Madam President,

Thank you for granting me the floor.

India is happy to participate in this Peace Building Fund Pledging Conference. The Peace building Fund is an important building block in the overall efforts of the United Nations, and we therefore greatly welcome this pledging conference.

India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception a decade ago, and a regular contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund. We have recently announced a further contribution of US$ 1 million to this Fund.

Madam President

It is unfortunate that though we often speak about the need to think in terms of “full spectrum peace operations”, we have not been making use of the Peace building architecture.

For far too long we have believed that sustaining peace is only a matter of more and more peacekeeping, with more and more ambitious mandates.

As the recent High level experts panel reports on peacekeeping and the peacebuilding architecture have told us, the ingredients to make peace organically emerge from a society and polity are very much more complicated than that what UN peacekeeping by itself can achieve.

As a country associated with UN peacekeeping for over half a century, we can vouch the fact that if sustaining the peace is our objective, then peacekeeping by itself is only part of the story.

We need to remind ourselves that building and sustaining peace as well as preventing conflict is deeply rooted in the effort of ensuring social and economic development, a key pillar in the work of this organization. This will almost always require a long term sustained effort. We welcome the recent adoption of identical resolutions on some aspects of peacebuilding by both the UNGA
and the Security Council, which signals that these inter-linkages between peace with development are beginning to be more widely appreciated. This idea is also inherent in the vision of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

Unfortunately, the funds available for the UN’s peacebuilding efforts have remained woefully inadequate – we do not seem to be in a position to apportion even 1% of the peacekeeping budget, specifically for peacebuilding! More funding, and more predictable funding is essential for a serious peacebuilding effort.

Madam President,

The complexity of peacebuilding activities also points to the pitfalls of working in silos. Working in the United Nations system for peacebuilding must involve greater coherence between various UN organs including and particularly the UNGA and Security Council, but also all related agencies and special bodies.

Flowing out of our belief that security and development are intimately linked, India has always sought to partner fellow developing countries across the world in their capacity building and developing efforts. Our work in this area is determined and defined by our partner’s needs and national priorities. In this context, I would like to mention in particular participation in reconciliation activities in our friendly neighbor Sri Lanka. We invite and urge the UN to also contribute positively to these efforts in Sri Lanka.

Madam President,

I do hope that this even today has been an effective demonstration of our commitment to provide more resources for long-term peacebuilding efforts.