

**Statement by H.E. Ms Sylvie Lucas  
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Security Council Briefing

*Post-conflict Peacebuilding*

New York, 25 April 2013

Mr President,

I thank Rwanda for having organized this briefing on the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (S/2013/63). Allow me to congratulate Ambassador Momen on his dynamic chairmanship of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in 2012 and to thank him for his briefing. I also welcome the statement of Ambassador Ranko Villović, which quite rightly focused on the strengthening of the relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

As our exchanges on the subject have shown, there is consensus on how important the work of the PBC is. Its mandate, which is based on resolutions 1645 (2005) and 1646 (2005) and has been refined through the work of the Organizational Committee and the country-specific configurations, is to ensure that the countries on its agenda do not relapse into conflict and violence. It seeks to achieve that noble goal by providing political support and advocacy, support to coordination among international partners, and support for resource mobilization.

Thanks to the help of all its members and the concerned parties in the countries on its agenda, and with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Commission achieved encouraging success in 2012, as documented in the report before us.

Mr President,

Despite the progress achieved by the PBC in 2012, the report notes that much remains to be done. I would therefore like to focus on what we, as members of the Security Council, can do to support the Commission in its mandate in service to our common objective. From the experience I have gained as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration since February 2011 and as a member of the Council for several months now, I would like to address three conditions that we believe are important for the success of the PBC.

The first condition is to be found within the countries supported by the PBC. They must find the political will to rise above the deeply rooted causes of the conflicts of the past: poverty; socioeconomic exclusion; political, ethnic and identity-based rivalries; corruption; bad governance; and external impacts and interference. We all recognize that those primarily responsible for peacebuilding are the State entities of the country in question, foremost among which is the Government. It is in that respect that the Commission can and must establish trusting partnerships in which it identifies and supports the reformers within Governments who are prepared to fully invest in the future of their country and work for the good of its citizens.

The six countries supported by the PBC have highlighted their willingness to emerge from their fragile situation by joining the g7+ Group and contributing to the creation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. That solemn commitment is primarily centred on cooperation between a national Government desirous to fulfil its duties and its international partners desirous to cooperate in a responsible and sustainable manner. It also sets the milestones for an irreversible exit from a fragile situation by putting forward a unique national vision and transition plan. In that respect, we believe that additional efforts must be made to align peacebuilding commitments with a given country's vision for the success of its transition. On a more technical level, we believe that the civilian capacities initiative is a good chance to simplify and accelerate the strengthening of the institutional capacities in the countries on the PBC agenda.

At the same time, we must remain aware of the fact that the countries supported by the PBC should be viewed in their regional context. The common and cross-border challenges and obstacles involved in peacebuilding must necessarily be part of our analysis so that we can find appropriate solutions to them. To that end, the country-specific configurations of the countries that are members of the Mano River Union — Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone — are planning a meeting on the challenges that face the region as a whole, with the help and under the guidance of the Secretary General of the Union.

Mr President,

In 2012, during the debate held on this issue (S/PV.6897), almost every Council member highlighted the importance of the improved coordination of peacebuilding activities, and most wanted to see it done by the country-specific configurations of the Commission. Such coordination requires close ties among all the international stakeholders that support peacebuilding and the strengthening of the State in the countries in question. That will be carried out primarily within the countries themselves, through the United Nations high representatives on the ground, as well as in New York. The second condition that is necessary for the success of the Peacebuilding Commission is a Peacebuilding Support Office that is strong and capable of playing the support and coordination role within the United Nations system that is expected of it.

Under the firm hand of Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng- Hopkins, the personnel of the Peacebuilding Support Office has done commendable work. Like other Council members, we believe that the Peacebuilding Commission is most useful in its country-specific configurations. Therefore, the Office must devote more significant resources to support for those configurations. The PBSO must also take on a central role as coordinator of peacebuilding work within the United Nations system, both to ensure a better exchange of information and analysis between the various departments and entities of the system and the country-specific configurations, and to contribute to including, in a crosscutting manner, the idea of peacebuilding in the work of the United Nations. In that context, maintaining triangular, close and constructive relationships of trust between country configurations, high United Nations officials on the ground, the Special Representatives and executives of the Secretary-General, the resident coordinators and the Peacebuilding Support Office is particularly important.

The third condition for success is that we must overcome the uncertainties that seem to persist in relations between the Security Council and the Commission. The success or failure of a peacebuilding process affects the Council as well as the Commission. The work and responsibilities of the Council and the Commission are inextricably entwined — a fact that is also reflected in their overlapping makeups. Thus the five permanent members of the Council

also have permanent seats on the PBC's Organizational Committee. Guatemala and Morocco will participate in its work in 2013. As one of the principal troop-contributing countries, Pakistan is active in the Commission. Finally, Luxembourg, a non-permanent member of the Council in 2013 and 2014, has chaired the Guinea country configuration since February 2011.

I would therefore like to reiterate in particular the recommendation that the Chairs of the country configurations be allowed to participate in the Council's private consultations. Luxembourg is convinced that it can bring added value in terms of analysis and perspective. It can help shed light on the root causes of conflicts, especially socioeconomic factors and the effects of exclusion, through which countries run the risk of relapsing into conflict. The country configurations may be able to support States more closely than the Council can; their input, based on a relationship of trust established with the country's authorities, can only be of benefit to the Council's consultations.

I would also like to encourage my colleagues on the Council who will be assuming the presidency in the next few months to consider inviting the Chairs of the country configurations to private consultations, particularly when discussing mandate renewals.

Mr President,

I welcome the possibility of engaging in deeper discussions at the interactive dialogue that will be held tomorrow between the country representatives, along with the Commission, the Chairs of the country configurations and the members of the Security Council.

Thank you for your attention.