Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor this year, let me wish you, the PBSO and all the other delegations gathered here a very successful new year.

Let me express my gratitude to Ambassador Heraldo Munoz for his work as Chair of the Commission for 2009, especially the whole idea of enhancing the visibility of the Commission, not only among the international community but also in the real world. Peacebuilding is a peculiarly UN-centric word but the idea and concepts are of great relevance to peace and development and hence the importance to connect it to the real world.

I would also like to join the others and congratulate the new Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Dr. Peter Wittig, the Permanent Representative of Germany as well as the new Vice Chairs, the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic and the Permanent Representative of Benin as well as other officers including the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations for assumption of their responsibilities. I am also glad to see someone with the rich qualifications and experience like Ms. Judy Cheng Hopkins at the helm of affairs at the Secretariat office.

On behalf of our delegation, I wish to assure of all possible support from India.

Mr. Chairman,

This year is a particularly important year for the PBC when we will be undertaking a review of the work of the Commission in the three years since its inception. Our delegation hopes that the review will result in adoption of necessary changes to the peacebuilding architecture which will make it more responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of countries recovering from conflicts.
We are interested in identifying means and ways that enable the PBC to fulfill, in its entirety, its mandate articulated in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/180 and Security Council Resolution S/RES/1645 of December 2005.

We should be particularly active in involving the national governments by enabling national ownership of the process. This will help deliver more on the ground and reap the benefits of the peace dividend in post-conflict societies.

Mr. Chairman,

India has a unique experience of nation-building in a large, complex and most diverse setting as we have strived to give our people a better life. This has allowed us to develop multifaceted capacities relevant to peacebuilding and development. We have shared this experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations’ in its peacebuilding activities, including for development, social sector reform and rule of law and security.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress the need for ensuring that the work that we do here helps the countries in the process of transition from conflict to peacebuilding, consolidation and institutional building, in particular by helping to retain the interest of the international community in such countries, even after the peacekeeping phase has been crossed. In our view, the sine qua non of peacebuilding is to ensure that all the available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time which responds to the needs of the country concerned.

Thank You.