UN General Assembly
Annual Debate
'Report of the Peace Building Commission on its 9th Session and the Report of the Secretary-General on the Peace Building Fund'
27 April 2016 New York

INDIA STATEMENT
Ambassador/DPR Tanmaya Lal

Mr. President,

This year's annual debate on the Peace Building Commission and the Peace Building Fund takes place a decade after their being set up as part of the United Nations Peace Building Architecture following the landmark 2005 World Summit. This has also provided us with an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the impact of the Peace Building Architecture in terms of the role that this was expected to perform in the context of facilitating a successful transition in a post conflict scenario and to avoid any relapse into conflict.

2. We are also meeting only months after the landmark adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that aims at a collective global effort for building peaceful, secure and prosperous societies. The 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs also highlight the importance of the development dimension and the cross cutting nature of issues involved in building and maintaining peace.

Mr. President,

3. We welcome the Resolution on the Review of the Peace Building Architecture that has just been adopted today by the General Assembly and the Security Council. We also appreciate the work that has gone into the preparation of the Report by the Advisory Board of Group of Experts for this major exercise.

4. The Resolution clearly elaborates the complexity of issues involved in sustaining peace. We especially welcome the emphasis given to the importance of sustainable development, the economic growth and enlarged funding in promoting peacebuilding efforts.
Mr. President,

5. The Peace Building Commission, the Fund and the Support Office had been designed to address the significant gaps that had been identified in the existing strategies for conflict prevention over both short and longer term. The Peace Building Architecture was intended to provide international support to mobilise especially financial and technical resources to assist peacebuilding efforts. The Peace Building Commission brought in the much needed focus on the development dimension into the discourse on how to achieve lasting peace and security.

6. However, the record of the effectiveness of the Peace Building Commission during its existence for the past 10 years has at best been mixed.

7. The Peace Building Commission has succeeded in bringing forth the crucial importance of building peace following the end of a conflict and the draw-down of Peacekeeping missions; and in providing some assistance in specific situations relating to capacity building pertaining to institution building, electoral reforms etc. The Ebola outbreak also provided a new context to the PBC efforts.

8. The impact of the Peacebuilding efforts has continued to be limited. This is primarily because of the very inadequate funding and the less than optimum coordination with other UN organs, including the Security Council. It is quite clear that both these challenges can only be overcome if there is genuine political will among those who can contribute in this regard.

9. The changing nature of conflict is impacting the complex requirement of peace building to avoid relapse into conflict and to build sustaining peace. While it is increasingly clear that instability in one part of the world impacts security and economic prospects even in distant parts of the world, there continues to be still limited focus on peacebuilding. This needs to be remedied. In a globalized world, destinies of peoples are inter-linked. Conflicts present common challenges. Their solutions also require collective response.

10. The funds available for Peacebuilding continue to be a fraction of what is available for Peacekeeping activities and are even declining. Only more predictable and sustainable financing will help Peace Building Commission be more effective.

11. While we recognise the relevance of greater coherence and coordination within the UN system and beyond, this requires careful examination in view of the different responsibilities, tasks and priorities. For peacebuilding efforts to be sustainable, it is imperative that they are aligned with the national priorities.

12. The role of women and youth in Peacebuilding, including in decision-making, is important. Skill development and employment generation are crucial for maintaining peace and preventing relapse into conflict. We also recognise the importance of cooperation with regional organizations in peacebuilding efforts.
Mr. President,

13. As a member of the Peace Building Commission since its inception, India stands ready to strengthen the UN Peace Building Architecture. With its unique membership and interaction with other organs including the UNGA, the Security Council and ECOSOC, the PBC can play an important role in sustaining peace building over long term.

Thank you.