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**STATEMENT
BY**

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**AT THE
DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN
THE WORK OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION
[AGENDA ITEMS 47, 113 AND 149]**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK
06 FEBRUARY 2007**

Check against delivery

Madam President,

May I begin by associating myself with the statement read on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the Ambassador of Jamaica.

Madam President,

When the 2005 Summit called for the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), it was with realisation that countries emerging from conflict did not have a "home" in the UN system. For example, a country caught up in conflict could count on the Security Council to assist with peacekeeping. Also, a country that had long emerged from conflict could rely on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or even the General Assembly, to help attract development projects. But, for a country that had just emerged from bitter conflict, the chances of falling between the cracks were a reality until the creation of the PBC.

It is for this reason that in its founding resolution, the PBC is expected to have a direct impact on the lives of people of the country in its agenda. Country ownership of the PBC strategies is a necessary ingredient for long-term success.

Therefore, the PBC should have first-hand knowledge about other role-players on the ground that are promoting post-conflict recovery in a country emerging from conflict since the PBC is best placed to enhance coordination and cooperation among various stakeholders.

Madam President,

In June 2007, or shortly thereafter, it is expected that the General Assembly will review the work of the PBC as mandated by Resolution 60/180. It would be helpful at that time if the PBC were to present a report that also contained the lessons learned from Burundi and Sierra Leone, the first two countries on the PBC agenda.

One of the strengths of the PBC is that it can organise emergency resources that are often the glue that keeps countries from sliding back into conflict. But, the fact that the PBC can raise seed money does not make it a donor agency.

According to the resolution that created the PBC, its primary role is "to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on, and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery; to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict, and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development; to provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices; and, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery."

Madam President,

In conclusion, my delegation believes that there are some operational goals that the PBC should set for itself if it has to become effective. Among these is making sure that the countries emerging from conflict have full ownership of the building of the peace for the benefit of their people. Another is to make certain that the PBC develops rules of procedure that are permanent and predictable. It should be clear to everyone what the PBC is about, what it can do, and cannot do.

The PBC is too important to the lives of people in countries that are emerging from conflict. We agree with the NAM that the PBC should consider as a matter of urgency undertaking Field Missions to Freetown and Bujumbura in order to evaluate the situation on the ground and to exchange information with Government authorities, civil society and other key stakeholders. We also concur that Field Missions should be an integral tool of the PBC. Otherwise the New York meetings are not going to make a great difference in the lives of people in Freetown or Bujumbura who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of the PBC.

I thank you.