Deputy Permanent Representative / Chargé d’Affaires
of the Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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General Assembly

Item 29: Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Eighth Session
and
Item 109: Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

NEW YORK, 16 April 2015
Mr. President, excellencies, distinguished participants,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes this debate as well as the reports by the Peace Building Commission on its eight session, and by the Secretary-General on the Peace Building Fund.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the European Union.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak and to reiterate the commitment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to peacebuilding activities across the world. They are crucial to address the gap between security and development in fragile post-conflict countries.

Before continuing, I would like to thank the former Chair of the PBC, Ambassador Antonio Patriota, for his commitment and achievements in the past year. Also I would like to congratulate Ambassador Olof Skoog with his appointment as the new Chair of the PBC. And lastly, I would like to thank the Peace Building Support Office and Assistant Secretary General Oscar Fernandez-Tarranço for their ongoing support.

Mr. President,

The two annual reports under discussion today are both comprehensive documents, signaling the complexity of peacebuilding challenges across the world. The Kingdom of the Netherlands can relate to this, as we are engaged in peacebuilding activities in many countries worldwide.

We believe that the United Nations has a central role to play when it comes to both peacekeeping and peacebuilding. For this reason the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been a staunch supporter of the UN peacebuilding architecture since its inception,
Third: perhaps the most important lesson we have learned is that peacebuilding is a multidimensional process. Fostering Peace, Justice and Development in vulnerable countries necessitates a comprehensive approach. It requires a clear vision and strategy, based on shared goals, complemented by continuing political commitment, financing for development and ways to provide security in an effective and accountable manner. The Netherlands has gained significant experience with this approach over the last decade, illustrated for example by our contribution to the integrated peacekeeping mission in Mali, where we have adapted our bilateral cooperation programmes accordingly.

And fourth: the Kingdom of the Netherlands believes in working in partnership. Therefore it is of crucial importance to continue to work in close cooperation with recipient countries and make sure their voices are heard in the review process.

Mr. President,

The peacebuilding agenda is a comprehensive agenda. Because of this, we warmly welcome the broad terms of reference for the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, which look beyond the core peacebuilding institutions and also take into account the functioning of the UN system as a whole.

In that context, The Netherlands also looks forward to the PBC’s annual session in June, where “predictable financing for peace building and breaking the silos” will be discussed.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

The Kingdom of The Netherlands will remain your partner for Peace, Justice and Development. In that context, let me conclude by reiterating once more our strong support for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

Thank you.