Statement by

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia

at the

General Assembly Debate

on

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Eight Session and the Report of the Secretary General on the Peacebuilding Fund

16 April 2015
Thank you Mr. President.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union but I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking you for convening this debate on the Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Eight Session and the Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund. We welcome the two reports under discussion today.

I would also like to express my appreciations to the former Chair of the PBC Ambassador Antonio Patriota for his leadership over the last year. I wish the new Chair, Ambassador Olof Skoog, all the success during his chairmanship of the PBC. We commend the work of the chairs of the configurations as well as the chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Allow me also to use this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Assistant Secretary General Oscar Fernández-Taranco and his team in the Peacebuilding Support Office for their dedicated work and efforts.

Croatia has been a strong supporter of the PBC since its very inception. We strongly advocated for the establishment of the Commission and served as a member on the first session of the PBC. We believed then and we continue to believe in the importance of its work.

Mr. President

Regarding the work of the PBC in the reporting period, let me briefly touch upon two significant developments – response of the Commission to the Ebola crisis and the first ever annual session.

We would like to highlight the role of the Commission in drawing attention of the international community and other parts of the UN system to the implications of the ebola crisis to the peacebuilding gains of the three most affected countries which are also on the PBC agenda.

We welcome the fact that PBC convened in June 2014 its first ever annual session. We hope that this format will contribute to a higher level of commitment and ownership of PBC agenda by its members, which is a key to ensuring that PBC delivers on its potential.

We are looking forward to the second annual session this year and its focus on predictable financing for peacebuilding. This topic is particularly important as we note the increase in demand for the financial support, both by new users as well as through scale-ups of current programmes. This all comes as a contrast to the remaining funding gap.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding requires the sustained and coordinated commitment of national, regional, and international actors. It also requires inclusivity.

We are of the view that women’s empowerment greatly contributes to enhancing inclusivity and cohesion in post-conflict situations and therefore welcome the fact that PBC continues to attach importance to the role of women in peacebuilding and their contribution to building and sustaining peace.

Let me remind you that in 2013, during the Croatia's chairmanship, PBC organized together with UN Women, high-level event on Women’s Economic Empowerment for Peacebuilding. The key
objective of that high level gathering was to collectively renew commitment and sharpen global focus on women’s role as agents of positive change and transformation in the countries emerging from a conflict.

We commend the fact that the Fund’s business plan 2014-2016 adopted last year envisages enhanced attention to gender-sensitive programming via the launch of the second Gender Promotion Initiative.

Mr. President,

The peacebuilding has evolved considerably since 2005 and many agree that PBC should adapt to a rapidly changing environment. In that context, we share the view that we should make the most of the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture in order to make it more relevant and as effective as possible.

We believe that the review process of peace-building architecture should be linked to other review processes currently underway—namely the review of the peacekeeping operations and the review of the progress in the implementation of the resolution 1325 as well as to a new sustainable development agenda. All these processes should be bold and ambitious in their recommendations, establishing strong linkages between peace, security, development and human rights.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding requires collaborative efforts by a range of actors and there is a need for parallel focus on political, security and developmental issues. We see good governance as crucial for peace-building processes.

In that context, we believe that additional efforts should be put into strengthening cooperation of PBC with the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC, as well as improving coordination and collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations. We stress the importance of forging greater regional coherence as a key factor in helping countries to sustain peace and avoid relapse into conflict.

Furthermore, we take note of increasing security challenges and are concerned regarding the possibility of their spill-over effect in general, but particularly by the spread of terrorism. This shows the value or the need if you will, of financing of projects that are not traditionally peacebuilding oriented.

It also has to be stressed that national ownership and responsibility, as well as building of national capacities based on specific national needs, must be at the heart of any peace-building effort. In this regard we especially welcome new steering mechanisms developed by the Fund together with United Nations missions with the aim to ensure more effective national ownership and strategic guidance to projects.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Croatia’s strong support to UN’s peacebuilding efforts and our strong commitment to the work of the Commission.

I thank you, Mr. President.