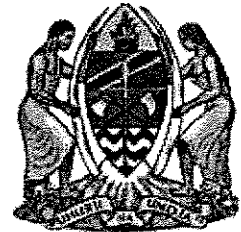


**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Enclosure

File  
5.E.7.a

Date  
11 October 2005

Excellency,

We are writing to you in our capacity as co-Chairs of the informal consultations convened by the President of the General Assembly on the Peacebuilding Commission.

We welcome the contributions made at the first such consultations on 7 October on the outstanding issues regarding the Commission, as outlined in the President's letter of 6 October. The discussion last Friday showed that further clarification is needed on some of the basic issues regarding which a divergence of opinions persist among Member States.

We believe that it would be helpful at this stage to look for a common understanding of how the Peacebuilding Commission is supposed to operate in practice. What concrete role the Peacebuilding Commission can and should play, including what outcome it should produce, in order to sufficiently fill the institutional gap in the United Nations system identified in the High Level Panel Report and the Secretary-General's "In larger freedom" report. Once that has been done, we can revisit the outstanding institutional questions with more clarity, focus and, one would hope, common understanding.

Therefore, we have decided to convene two meetings to examine underlying, operational aspects of peacebuilding, including some not resolved in the Summit Outcome Document. In his letter of 6 October, the President already mentioned the intension in the coming weeks to invite representatives from the field for a discussion on what peacebuilding means on the ground. We can also benefit from the experience of those at Headquarters who plan and/or liaise with field operations and compile lessons learnt.

Our next round of informal consultations will take place on **Wednesday, 12 October at 10:00 a.m. in the ECOSOC Chambers**. For this meeting, we as co-Chairs have invited the following representatives from United Nations entities in New York:

Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, UN Development Group Office  
 David Harland, Chief, Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, DPKO  
 Mark Bowden, Chief, Policy Development and Studies Branch, OCHA,

For this meeting, and the following meeting with representatives from the field, the agenda will revolve around the following questions:

- When does peacebuilding come about and how does peacebuilding evolve, e.g. what are the approximate stages of peacebuilding activities and what actors and elements/instruments are most relevant at the various stages;
- How is peacebuilding operationalized, e.g. what local and international structures are best suited to ensure effective, coordinated action, and how do we ensure national ownership and sustainable results;
- What would the best way for the Peacebuilding Commission to insert itself into the process, so as to add value by providing greater direction and coherence; how will various local and international actors benefit from its advice, including the institutional actors in New York;

The co-Chairs will invite brief presentations from the panellists to introduce their experiences relating to these themes, and we will welcome comments and questions from delegations, not least those with experiences of peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. Our aim is an informal interactive debate, rather than prepared statements.

These two meetings will help the General Assembly President and us as co-Chairs, as we proceed to work on the options available on the outstanding issues, on which we continue to welcome written contributions from Member States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely

  
 Ellen Margarethe Lövi

Yours Sincerely

  
 Augustine P. Mahiga