Mr. President,

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the co-facilitators Sweden and India, and other sponsors, a draft resolution on the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, as contained in document A/63/L.72.

I should like to mention also, since the draft resolution was tabled before the Assembly, the following countries have also become co-sponsors: Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The resolution before you is the outcome of a longer process. That process began with an informal process to identify the essence of the views of interested Member States on the operation of the Peacebuilding Fund and its relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission. These discussions built upon a mandated assessment of the Fund by an independent evaluation, the response of the management to this evaluation, and a useful assessment of the Fund by the Advisory Group of the PBF.

The views expressed on this basis by Member States were then distilled into a non-paper that was to serve as an input for the draft report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund, and its terms of reference. The subsequent report of the Secretary-General then put forward a revised set of terms of reference for the operation of the Peacebuilding Fund. That became the point of departure for the draft UNGA resolution that we are to adopt today.

Since it is on the basis of these informal consultations that we have not only worked with the Secretariat to revise the terms of reference for the
Peacebuilding Fund, but also to bring it to the implementation stage, it is only fitting that on behalf of Sweden and India, I extend our sincere appreciation to all delegations for the constructive spirit in which the consultations took place.

Mr. President,

The purpose of this entire exercise was to ensure that the revision of the terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund would help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fund. The intention is that the Fund should be able to expeditiously provide short-term emergency funding to create quick-wins in the early stage of peace consolidation. Equally, it should be able to provide catalytic funding to help address the causes of conflict over the medium term. The revised terms of reference will contribute towards this end, along with continuing efforts to improve the management structures of the Fund.

The spirit of the revised terms of reference is as important as the text. It is important, therefore, to recall that the revision of the terms of reference was guided by two broad objectives. The first was to enhance the Fund’s capacity to serve as a flexible, responsive and focused resource for peacebuilding support, including through rationalizing and simplifying the structure and architecture. The second objective was to enhance and maximize the synergy between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Fund through provisions for enhanced transparency and consultation. The relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission, and all donors, needs to be managed creatively, so as to utilize synergies in existing peace-building strategies.

The terms of reference would be implemented through updated policies and guidelines that would address management and administrative issues. The Peacebuilding Support Office should develop these guidance documents in close cooperation with the UNDP, as the Fund’s administrative agent, as well as other relevant United Nations organizations, and the Advisory Group. Management processes should be transparent to ensure continued support from Member States and other stakeholders.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General will submit an annual report to the General Assembly on the operation and activities of the Fund. At the sixty-sixth session, this report will include the findings and recommendations from the next comprehensive independent evaluation. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Support Office will also organize regular briefings on the performance of the Fund with Member States. An annual meeting is aimed at providing all stakeholders with the opportunity for a thorough review of Fund performance, results and emerging lessons. The annual event will also provide an opportunity to regularly replenish the Fund. We look forward to such regular interactions as a means to ensure maximum transparency and participation of Member States in the peace-building process.
Mr. President,

On behalf of the co-facilitators and the sponsors, I sincerely hope that the procedural draft resolution contained in document A/63/L72 can be adopted by consensus. We are grateful for the support of all delegations in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President

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