

Peacebuilding Commission
Sierra Leone Informal Country-Specific Meeting

September 20, 2007

Summary Note of the Chair

1. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Frank Majoor, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands. Ambassador Majoor began by congratulating all stakeholders on the peaceful, genuinely contested and impressively organized elections. He stressed that these elections are a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Sierra Leonean people, political parties, civil society organizations, and the media to peace, democratic governance and development.
2. The Government of Sierra Leone was represented by H.E. Mr. Umaru Wurie, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Mr. Wurie thanked all international partners for their steadfast support for the electoral process. He encouraged the PBC to fully engage with the newly elected government in supporting peacebuilding and national reconciliation in Sierra Leone. Mr. Wurie also invited the PBC CSM Chair to visit Sierra Leone in the near future.
3. In his statement, Mr. Victor Angelo, Executive Representative of the Secretary General (ERSG), stressed that the 2007 elections represent a historic landmark for Sierra Leone, West African and the entire African continent. He noted that the partnership between the national authorities and the international actors was critical to the success of these elections and provides a number of good practices and lessons. International partners worked together to provide capacity building and assistance to the National Elections Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission and the Sierra Leone Police. The Peacebuilding Fund allocation helped to meet a funding gap for the election activities of the National Electoral Commission and the Sierra Leone Police. The ERSG also commended the United Nations staff, ECOWAS and other observer missions for their contributions and critical role in ensuring greater transparency and legitimacy for the electoral process.
4. All participants agreed that the independent and professional manner in which the National Electoral Commission, the security forces and the Political Parties Registration Commission conducted their work was critical in ensuring credible, peaceful and transparent elections. Participants also noted the commendable steps taken by the outgoing President, leaders of all political parties and international partners to maintain general peace and stability in dealing with isolated violence and increased tension prior to the second round of elections and immediately following the announcement of the final results.
5. Civil society representatives and other participants stressed that the electoral process in Sierra Leone has clearly shown the need to continue efforts for national unity, reconciliation and peace consolidation. There are many challenges facing the new

president and parliament, chief among them the need to reconcile the country and forge a government of national unity with a focus on moving forward and rebuilding the country. The electoral process has also shown that the people of Sierra Leone have high expectations from their leaders. The newly elected leaders would need to strive to meet these expectations by instituting policies to improve the daily lives of Sierra Leoneans in particular the youth and the war-affected population. Stressing that consolidation of democracy and peace is an ongoing process, many participants called for continued support and capacity building for the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Democracy Commission, and other institutions.

6. Members of the PBC reiterated their commitment to continue to support Sierra Leone in its peacebuilding efforts and to redouble efforts to complete the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. It was reaffirmed that the process for the development of the Framework will continue to be fully consultative and nationally owned under the leadership of the new government.

7. In terms of the next steps in the development of the Framework, Ambassador Majoor highlighted his intention to travel to Sierra Leone in early October to hold consultations with the new government and all other stakeholders on the draft Framework. He welcomed views and inputs from the PBC members and stakeholders in Sierra Leone in advance of the visit.

8. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that the Chair will produce a summary note.