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Summary record of the second part* of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 23 June 2015, at 5 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Wallström (Sweden)

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* The summary record of the first part of the meeting, held on Tuesday, 23 June 2015, at 10 a.m., appears as document PBC/9/AS/SR.1.

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The meeting was reconvened at 5.10 p.m.

Closure of the session

Remarks by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the discussions on humanitarian and peacebuilding financing should inform one another. In 2015, the United Nations had launched humanitarian appeals totalling more than \$16 billion to help 57 million people around the globe, most of who lived in countries affected by conflict. While it was imperative to continue to aid those in need of humanitarian assistance and to deploy peacekeepers in the event of a crisis, more resources should be invested on crisis prevention. That was important because the economic, human and developmental losses associated with the escalation of violence or relapse into conflict were immense. One challenge of conflict prevention was the difficulty of demonstrating results. The international community could do better to publicize the success stories, where peace had been maintained and an escalation of violence had been averted.

2. As a major contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund, Sweden continued to value the Fund for its catalytic, flexible and rapid financing. The Fund played an important role by incentivizing the various entities of the United Nations system to work together. She was particularly pleased to note the Fund's focus on gender equality. Early investments in inclusive peacebuilding processes that empowered women laid a stronger foundation for reconciliation, which helped to reduce the risk of relapse. However, the Fund was only one small instrument and could not replace the need for additional support for peacebuilding efforts.

3. Increased funding was not the only solution for enhancing the effectiveness of peacebuilding. It was also important to address challenges such as the fragmentation of the international aid architecture through increased coordination and coherence between international actors. Furthermore, to spur domestic resource mobilization in countries emerging from conflict, there was a need for coherence across different policy areas, such as international development, trade and investments.

4. To conclude, she called upon all actors in the international system to go beyond rhetoric and start acting in a more coherent and integrated manner. The Ebola virus was an example of a challenge that needed

a holistic solution, and a situation which would test the ability of the international community to think and act across stovepipes. Ebola could and should not be treated primarily as a health crisis, and should be addressed using various instruments and strategies, including peacebuilding.

Remarks by the President of the General Assembly

5. **Mr. Kutesa** (Uganda), President of the General Assembly, said that the theme chosen for current session — predictable financing for peacebuilding — was timely and indeed of critical importance for countries emerging from conflict. One of the core mandates of the Peacebuilding Commission was to bring together all relevant actors to mobilize resources, provide advice on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. Countries emerging from conflict had numerous challenges and needs, including provision of basic services, law and order, and rebuilding of institutions.

6. As the political and security situation in those countries was often fragile, providing peace dividends in terms of relief and improved livelihoods for displaced persons or demobilized soldiers was critical. In cases where that had been done, the chances of consolidating the peace gains were greater, while the possibility of relapse into conflict was higher if dividends were not realized or if they were delayed. Supporting peacebuilding in post-conflict countries required inclusive approaches and partnerships, with the active involvement of national Governments, development partners, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the business sector.

7. The Peacebuilding Fund remained an important component for supporting peacebuilding activities, which directly contributed to post-conflict stabilization and strengthened the capacity of Governments and institutions at national level. It was essential to mobilize more contributions and financial resources for the Fund.

8. The theme of the current session was of particular relevance in view of the specific needs and requirements of post-conflict countries. There continued to be worrisome trends, including migration challenges, whose root causes could partly be traced to conflict, unemployment and lack of opportunities in

countries of origin. The theme was also timely, as the international community was working towards a number of important milestones, particularly the formulation of an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda.

9. The proposed sustainable development goals, whose core objective was to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, held great promise for addressing the challenges faced by countries in post-conflict situations. It was therefore critical to ensure that adequate resources were mobilized for the implementation of the new development agenda. Those major engagements would not only seek to address some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity, but would also help to find solutions for the silos and fragmentation seen in peacebuilding.

10. For the United Nations system, it was critically important to ensure coordinated efforts by all agencies, funds and programmes, both in planning and implementation, with a view to optimizing resources and achieving maximum impact at the national level. It was equally important to ensure that, wherever appropriate, human and financial resources were consolidated and harmonized for peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development. The 10-year review of peacebuilding operations currently under way was a unique opportunity for the General Assembly to consider some of the fundamental policy questions facing the world, with regard to ensuring lasting peace following conflicts.

11. Working closely together with the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission should take stock of the peacebuilding architecture, taking into account its successes and challenges, and work towards further strengthening the collective approach to peacebuilding, including with regard to predictable financing. At the same time, Member States and stakeholders would be considering the report of the Advisory Group of Experts, the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the global study on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) concerning women and peace and security. Together, those three major reviews should provide a significant base for considering the United Nations role in and contribution to peacebuilding.

12. He encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to engage constructively in the next phase of the 10-year review of peacebuilding, which should be completed by the end of 2015.

Remarks by the President of the Security Council

13. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia), President of the Security Council, said that the Council supported the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in the six countries which were under the Commission's agenda, namely Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic and Liberia. He welcomed the Commission's efforts in the area of resource mobilization, which did not entail just fundraising but also broadening the base and securing the buy-in of traditional and new bilateral and multilateral donors to support the peacebuilding processes in the countries concerned.

14. Efforts should also be made to develop the revenue-generation capacity of those countries, as an important step in strengthening their governance and resilience in order to prevent relapse into conflict. That would also entail greater responsibility and legitimacy from the Governments concerned. He called on Member States to provide technical expertise and training to support those efforts.

15. The Council recognized that there were financing gaps in peacebuilding. More often than not, the funding allocated to institution-building in the areas of inclusive politics or the security and justice sectors was relatively small. Yet those areas were particularly important in conflict-affected countries, as they represented critical factors that helped to prevent relapse into conflict.

16. The Council acknowledged that support for political dialogue should be based on a political strategy that involved inclusive political agreements or settlements. Funding for security and justice institutions needed to be closely aligned with those agreements or settlements. However, that was only possible where funding mechanisms could be politically guided and closely aligned with national and international political strategies. In that regard, it was important to ensure sufficient programmatic funding for peacebuilding-related tasks in United Nations-mandated missions.

17. It was worth noting that financial gaps were most evident during and immediately following the draw-

down and exit of United Nations-mandated missions. In that connection, the Peacebuilding Commission would be most helpful if it helped to catalyse and sustain international financial engagement in conflict-affected countries. The enormous investments in peacekeeping operations would also best be preserved by a sustained commitment to funding and the maintenance of critical institutions and political processes beyond the life cycle of the mission.

18. As poverty was increasingly concentrated in those countries, investments in institutions that helped to generate economic activities would be critical to the commitment to end poverty in all its forms. In that regard, there was a need for coherent and integrated strategies that helped to promote social cohesion and sustainable development.

19. The Security Council recognized the unique importance of the Peacebuilding Fund as a global pooled fund focusing on early, catalytic and risk-tolerant investments in conflict-affected countries. It was also important to ensure augmented and predictable resources for the Fund, to expand investments in political, security and justice institutions in order to enable it to sustain funding over a longer time period, and to fill critical funding gaps throughout the various stages of the post-conflict cycle.

20. It was also vital to improve the effectiveness of aid, including through strengthening the use of country systems, and to ensure that all forms of finance were inclusive, minimized the risks and negative social and environmental impacts of conflict, contributed to domestic revenues, and were targeted at capacities to fight corruption and curb illicit financial flows. There was also a need to explore new risk-tolerant mechanisms adapted to the needs of conflict-affected countries, which should help to ensure that partnerships were established between the public and private sectors and that aid was channelled to building capacity and institutions that generated domestic public finance and stimulated private investment.

21. Lastly, the Security Council noted the importance of sufficient investment in addressing drivers of conflict through support for dialogue and national and local governance institutions. The lack of such investment represented a critical gap in the international financial architecture and reflected the silo approach to security and development. The

Council remained committed to working with the Peacebuilding Commission and all partners to build and sustain international peace and security.

Closing statement on the annual session

22. **The Chair**, delivering the closing statement on the second annual session adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission, said that unpredictable, inadequate and fragmented financing for peacebuilding was hampering the effectiveness and coherence of international support to post-conflict countries and put unnecessary burdens on host Governments. In addition, difficulties in mobilizing domestic resources in post-conflict countries continued to be a main challenge for sustainable peacebuilding.

23. Moving forward, adequate, predictable, coherent and context-specific international financing for sustaining peace was needed. Flexible funding that allowed for risk-taking would enable more effective international support. There was a need to identify priority areas where gaps remained, and to consider ways to ensure adequate resources for United Nations peacebuilding support, to address the root causes of conflict, and in particular for key peacebuilding tasks, including support for political processes and security and justice sector reform.

24. In that regard, multi-year funding commitments to the Peacebuilding Fund would enable it to leverage its comparative advantages, including rapid support, filling gaps, incentivizing integration across the United Nations system and taking risks. Furthermore, channelling larger portions of funding through national systems of post-conflict countries, where appropriate, could help enhance sustainability and contribute to long-term capacity-building and national ownership, and to building trust in and the legitimacy of Governments and their capacities to deliver basic services. There was also a need to step up global efforts aimed at spurring sustainable economic investments in post-conflict countries.

25. She declared the 2015 annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.