country had sought to join the Commission because it wished to contribute its 21 years of peacebuilding experience to the body's laudable work. As Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ireland would support the Commission's efforts to promote the role of women in peacebuilding. It would also do its utmost to ensure that the Commission continued to perform its advisory role and to leverage its relationship with the Peacebuilding Fund.

56. **Ms. Mitsuda** (Japan) said that it was important for the Commission to maintain the impetus behind sustaining peace and to focus more closely on regional and thematic issues. In that connection, Japan would continue to champion institution-building and financing. The increased references to the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in the Security Council were an encouraging sign of added engagement. It was equally important to continue working to enhance

linkages with the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, while also building partnerships with actors beyond the United Nations system. As the Peacebuilding Fund expanded to more countries, the Commission could also enhance its platform for sharing information with and from those countries. She looked forward to meeting more often with countries that had been or would be eligible for Peacebuilding Fund support. Having participated in the Peacebuilding Fund's recent field visit to Colombia – a pioneer in peacebuilding activities – her delegation looked forward to witnessing how that country's first-hand experiences would infuse the Commission's work with a new energy and perspective, following the election of Colombia as Chair of the Commission.

57. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal) said that his delegation welcomed the priorities put forward by the incoming Chair for the Commission's thirteenth session. As a new member of the Organizational Committee and a country emerging from a successful endogenous peace process, Nepal looked forward to contributing its perspective on conflict prevention and resolution, in addition to the insights it had gained from its experience as a major troop- and police-contributing country.

58. **Ms. Fanton** (France) said that the experience of Colombia in recent years had demonstrated how indispensable national ownership was in ensuring the success of a peace process. France welcomed the presidential statement issued by the Security Council regarding the relationship between the Council and the Commission ([S/PRST/2018/20](#)), in which the Council acknowledged that the Commission had a significant role to play in creating synergies within the United Nations system and among Governments, international financial institutions, regional organizations and civil society organizations. The Commission should take advantage of the recent reforms of the peace and security pillar and of the resident coordinator system. In that regard, inviting resident coordinators to country-specific configuration meetings might prove beneficial.

59. In 2019, the Commission should follow the situations in Haiti and Darfur closely, as it might have a contribution to make in both cases. For its part, her Government looked forward to participating actively in the Burundi and Central African Republic configurations and to strengthening the complementarity of the relationship between the Commission and the Council for the two countries.

60. **Mr. Grout-Smith** (United Kingdom) said that the first-hand experience that successive Chairs of the Commission had brought to the work of sustaining and building peace had enabled it to consolidate its position

and excel in supporting United Nations transitions; advancing development partnerships with international financial institutions; raising the profile of regional peacebuilding challenges and cross-cutting border issues, in particular in the Sahel region; articulating multidimensional threats to peace and development in a manner that added enormous value to the United Nations system; and monitoring conflict risk. The Commission had played a useful role in Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, working with stakeholders to manage and mitigate risk and help the countries involved. In addition, the Peacebuilding Support Office's dynamism had made the innovative, focused Peacebuilding Fund the best United Nations fund.

61. **Mr. Kai-Kai** (Sierra Leone) said he was glad that his country and four others remained on the Commission's agenda and, as such, continued to be observed closely. In particular, the Commission's steadfast, fruitful engagement with his Government over the previous decade had played a crucial part in sustaining peace in Sierra Leone. Welcoming the Commission's peacebuilding efforts in his country, led by Canada as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, he called for special attention to be paid to three areas: combating corruption – recognized by his country's truth and reconciliation commission as one of the root causes of the crisis – articulating development priorities, and establishing a peace and national cohesion commission.

62. As the Commission continued its activities across the African continent, it should integrate a regional perspective into its approach to country-specific issues. In that regard, United Nations country teams and the country configurations should work more closely on cross-border issues and focus on promoting peace in all the countries that comprised Mano River Union, not only Sierra Leone and Liberia, which were already on the Commission's agenda. Furthermore, the Commission's support would be vital in helping various African Governments make the difficult transition from peacekeeping to development, as it had successfully done in Liberia. Lastly, the root causes of conflict in African countries needed to be explored further, and greater global engagement with international financial institutions and domestic engagement with civil society organizations, women and young people would be critical.

63. **Mr. Kakanur** (India) said that his country's unique experience of nation-building in a complex setting and its efforts to give the people a meaningful life through development had enabled it to develop capacities and expertise that had benefited several

countries. Aware that development and peacebuilding demanded unprecedented forms of integration and collaboration, his Government was committed to expanding its initiatives to assist partners with their sustainable development priorities. To conclude, he hoped that the forthcoming review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture would render it more responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of countries recovering from conflict.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.