

# **60th General Assembly**

## **“Informal consultations of the plenary on the Peacebuilding Commission”**

**Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg on development**

**Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN**

**New York, October 7, 2005**

Mr. President,

Since the beginning of our consultations on institutional reforms, Brazil has been fully supportive of the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission. It should help bridge the serious gap that exists today between two approaches to conflict situations: the peace and security approach and the development approach.

The fact that this Assembly has been dealing with the PBC and the Human Rights Council on an equal footing reflects the high importance it gives to this item today.

My delegation supports your [the President's] suggestion to use the existing text of the Outcome Document as a basis, and build upon it. Paragraphs 97 to 105 of that Document contain the general framework of the Peacebuilding Commission. However, several issues remain to be resolved, as you [The President] have outlined in the letter circulated yesterday. I will structure my comments in such a way as to follow the various points raised in your letter.

[1] It is our understanding that there will be a resolution by the GA to create the Peacebuilding Commission. We believe that the main elements of our debate today should be captured in a draft, to be negotiated as soon as possible. This whole exercise must follow a procedure that is both transparent and efficient, as you have mentioned.

[2] There is no doubt that national ownership is an important element of the peacebuilding process. We have to devote special attention as to how this will be reflected in the resolution.

[3] As to the question of the reporting line, my delegation favours a body that would report both to ECOSOC and to the Security-Council, but, beyond the immediate reporting line, the most important challenge is the

mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission: such a mandate should be both advisory and proactive. Our understanding is that in practice the Commission should not only report to the Security Council or the ECOSOC, but also have the freedom to advise, as appropriate, the international financial institutions, the donor community, the WTO etc. This would bring together, in a practical way, all relevant peace-building activities, thus building upon the elements already contained in paragraph 98 of the outcome document.

[4] Agenda setting should be attributed to the Organizational Committee, once it is elected. The Committee should give due attention to the situation in different regions of the world, in order to provide legitimacy to the work of the PBC. It is also important to avoid overburdening the agenda in the initial phase of the Commission's work.

[5] As regards the composition of the Organizational Committee, it is probably the most complex of all questions remaining open. Categories are outlined in paragraph 101 of the Outcome Document. Building upon those elements, the General Assembly must not lessen the participation of countries from the developing world, particularly as these countries have been playing an increasing role in the field.

Moreover, the fact that the Organizational Committee is a standing body should not be interpreted as its membership being permanent or automatic. Members should be elected and membership must take due account of geographical balance. Brazil favours elections for a two-year term with provisions allowing for partial renewal of the membership every year.

Members from categories (a) and (b) in paragraph 101 (Security Council and ECOSOC) should be elected by their organs of origin, while countries from categories (c) and (d) would be elected by the General Assembly, according to certain criteria: 5 to 7 members elected from each category, from a list of the 20 to 25 top financial and troop contributors. It should be noted that in sub item (c) of paragraph 101, providers of assessed contributions and voluntary contributions are separate rosters. We should also consider a separate category for members of the General Assembly. Criteria such as these would offer mobility in the membership and the necessary legitimacy to the new body.

The size of the Organizational Committee must ultimately be manageable, yet representative of the variety of this Organization. My delegation expects it to have around [30] members, depending on the compromises

we are able to reach on numbers in each category.

Brazil is looking forward to work with other delegations in completing the long-awaited objective of creating a Peacebuilding Commission and we welcome the information contained in yesterday's letter that the co-chairs will provide a draft text – this will allow for our discussions to be streamlined and focused. We are ready to engage in substantive discussions and negotiations on the basis of the points outlined above.

Finally, I should note, Mr. President, that most of the points I have just made correspond to concerns expressed by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the NAM this morning.

Thank you