



Supporting Countries in Transition from War to Sustainable Peace and Development

The United Nations has successfully helped countries embroiled in conflict to 'make the peace' and to 'keep the peace'; however, efforts to 'build the peace' and to sustain it over an extended period of time have been more difficult. There is strong evidence that many countries relapse into conflict within a few years.

The new United Nations peacebuilding architecture – the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund, and the Peacebuilding Support Office – is designed to address this challenge, and to ensure more effective support to countries in their transition from war to lasting peace.

Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict in countries emerging from conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels, address key causes of conflict and lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development. These measures include, for example, security sector reform, elections and human rights monitoring and institutional capacity development.

"By establishing the Commission, Member States of the United Nations have created an important new structure to support fragile societies recovering from the devastation of the war."

*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
New York, 27 June 2007*

On 20 December 2005, in response to a decision by Heads of State/Government at the 2005 World Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), a Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and a Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Security Council and the General Assembly simultaneously adopted resolutions A/RES/60/180 and 1645 (2005) respectively.

I. THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION (PBC)

The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body that brings together all relevant actors (including, inter alia, international donors, the international financial institutions, national governments from focus countries, troop contributor countries, UN actors and civil society representatives) to promote a common approach to helping a country emerge from conflict. PBC is mandated to:

MATTERS OF FACT:

The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture:

1. **The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC):** A 31 Member State subsidiary advisory body of both the General Assembly and Security Council;
2. **The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF):** A multi-year standing trust fund for post-conflict peacebuilding; and
3. **The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO):** Part of the UN Secretariat that supports the PBC, manages the PBF, and coordinates UN system peacebuilding efforts.

- ◆ Propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- ◆ Marshal resources to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained financial investment over the medium to long-term;
- ◆ Extend the period of attention provided by the international community to post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- ◆ Develop best practices on issues that require extensive collaboration among political, security, humanitarian and development actors.

Membership and Structure: The PBC Organizational Committee is made-up of 31 members selected or elected as follows (as of 15/01/2008):

- ◆ *7 members of the Security Council*, including permanent members: China, France, Belgium, The Russian Federation, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and the United States of America;
- ◆ *7 Members elected by the Economic and Social Council:* Angola, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Luxembourg, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

Peacebuilding Commission Chairman

H.E. Mr. Yukio TAKASU (Japan)
Ambassador Extraordinary &
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations



- ◆ *5 of the top 10 providers of assessed contributions to UN budgets:* Germany, Italy, Japan (Chair), the Netherlands, and Norway.
- ◆ *5 of the top 10 troop contributing countries:* Bangladesh, Ghana (Vice Chair), India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.
- ◆ *Seven members elected by the General Assembly:* Burundi, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador (Vice Chair), Fiji, Georgia, and Jamaica.

In addition to the Organizational Committee members, in the PBC's Country Specific Meetings (which look at issues particular to the individual focus countries), representatives from neighbouring countries, regional organizations, financial institutions, and representatives of civil society are invited to participate in deliberations. The PBC also has a Working Group on Lessons Learned to distil lessons from previous national and international experiences in post-conflict engagements.

Focus Countries: On 21 June 2006, the Security Council referred Burundi and Sierra Leone to the PBC. In a series of country-specific meetings, the PBC and the respective governments identified key priority areas for peacebuilding in each country.

In **Burundi**, the PBC and the Government of Burundi agreed on four critical peacebuilding areas to form the basis of a strategic framework: promoting good governance; strengthening the rule of law; reform of the security sector; and ensuring community recovery, with a special focus on youth. In **Sierra Leone**, the PBC and national partners identified reform of the justice and security sectors, youth employment and empowerment, and capacity-building in governance institutions as key priorities. Effective partnership between national and international actors helped ensure that recent elections in Sierra Leone were conducted in a peaceful, orderly and genuinely contested manner.

In December 2007, the PBC's agenda was broadened to include Guinea-Bissau following a request from the Security Council backing the Government's request for PBC assistance.

As an advisory body, the PBC does not enforce its recommendations. Rather, its advice carries weight thanks to the diversity, stature and relevance of its membership, and recognition of national ownership over the peacebuilding process.

As the PBC begins its second year of work, the critical challenge ahead will be to ensure continued support to

Burundi and Sierra Leone, while continuing to implement its mandate and meet the high expectations of its performance, most importantly with respect to the populations of countries emerging from conflict. It is expected that other countries will be referred for the Commission's consideration in the near future.

II. THE PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)

The 2005 World Summit also established a multi-year fund for post conflict peacebuilding.

The Peacebuilding Fund provides catalytic support to countries emerging from conflict, thus serving as a crucial bridge between conflict and recovery when other funding mechanisms may not yet be available. The PBF is a Multi Donor Trust Fund set to reach an initial target of US\$ 250 million. As of 15 January 2008, the Fund has attracted \$225,000,000 in commitments from 42 donors.

On the basis of agreed priorities, the PBF can support a variety of measures to strengthen national capacities in sustaining peace and will therefore help to reduce the risk of a country relapsing into violence. The PBF assists countries before the PBC, but can also help others in similar circumstances, as designated by the Secretary-General.

The PBF supports initiatives such as: the implementation of peace agreements; efforts by post-conflict countries to build and strengthen local capacities, thereby promoting coexistence and the peaceful resolution of conflict; the establishment or re-establishment of essential administrative services together with the development of related human and technical capacities; and critical interventions designed to respond to imminent threats to the peacebuilding process.

The General Assembly guides the operations of the Fund and may offer overall policy guidance. An independent advisory group has been appointed by the Secretary-General to provide advice and oversight of the speed and appropriateness of fund allocations and to examine performance and financial reports.

Assistance to Date: Since its official launching in October 2006, the Peacebuilding Fund facility has been activated for the two countries currently under consideration by the Peacebuilding Commission, Burundi and Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General allocated US\$ 35 million each for these two countries in 2007.

Sierra Leone: To date, the Peacebuilding Fund has approved 7 projects with a total budget of US\$ 15,982,577 in

the priority areas of good governance, security and justice sector reform, youth employment and empowerment, and capacity-building.

Burundi: The Peacebuilding Fund has approved 12 projects to date with a total budget of US\$ 26,883,000 in four priority areas: governance, the security sector, justice and human rights, and land issues.

Côte d'Ivoire: In September 2007, emergency funding in the amount of US\$ 700,000 was approved to support the on-going "Direct Dialogue" between President Laurent Ghagbo and the armed opposition, the Forces nouvelles, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Central African Republic: The Fund has also approved emergency funding in the amount of US\$ 801,975 to support political dialogue, including a period of mediation by international facilitators, between the Government, civil society members, opposition political parties and armed opposition groups.

In 2008, the PBF will provide assistance to peacebuilding activities in Liberia, Nepal, and other post-conflict countries.

III. THE PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT OFFICE (PBSO)

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is the third pillar in the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Part of the UN Secretariat, the PBSO provides support to the work of the PBC in all its deliberations, and manages the Peacebuilding Fund.

The PBSO assists the UN Secretary-General to catalyze the wide range of United Nations capacity, and to partner with external actors, to develop peacebuilding strategies, marshal resources and enhance international coordination. This support is firmly based on PBSO's function as a knowledge centre for lessons learned and good practices on peacebuilding.

PBSO is headed by Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-building Support. Ms. McAskie provides overall management of the PBSO and the PBF, and advises the Secretary-General on peacebuilding issues. PBSO comprises three main sections:

Strategic Planning Section: Provides substantive support to the PBC regarding countries under consideration; develops peacebuilding strategies; supports peacebuilding efforts in countries; and coordinates peacebuilding within the UN system.

Policy Analysis Section: Serves as knowledge base for peacebuilding lessons learned and advances knowledge management; provides substantive policy support to the PBC; promotes integrated approaches and best practices for the Secretary-General and UN system.

External Relations Section: Provides substantive secretariat support to the PBC, undertakes communications, outreach and media relations; conducts donor/NGO liaison; provides oversight and programmatic management of the PBF; and analyzes and tracks financing for peacebuilding

For more information see: www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/
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