



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

BY

**MR. AMINU B. WALI**  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

**PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

AT

THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2005

**Mr. President,**

I have the honour, on behalf of my delegation, to thank you and your co-Chairs for the tireless efforts you are exerting to ensure that the decisions taken by our leaders in September are quickly brought to fruition. May I also commend you for the choice of your co-Chairs, Denmark and Tanzania, to assist you in actualizing the Summit decision on the Peacebuilding Commission.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, as well as the African position paper on the Peacebuilding Commission forwarded separately to the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

**Mr. President,**

The journey to the High-Level Summit in September was daunting. It marked the complexities of the issues before our Organization, the importance of multilateralism, as well as the will and desire of Member States to find lasting solutions to our common problems. Indeed, members demonstrated willingness, in the case of the Peacebuilding Commission, to arrive at positions, which, in the end, reflected shared goals and objectives of consolidating peace and advancing development in post-conflict situations.

The Nigerian delegation shares your concluding remarks, Mr. President, at the end of the informals of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005 that "We have to prove that the General Assembly can take decisions, at least, let that be our gift to the United Nations at 60." It is, therefore, our expectation that this spirit will reflect in our efforts to ensure the take-off of the Peacebuilding Commission by the end of this year. This could not be otherwise, considering the high store set by Heads of State on this important body.

**Mr. President,**

The acceptance of the concept of Peacebuilding Commission, which my delegation considers as one of the key decisions of the Summit, leaves us with the challenge of meeting the aspirations of the States and peoples in conflict-prone regions. There is an urgent need to take adequate and effective measures, particularly, in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration so as to prevent relapse. This goal, in the assessment of the Nigerian delegation, should remain the driving force behind the operation of the Peacebuilding Commission. Its take-off would ensure that the international community has an effective remedy for a perennial problem, and that solutions are tailored to country situations. We wish to recall, in this regard, that the Secretary-General had, in his explanatory note of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2005, stated that the Peacebuilding Commission is "designed to fill an institutional gap in the United Nations."

**Mr. President,**

It is the view of the Nigerian delegation that, in defining the composition of the Commission, due cognizance should be taken, not solely of the interested Member States, eager and willing to assist, but also of the countries themselves. Experience gained at the regional levels should not be lost. For instance, African States, to a varying degree, have demonstrated, in word and deed, their capacities as effective players in handling conflict situations. The successful examples of such efforts in Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Liberia, and, currently, in Darfur are pointers to such useful role in the new Peacebuilding Commission. The size of a country should not be a disqualification, if we are to achieve the objectives approved at the Summit.

As regards funding, we look forward to detailed recommendations from the Secretary-General. However, the point could not be overemphasized that adequate funding is a sine qua non for the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission.

**Mr. President,**

The Nigerian delegation looks forward to speedy implementation of the Summit decision on this important body. I want to assure you that we shall work constructively with all countries towards that objective, cognizant that the action we take will affect the lives of countries and peoples who repose confidence and trust in this Organization.

**I thank you.**