

Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)

Support to the AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)

During this reporting period, the Peacebuilding Support Office continued its support for Africa's development through its work in support of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) which is currently engaged in peace consolidation efforts in six African countries on its agenda; through the operations of the Peacebuilding Fund which currently provides funding for peacebuilding activities in 14 African countries; and through its analytical work in post conflict peacebuilding.

Peacebuilding Commission Engagement in African Countries

The six African countries on the agenda of PBC are Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Commission assists these countries by providing political support and accompaniment in the transition from war to durable peace; by helping to marshal resources for agreed peacebuilding priorities; and by fostering coordinated action among all relevant actors engaged in peacebuilding in these countries.

Burundi

In its fourth year of engagement with Burundi, the Commission continued to focus its work on supporting the country's efforts on a range of peacebuilding activities. The most important issue during this reporting period was the preparations for and holding of the elections in 2010. Much of the work of this configuration focused on supporting the country's efforts to conduct free and fair elections and in mobilizing international support for the elections. Mid-way during the elections, the Chair of the Burundi Configuration undertook a visit to Bujumbura in July 2010 to pursue the Commission's engagement with the Government, Independent Electoral Commission, political actors, national and international stakeholders in support to efforts aimed at ensuring the electoral process is democratic, safe and inclusive and to discuss with national authorities and BINUB the post-elections challenges and the opportunities.

In October 2010 and February 2011, the Chair visited the World Bank in Washington, in Bujumbura and Dar-es-Salaam where he discussed the integration of peacebuilding issues in the new poverty-reduction strategy paper (PRSP). The World Bank invited the Chair to co-sponsor a donor conference following the completion of the PRSP.

The Chair continued to engage with the Security Council in supporting Burundi. In December 2010, he shared his assessment of the situation in Burundi and made recommendations on possible priorities of the PBC support in 2011. The subsequent resolution of the Security Council on Burundi articulated the focus of the PBC. Following the Security Council resolution, the Chair of the Burundi Configuration undertook a visit to Burundi in February 2011 to discuss with the Government of Burundi the focus of its engagement with the PBC. The Chair used the trip to reach out to the East African Community and to explore with them opportunity of a gradual transfer of some of its accompanying/support role to sub regional entities such as the East African Community.

Central African Republic

The situation in the Central African Republic since July 2010 has been largely dominated by the country's preparations to hold presidential and legislative elections. The first round took place on 23 January 2011, after having twice being postponed. Incumbent President François Bozizé was re-elected in the first round with 64 percent of the votes. A second round of legislative elections is scheduled for later in the year. In the margins of the UN Summit on MDGs in September 2010, the Peacebuilding Commission co-organised with the World Bank a high-level side event to address CAR's peacebuilding and reconstruction needs. The organisers encouraged the high-level participation of regional and sub-regional organisations involved in CAR peacebuilding process. Participants at the meeting included high level representatives the AU Commission, the African Development Bank, Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of Central African States.

Over the reporting period, the African Union opened a liaison office in Bangui, which was officially inaugurated in October 2010. This decision had been encouraged and welcomed by the Peacebuilding Commission, as a sign of the regional organisation's clear commitment to supporting post-conflict countries on their path towards sustainable peace. Meanwhile, military observers from ECCAS, funded by the European Union, participated in the verification of ex-combatants in the context of the ongoing DDR programme in CAR. In part due to the volatile security situation, verification was not conducted in the North-East of the country. The security vacuum in that region was further compounded by the withdrawal by the end of 2010 of the MINURCAT forces from Birao. In a positive development however, and at the request of the Government of CAR, Chad deployed some of its military forces to the Birao area, to support already deployed FACA (Forces Armées Centrafricaines) troops, in a sign of cross-border cooperation to ensure security. The Chadian forces ended their temporary deployment in February 2011.

Guinea

Following the request made by the interim government of Guinea on 21 October 2010 to be on the PBC agenda, a request that was reiterated by the new government on 24 January 2011, Guinea was placed on the agenda of the PBC at a formal meeting of the Organisational Committee of the PBC held on 23 February, 2011. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, was elected the Chair of the Country-specific configuration for Guinea. She will work together with the members of the Guinean Configuration to accompany Guinea in the following priorities identified by the Government of Guinea: 1) Youth and Women Employment Policy; 2) The Promotion of national reconciliation and unity, particularly in the aftermath of the pre- and post- electoral clashes; and 3) The reform of the Security Sector.

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau continues to face a number of peacebuilding challenges which require a regional approach, in close cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations. Guinea-Bissau territory is increasingly used as a transit base for South-American cartels for drug trafficking.

ECOWAS has played an instrumental role in the fight against drug trafficking through the development of its "Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, and Drug Abuse in West Africa". This regional approach to a regional scourge has been repeatedly encouraged and support by the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular with regards to regional threats to peace and security. In a similar vein, in the context of Security Sector Reform in Guinea-Bissau, one of the country's key peacebuilding challenges, ECOWAS has worked closely with the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) to

develop a Roadmap for the Effective Take-Off of the Security Sector Reform Programme. While the roadmap has yet to be formally endorsed by the ECOWAS Heads of State, it highlights the role regional organisations can play in supporting national efforts in peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Commission has continuously encouraged the Guinea-Bissau authorities to make use of the expertise of ECOWAS in this respect, and encourages ECOWAS to quickly endorse the roadmap. The Peacebuilding Fund for its part will contribute to fund activities in the area of SSR, in close cooperation with the goals set out in the ECOWAS-CPLP roadmap.

Liberia

Liberia was placed on the PBC agenda in September 2010 in response to the request by the Government of Liberia. Prior to this, the PBC undertook an assessment mission in August 2010 confirming the three priorities put forward by the Liberian Government as critical for consolidation of peace in Liberia. These include security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation, which all form an important part of the Liberian Poverty Reduction Strategy. Specific project support in these areas is currently being reviewed at the country level under the leadership of the Liberian Government with support from Liberian civil society, the UN and the international community. The PBC, in partnership with the Liberian Government, will be carrying various resource mobilization activities to supplement funds provided through the Peacebuilding Fund.

Sierra Leone

The PBC in Sierra Leone has shown how the international community can converge around one nationally owned planning instrument for peace consolidation and development: *The Agenda for Change* (June 2009). The PBC has also supported one joint UN leadership for political and development matters – thus contributing to perhaps the most successful example of integration on the ground. Over the reporting period, the PBC engagement in Sierra Leone has examined a progress report on the implementation of the Agenda for Change and subsequently has decided to further narrow its focus on a more limited number of priority areas vital to peace consolidation, including preparations for the 2012 election, fighting corruption and drug trafficking and addressing youth unemployment.

Thanks to a successful PBC engagement, Sierra Leone continues to enjoy a strong support from the international community. A number of PBC members, including non-traditional donors, have recently strengthened their collaboration with Sierra Leone, through establishment or strengthening of cooperation and of private sector ties. Meanwhile, the PBC has reinforced its advocacy role with its members and other potential contributors for additional resources, including financial, in-kind, technical assistance and knowledge sharing. The PBC has also challenged its members, the international community and the Government of Sierra Leone to do more to address youth unemployment. Over the past years significant progress has been registered in terms of national strategy and institutions, analysis and coordination of the work of international partners and in resource mobilization.

The Secretary-General has invested heavily in Sierra Leone's peace consolidation through its Peacebuilding Fund for a total of \$ 44 million. The evaluation of the impact of the completed activities financed by the Fund has confirmed that the majority of them have contributed substantially to peace consolidation in the country.

Peacebuilding Fund

As of 28 February 2011, the PBF provided in total funding for 14 African post-conflict countries – Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda – to assist them in various aspects in the transition from conflict to sustainable peace and development. In total 89 projects have been or are still implemented in Africa in the above referred countries. Six of these countries, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and receive peacebuilding strategic advice and support in marshalling resources for recovery. More concretely, of the total PBF approved project budgets of US\$229.3 million as at 28 February 2011, US\$208.5 million (or 91% of total budgets) went to support peacebuilding efforts in African countries. For the reporting period the total PBF approved project budgets of US\$54.6 million, US\$51.6 went to support peacebuilding efforts in African countries.

For instance, the PBF was able to provide on short notice catalytic bridging support for the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité* (DIS) in Chad, which plays an essential role in stabilizing Eastern Chad, and which helped the UN ensure a smooth transition during MINURCAT’s withdrawal at the end of 2010. In Uganda, the Fund has allocated \$14 million to support rule of law, human rights, and youth engagement. In something of an innovation, three UN joint programmes were approved by the national Steering Committee concurrently with the approval of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan, significantly accelerating the speed with which funds will go from allocation to implementation. The Fund is supporting some experimental work by UNHCR in Somalia, looking to permanently resettle displaced persons as part of the piece-by-piece peacebuilding strategy.

In line with one of NEPAD’s primary objectives, the Fund is committed to advance gender equality in the post-conflict context. As an overall principle, the Fund is ensuring that gender is mainstreamed throughout its projects. In line with his report on Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding (S/2010/466), the Secretary General has committed the Fund to allocate at least 15 per cent of its resources to projects that are designed to address women’s specific needs, advance gender equality and/or empower women.

The PBF programmes in Africa are designed to enhance effective participation of women in peacebuilding processes, build capacities of women’s organizations in community reconciliation and improve the protection of women against gender based violence. Of the Africa projects noted above, \$10.5m are on gender marker 3 (14 projects) and \$44.7m on marker 2 (24 projects). More specifically, during the reporting period, the PBF respectively allocated US\$22.8 million (or 13 projects) and 1 million (2 projects) to these areas.

Another core activity of the PBF is to provide funding for early economic recovery, which, in Africa, currently amounts to US\$30.5 million (in total 23 projects.). Of this total support, the PBF allocated US\$27.1 million to youth empowerment and employment programmes that aim at overcoming persistent and pervasive unemployment that pose an ominous threat to the stability of post-conflict resources. More generally, the Fund aims to strengthen economic governance through the promotion of partnerships with private sector; development of micro enterprises and youth employment schemes, and technical support to design more inclusive and sustainable policies of the management of natural resources. During the reporting period, the PBF supported 6 projects allocating US\$11.7million.

PBF projects are also designed to assist post-conflict Governments and Ministries in the rehabilitation and expansion of basic social services and infrastructure (energy, transportation, safe drinking water and proper sanitation) in regions most affected by conflict.