Mr. President,

We welcome the joint debate on today’s agenda items, all of which have an underlying substantive connection. The work of the Peacebuilding commission over the last three years has sought to draw on the synergies of three principal organs of the United Nations, namely the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council when they are handling post-conflict situations.

Let me begin by placing on record our appreciation for the good work done by Ambassador Yukio Takasu as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. His leadership of this important responsibility contributed in large measure to building up the institution.

We are happy that he has been succeeded by Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, who brings to the Commission his rich experience of dealing with complex issues at the UN. We will be happy to cooperate with him in his efforts.

I would also like to congratulate the new Chairs of the country-specific configurations as well as the chair of the Working Group on the Lessons Learned for their work. Furthermore, I would also like to extend congratulations to Ms Judy Cheng Hopkins on her appointment as the Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office. My delegation will work constructively and in a spirit of positive cooperation with all of them.

Mr. President,

India is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission and has contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund. We will continue our active association with both the Commission
and the Peacebuilding Fund with a view to enable these institutions to fulfill in their entirety the tasks as assigned to them by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

We have always held the view that the setting up of the PBC filled an important institutional gap and that the Commission can and should make an important contribution to the recovery, reconstruction and development of countries emerging from conflict, wherever it agrees to act upon a request for advice and assistance by any such member state.

Mr. President,

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.

Mr. President,

We welcome the three reports under consideration, in particular the new one on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict.

The Report of the Secretary General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict had as its central theme the imperative of national ownership and rightly notes that peacebuilding efforts must be anchored at the country level.

We are hopeful that a sincere effort will follow during the implementation phase so that the advisory function of the Peacebuilding Commission can be thoroughly exploited for the benefit of the countries and regions concerned and for the cause of international peace and security in general.

Mr. President,

India had co-sponsored the resolution on the Peacebuilding Fund in May this year. This reflects our determination to ensure that the Fund is so structured as to enable it to serve as a flexible, responsive and focused recourse for peacebuilding support.

In this context, we are happy to note that the Report on the Peacebuilding Fund observes that the revised terms of reference which essentially transformed its three-window architecture into two facilities, namely the Immediate Response Facility and the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility has enabled the Fund, “to serve as a fast-disbursing, agile, responsive and risk-taking peacebuilding instrument.”

Equally heartening is the fact that these improvements have been effected as a result, amongst other things, of self-introspection within the Commission on its working.
Mr. President,

We are also happy to note that the Commission is taking a comprehensive approach to handling its tasks. Quite notable is the fact that it is trying to cooperate and coordinate with other UN agencies as well as other international institutions such as the World Bank. Equally praiseworthy are the efforts to expand the web of stakeholders as well as their involvement in the process of peacebuilding.

At the same time, Mr. President, I would be remiss if I do not stress on two very important imperatives.

First, we must always strive to ensure that there is effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages. This dialogue should help bring the requisite assistance at the appropriate time, and should be flexible enough to allow for mid-course corrections where necessary. This dialogue will also ensure that relevant information is constantly relayed and absorbed within the peacebuilding architecture for the best results.

Second, we need to constantly improve the governance structures of the peacebuilding architecture. In our view, such improvements must seek to ensure that all the available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time. This we believe is the sine qua non of peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate India’s commitment to the peacebuilding architecture. India will continue to be constructively engaged in the process of perfecting this architecture to the benefit of the country concerned.

Thank you.