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## UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 April 2016

# **General Assembly: Adoption of the Resolution on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture; Report of the Peacebuilding Commission; and Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund**

**Statement by H.E. Gillian Bird  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Australia to the United Nations**

(Check against delivery)

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Thank you Mr President,

Let me start by thanking Ambassador Skoog and Ambassador Kamau for their statements, and to acknowledge the important work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund in 2015.

The work of the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund is fundamental to our efforts to build sustainable peace across the globe.

Innovations undertaken in 2015 by the Commission, including the adoption of more flexible and strategic working methods, a focus on inclusivity, and strengthened partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations, are to be commended.

We encourage the Commission to continue to engage flexibly with countries – particularly those supported through the Fund. In this regard, we acknowledge the Commission’s constructive engagement with Papua New Guinea in 2015, and note the positive work being done this year with respect to Sri Lanka.

Australia also welcomes the priority given by the Commission in 2015 to gender issues, and the financing of peacebuilding. Its work to highlight peacebuilding as part of the Ebola recovery response was a key achievement, and testament to its value as a forum for considering cross-cutting issues.

We also acknowledge the important work undertaken through the Peacebuilding Fund during 2015. As a flexible, catalytic, rapid-response pooled fund, the Peacebuilding Fund has demonstrated its value in promoting coherence in crisis response, and in this regard, we also acknowledge the importance of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

The Peacebuilding Fund meeting – for the first time – the Secretary-General’s target of 15 percent of funds going to gender equality and women’s empowerment initiatives was a particular highlight of 2015.

We call for this milestone to be built on, including through the mainstreaming of gender throughout United Nations peacebuilding efforts, and initiatives such as the Global Acceleration Instrument.

Finally, Australia would like to recognise the important work of the Peacebuilding Fund across the African region, as well as in the Asia-Pacific. Initiatives to support understanding and implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in Papua New Guinea are particularly welcome, and we look forward to the Fund providing further support in the Pacific region.

Mr President,

Australia welcomes the parallel adoption today, by the General Assembly and the Security Council, of the comprehensive resolutions on UN peacebuilding.

As co-facilitator, with the distinguished Permanent Representative of Angola, of the intergovernmental phase of the Review, we thank Member States for the constructive spirit in which consultations were held, and which we believe reflects the high-level of support for the United Nations embarking on a new approach to sustaining peace. We would also like to thank the Advisory Group of Experts, ably led by Ambassador Rosenthal, for their comprehensive report, upon which the resolutions were based.

Mr President,

Time and again the world has borne witness to the difficulties of achieving lasting peace. Even when violence ceases, relapses into conflict have been all too common.

The need for a new international approach to sustaining peace is clear, and the adoption of today's resolutions commits the United Nations system to putting sustaining peace – and in particular, conflict prevention – at the centre of its peace and security efforts.

Through these resolutions we are collectively affirming our common view that sustaining peace is a shared responsibility of the whole United Nations system, and that it is fundamental to all of the United Nation's peace and security, development, and human rights engagements.

We are acknowledging that inclusive nationally-led responses that engage all segments of the population – including women, youth and civil society – are essential.

We are stressing the importance of the United Nations enhancing its operational and strategic partnerships, including with regional and sub-regional organizations, and international financial institutions.

We are calling for strengthened joint analysis and strategic planning across the United Nations system, as critical to achieving this, including through the upcoming Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

We are emphasising the need for greater coherence between this Assembly, the Security Council, and ECOSOC.

And we are clarifying the potential of the Peacebuilding Commission to support sustainable peace – particularly in bringing sustained international attention to conflict-affected States, and serving a bridging role to bring greater coordination and coherence between different organs of the United Nations. The Commission's review of its working methods and rules of procedure, to better support peacebuilding priorities including conflict prevention and gender-sensitive peacebuilding, will be vital.

Mr President,

The potentially transformative impact of today's resolutions is clear, and consistent with many of the critical recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Peace Operations, and Global Study on Women, Peace and Security.

However, we must also acknowledge the importance of sustained and predictable funding of United Nations peacebuilding to achieving this potential. Without continuity of funding, all of today's normative developments will be meaningless.

To this end, Australia looks forward to receiving a range of comprehensive and innovative options to stabilise United Nations peacebuilding financing, as part of the Secretary-General follow up report on implementation of these resolutions, at the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

Mr President,

As we mark today the adoption of the peacebuilding resolutions, the hard work, of course, begins now.

It is imperative that the United Nations system, with the support of the international community, looks to fully implement these resolutions. Australia is committed to supporting this work and continuing our close cooperation with others in these efforts.