



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Kenzo Oshima  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
At the General Assembly Debate on the Peacebuilding Commission

6 February 2007

Thank you, Madam President.

My delegation would like to thank you for your timely initiative in convening this important meeting. The Peacebuilding Commission is a major achievement of the ongoing reform of the United Nations, and as such expectations of it are high. We Member States collectively shoulder the responsibility for ensuring that the Commission achieves its full potential. This meeting, together with last week's open debate in the Security Council, is an excellent opportunity for us to take stock of the progress that has been made thus far and set the course for the next stage.

The PBC was established as an inter-governmental advisory body to fill the gap in the area of peacebuilding in the UN System. It should therefore address issues that encompass the mandates of the principal organs as well as the other various entities within the UN system. To make the PBC a success, it is essential that all of these components work together harmoniously. To this end, we must improve dialogue and coordination both in New York and on the ground. My delegation has advocated this point and made several suggestions as I mentioned last week in the Security Council.

The PBC has made steady progress thus far. The Commission has successfully identified priority areas for the countries in question and put consultation mechanisms into operation. We also welcome the recent announcement by the Secretary-General on the first allocation under the Peacebuilding Fund of \$35 million for Burundi and hope a similar announcement for Sierra Leone will be made shortly. These initial outlays will surely serve as a catalyst for filling critical local needs that would not otherwise be met, as well as for marshalling resources.

Madam President,

The PBC was established to help prevent the relapse of conflict by making a difference on the ground. The Commission is now entering the critical phase in which it must demonstrate tangible achievements in the two countries under consideration. The Commission's strength lies in its action-oriented recommendations. In light of this, my delegation believes that the PBC must focus on creating an integrated peacebuilding strategy for each country through extensive consultations in the country-specific meetings over the coming months. The PBC also needs to specify more focused target areas within the identified priorities in order to ensure that those strategies are action-oriented. Institutional building and human security are, we believe, two important dimensions of peacebuilding. These two elements should be fully taken into account in formulating the focused target areas. Here are some suggestions for enhancing the creation and implementation of the strategy.

First of all, strong national ownership is essential. A peacebuilding strategy can only be valuable if the country in question demonstrate the will to formulate and implement it. We are pleased to see active and constructive involvement of Burundi and Sierra Leone and also commend their swift response to the Commission's recommendations. We look forward to their continued commitment to

peace and reconstruction..

Second, peacebuilding strategy should represent all relevant stakeholders. Peacebuilding is by nature a multifaceted and multilayered undertaking involving all the stakeholders working in areas such as peace and security, development and human rights. In light of this, my delegation remains committed to the full and active participation of the World Bank and the IMF in all meetings, including those of organizational committee. It is also important to establish a modality for securing the effective participation of civil society and NGOs in the work of the Commission, in particular the country-specific meetings, in which they can make valuable contributions.

In this regard, the establishment of an on-site coordination and monitoring mechanism would significantly contribute to the implementation of the strategy. As I stated in the Security Council, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) in Afghanistan, which involves all relevant stakeholders, could serve as a successful model. We should consider tailoring this model to the specific needs of each country in question as appropriate.

Third, we should be flexible enough to learn from the experiences of countries that have recovered from conflict. We strongly encourage those countries to share their experiences in the next stage of our consultations. In view of that, we appreciate El Salvador's initiative in establishing a working group to take stock of lessons learned. My delegation will actively engage in the group.

Madam President,

Before concluding, I now turn to some organizational matters both inside and outside the PBC. Enhancing the synergy and interaction between the General Assembly and the PBC is critical. We suggest the President of the General Assembly and the Chair of the PBC have regular meetings to discuss pressing issues. In addition, the Chair of the Commission and/or the country specific meetings should make timely reports in writing to the General Assembly on its deliberations as appropriate.

The founding resolution gives the task of reviewing the work of the PBC to the General Assembly. The latter accomplishes this through a yearly debate on the Commission's annual report. The General Assembly's role is important both in substantial and organizational terms, particularly in the teething stage of the Commission. We look forward to a critical and constructive review and hope that the General Assembly makes useful recommendations to the Commission as appropriate.

We are very much encouraged by recent efforts to institutionalize the PBC. In particular, we appreciate the long-awaited proposal of the work plans for the country-specific meetings. The work plans clearly provide much-needed predictability to our work. My delegation fully supports the basic framework of the work plans. Recent staff additions to the Peacebuilding Support Office will enable it to give the support necessary to make them operational.

Madam President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Japan's firm commitment to contributing to the Commission, particularly at this critical juncture. I am also very pleased to announce that Japan will hold a seminar on peacebuilding in Timor-Leste in Tokyo this March. I hope that the Commission and the General Assembly will further advance the deliberations on the issues we have discussed today.

Thank you very much.