

[Extract]

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**Security Council**

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New York

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[...]

*Post-conflict peacebuilding*

**Mr. Ambassador Alfredo Suescum**

Alternate Representative of Panama to the United Nations

**Mr. Suescum** (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to first of all thank the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Yokio Takasu, for his briefing. I would also like to thank each of the Vice-Chairs of the Commission for their commendable leadership.

Likewise, we would like to recognize the work done by Ms. Carolyn McAskie as Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and we welcome the appointment of Ms. Jane Holl Lute. The activities undertaken by the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission during its second session represent significant progress in the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to us by the Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit. The expansion of the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission to include four countries clearly highlights the credibility that this body has gained in the international community. This has been achieved by developing flexible, coordinated, coherent and integrated responses to the challenges of peacebuilding as shown by the cases of Burundi, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau.

In the same way, this trust has been strengthened thanks to the participation of civil society, the Bretton Woods institutions, the European Community and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This participation has also had a positive impact on the operational criteria for the work of the Commission. Additionally, the field missions have shown the commitment of the Commission to the countries on its agendas and have also inspired greater coordination with national political actors, partners and donors.

Notwithstanding this success, the Commission still faces a number of challenges if it is to have a genuine and sustainable impact in the field. It is important that the Commission take into account its capacities and the lessons learned, that it furthermore define adequate criteria in order to ensure that the countries on its agenda participate as actors in the process. They should own the process and be able to benefit as much as possible from the work of the Commission.

This requires a communications and dissemination strategy in order to make known what the Commission does, as well as its achievements. Likewise, the Commission should redefine its points of focus and working methods by establishing, for each case, specific indicators for the monitoring and followup of the integrated strategies. We should also increase the participation of the private sector as well as that of regional and subregional organizations. Panama believes that sustainable peace depends on the interactive triangular relationship between security, development and human rights. In this context, it is important to improve the overall planning process of the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, in order to better define the missions that are authorized by the Security Council.

For its part, the Council, together with the Commission and the other organs and bodies of the United Nations, should create mechanisms for preventing duplication and which ensure that there is complementarity of effort in the countries that are being dealt with through its respective programmes.

The responsibility to ensure the success of the Commission is above all, the duty of the Organization. Our ongoing and firm commitment to ensure the continuous success of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission should be aimed at improving the impact of this Organization as a whole and, in a tangible way, improve the lives of thousands of people who are returning to their post-conflict communities.