

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal Country-Specific Meeting on Sierra Leone
March 18, 2008

Chair's Summary Note

1. The primary purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, including on the advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the CSM Chair. The agenda for the meeting also included a discussion on the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation on the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and updates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization of the Islamic States (OIC). Ambassador Majoor, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, chaired the meeting. The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) was represented by Hon. David Carew, Minister of Finance and Economic Development and Hon. Haja Afsata Kabba, Minister of Energy and Power. Dr. Christiana Thorpe, the Chair of the National Electoral Commission, the representatives of the European Commission, United Kingdom, United States, China, Egypt, and the UN and civil society also took part in the meeting, via VTC, from Freetown (see the attached list of participants).
2. Ambassador Majoor began by providing an update on his recent advocacy efforts for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. The Chair noted that in addition to bilateral meetings in New York, in the last few weeks he has visited Washington, Berlin, Brussels, London and the Hague to meet with senior government representatives as well as the representatives of the European Commission, the World Bank, IMF, IFC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Business Council, and the High Commissioner of Sierra Leone to the UK. The purpose of these visits and meetings has been to: raise awareness about the work of the PBC in Sierra Leone; generate buy-in and garner support for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, by identifying specific “windows” for possible support; and seek support and participation in the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation scheduled for May 19.
3. Expressing appreciation to all stakeholders for their support in organizing these visits, the Chair highlighted the following points:
 - There is a growing interest among various stakeholders in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of Sierra Leone. This year is seen as decisive both for Sierra Leone and for the work of the PBC in the country. The GoSL must meet the high expectations of the population while the PBC has to ensure additional support for the country through the implementation of the Peacebuilding Framework.
 - Many positive initiatives and developments are taking place in Sierra Leone under the leadership of the government. In particular, stakeholders highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the emergency energy plan, the development of strategies in

key sector such as justice and health, as well as the government's new partnerships with the private sector and the Diaspora community.

- A number of stakeholders such as the IFC, Germany and the Commonwealth Secretariat noted their intention or readiness to scale-up their support to Sierra Leone in the areas of private sector development, security sector reform, youth employment, capacity building for the Parliament, and the local council elections. Others indicated their interest in providing thematic funding through multilateral channels, in line with the priority areas identified in the Cooperation Framework.
 - The growing interest of the private sector in Sierra Leone's fisheries, mining, agricultural development, and tourism offer opportunities for economic recovery critical for the sustainability of the peace process in the country. To further facilitate this interest and build partnerships, the Commonwealth Business Council and the GoSL, with the support of DFID and the Sierra Leone Business Forum, will convene an Investment Forum in Freetown in the fall of 2008. The organizers of the event expressed interest in collaborating with the PBC and ensuring linkages with the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation on the Peacebuilding Framework. Other positive developments in this area were also highlighted, such as the opening of the Sierra Leone Stock Exchange and the setting up of the ManoCap Investment Fund.
 - Notwithstanding these positive developments, a number of issues will require further attention, continued leadership from the GoSL and steadfast support from the PBC and other international partners. For example, the recent IMF staff visit to Sierra Leone revealed continued difficulties in domestic revenue mobilization and may result in delays or suspension of budgetary support to the government.
 - In order to broaden the donor base in Sierra Leone, there is a need for well functioning multi-donor funding mechanisms. A few already exist but additional instruments are needed in support of the justice sector, youth employment and energy sector. The policies on youth employment and empowerment also need to be revised by the GoSL and greater and more coherent support provided by the international actors, linking short term employment generation efforts with longer-term economic growth and private sector development. The efforts in the energy sector also need to be further supported through a speedy resolution of the dispute pertaining to the Income Electrics contract which is currently being reviewed by the Anti-Corruption Commission. The preparations for the local council elections require additional technical and financial support to ensure that they are conducted on time, peacefully and in accordance with the international standards. The Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee must be reconvened as soon as possible to allow for the disbursement of the remaining \$20 million in support of key peacebuilding priority projects.
4. Members thanked the Chair for his advocacy efforts while noting further areas of possible support to Sierra Leone. In particular, Bangladesh reiterated willingness to offer experiences and assistance in the areas of micro-credit, private sector development, women's and youth empowerment, and non-formal education. The Commonwealth

Secretariat confirmed its readiness to support the local council elections, the capacity development of the Parliament and share best practices on youth employment programs. The IMF, Germany, UK and the EC noted that the Chair's advocacy efforts were an important awareness raising initiative and generated greater understanding of the PBC's work in capitals. The Chair was also encouraged to explore collaboration opportunities on sub-regional issues possibly by meeting with the EU Envoy for the Mano River Union.

5. The IMF representative in New York noted that an IMF staff mission visited Freetown on February 20-March 4, 2008 to review the performance under the three-year arrangement under the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and discuss an economic program for 2008. The mission highlighted that Sierra Leone's micro-economic developments in 2007 were mixed. The government of Sierra Leone was encouraged to step up the pace of implementation of structural reforms by strengthening the National Revenue Authority, reforming the financial sector and addressing high inflation rates.
6. The representative of the OIC provided an update on the recent OIC Summit in Dakar, Senegal. Discussions pertaining to Sierra Leone resulted in a strong resolution calling for additional support for the country's peacebuilding efforts. It was also agreed that a meeting of the Sierra Leone Contact Group should take place at the next meeting of the OIC in Kampala, Uganda in June of this year. Furthermore, the OIC Secretariat and the GoSL will explore options for organizing an OIC donor conference for Sierra Leone and establishing a Sierra Leone Trust Fund.
7. The GoSL representatives thanked the Chair and CSM members for their efforts and provided additional updates on the recent developments in the country. Hon. David Carew noted that a Steering Committee has been set up by H.E. President Koroma to oversee the drafting of the next Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in time for the budgetary discussions in October of 2008. He noted that an outline of the PRSP has been presented to the Parliament and will be considered in national consultations during the month of April. A first draft of the PRSP is expected to be discussed at the next DEPAC meeting scheduled for sometime April. The Minister also noted that some development partners expressed concerns about the timeframe for the drafting of the PRSP and suggested possibilities of developing an interim PRSP by the end of May and a full PRSP by the end of 2008. On the issue of the IMF staff visit, Minister Carew noted that the discussions with the IMF will continue in mid-April in Washington, DC. Minister Carew also informed the PBC that Sierra Leone already has four micro-credit institutions and welcomed additional interest and support from Bangladesh in this regard.
8. Minister Kabba provided an update on the developments in the energy sector, noting in particular that a proposal in the amount of \$ 6 million has been developed for consideration by the PBF Steering Committee to address the remaining funding gap in the emergency energy plan. The Minister also briefed on the assessment missions undertaken by Japan and the World Bank in connection to the rehabilitation of transmission and distribution lines and the environmental sustainability of the Bambuna HEP respectively. Minister Kabba stressed that an official reply has been provided to the

Anti-Corruption Commission regarding the Income Electrics contract and that efforts are underway to resolve the issue.

9. Dr. Christiana Thorpe thanked the CSM members for their contributions to the Basket Fund for the Local Council Elections. With the recent contributions of the UK and other traditional donors, as well as two non-traditional donors, the \$13 million funding gap highlighted at the last PBC meeting has now been filled. Dr. Thorpe noted that the preparations for the local council elections are well underway. The ward boundary delimitation proposal has been submitted to the Parliament and will be considered within the next two weeks.
10. Mr. Minah, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, stressed the important role of civil society in the monitoring and review process for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Framework. He also noted that the CSOs have set up a Peacebuilding Engagement Committee and called for additional support and capacity building for civil society organizations.
11. On the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation, the CSM Chair introduced a concept note outlining the overall purpose, objectives, timing, as well as inputs and outcomes for the event. The Chair noted that the Consultation has also been highlighted as a key instrument for the implementation of the Framework in a joint letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone and the Minister of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands. The Chair encouraged inputs and comments from CSM members on the concept note and stressed that additional information on the programme and participants for the event will be circulated in early April.
12. Minister Carew in his concluding remarks thanked the CSM Chair and members for their continued support for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework.

Peacebuilding Commission
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Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Participants in Freetown, Sierra Leone

NAME	ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION
Dr. Christiana Thorpe	NEC	Chairperson
Hon. Haja Afsatu O.Kabba	GoSL	Minister of Energy and Power
Hon. David Carew	GoSL	Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Mr. Gebremedhin Hagoss	UNIOSIL	OIC
Ms. Martha Davis	Action Aid	Coordinator, Human Security
Mr. Geert Cappelaere	UNICEF	Representative
Mr. Stephen Aiah mattia	NEC	Executive Secretary
Mr. Mulunesh Tennagashaw	UNAIDS	UCC
Dr. Lancelot Ayo Lake	GoSL	Chair, Presidential Emergency Energy Task Force
H.E Wenju Cheng	Chinese Embassy	Ambassador
Mr. Katsuya Kuge	JICA	Resident Officer
Mr. Yan Cheng	Chinese Embassy	Chief Political Officer
Mr. Markus Handke	EC	Charge d' Affaires
Mr. Robert Collet	British High Commission	Political Officer
Mr. Mahmoud Azzat	Egyptian Embassy	Ambassador
Ms. Elizabeth Susie Pratt	USA Embassy	Dep. Chief Mission
Christian Lawrence	CGG	Programme Officer
W. A. Taylor	NEC	Executive Assistant
Mr. William Lungyo	UNIOSIL	HRO
Mr. Emmanuel Abeliwine	Christian Aid	Governance Officer
Hartmann Christgl	ICRC	Head of Delegation
Mr. Edward K. Jombla	WANEP – SL	National Coordinator
Mr. Israel Jigba	UNIOSIL	Governance Officer
Mr. Festus Minah	Civil Society Movement SL	Chairman