

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
28 April 2010

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 28 April 2010, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The PBC Chairperson presided over the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included the following items: (1) The Review of International Civilian Capacities: Briefing by PBSO on the progress, Background Paper, Questions/Answers, Discussion; (2) Participation of the Chairperson in the Global Meeting on the International Dialogue for State-building and Peacebuilding (Dili, Timor Leste, 9 and 10 April 2010); (3) Quarterly briefing by PBSO on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and (4) Other matters.

1. The Review of International Civilian Capacities

The ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, briefed on the Review of International Civilian Capacities. She outlined the context, process and key challenges, emphasizing that the Review welcomes ideas and inputs from member states of the PBC and that PBSO is committed to working closely with the membership and with countries on the PBC agenda (*a copy of the PPT presentation by the ASG has been circulated to the members*).

Member states expressed broad support for the process. In particular, the following concrete comments were presented during the discussion:

- Welcome the Secretary-General's recent appointment of a Senior Advisory Group (SAG) chaired by former Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guéhenno.
- Welcome the alignment of the Review around the principle of support to national authorities to lead their own political, security and development process.
- Applaud the placement of national ownership and national capacity development at the core of the Civilian Capacity Review. They observed that building national capacities must start as soon as possible in the aftermath of conflict.
- Recognize the importance of leveraging capacities and expertise in the Global South and among women, incl. capacity among civil society actors.
- Emphasize the need for adequate and predictable funding for the UN and to build these capacities.
- Welcome the proposal for regional consultations, as a platform to discuss these challenges and identify and develop partnership opportunities.

- Note the continuing challenge of high vacancy rates in some missions, and the importance for the Review both linking to ongoing UN human resources reform processes and examining the arrangements that govern recruitment and deployment.
- Emphasize that quality – getting the right mix of skills – should not lose out to quantity.
- Welcomed the inclusive process of the Review and request further update at an appropriate time, by the Chair of the SAG or some members, on the progress in the Review.

2. Participation of the Chairperson in the Global Meeting on the International Dialogue for State-building and Peacebuilding (Dili, Timor Leste, 9 and 10 April 2010)

The Chairperson referred to his summary from the meeting, which he had circulated to members upon his return from the Dili meeting, and further underlined the following points:

- The Dili meeting was a good opportunity to learn more closely about the objectives and scope of International Dialogue (ID) and the areas of overlap and/or potential collaboration with the PBC in the three countries where both are currently involved.
- While addressing possibly the same challenges and questions which the PBC and the UN has been preoccupied with, the ID relies more broadly on the perspectives of development whereas the PBC's emphasis on the nexus with security.
- The meeting was an opportunity to underline the unique standing of the PBC as a central UN platform to address peacebuilding challenges with direct linkages to the GA and SC.
- Emphasis was also placed on the unique legitimacy and political weight that the PBC's engagement carries, as well as its evolving partnerships with IFIs, regional organizations and civil society, which calls for closer synergy between the ID and the PBC.
- The collective efforts of the PBC and ID should be coherent and mutually reinforcing while avoiding fragmentation. The role of the Chairs of country configurations in this regard was particularly underlined.

3. Quarterly briefing by PBSO on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

The ASG for Peacebuilding Support briefed on the most recent activities of the PBF (*a copy of the PPT presentation by the ASG has been circulated to the members*). In her presentation, the ASG underlined the following points:

- The rhythm of work of the Peacebuilding Fund, benefiting from the procedures and staff capacity built up in 2009, is on the rise. The Fund has now allocated \$200 million to

- The Fund is increasing its focus on monitoring and evaluation, with increased field support, more guidance and better reporting.
- The Fund is also underlining the importance of broad UN country team participation in the planning and implementation of activities, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners.
- As a consequence of the increased activities, PBSO will be developing a resource mobilization plan to replenish the Fund in the coming months.

From their side, member states underlined the following points:

- The catalytic nature of the PBF must be reinforced by working with all relevant actors, including the World Bank and the private sector, to upscale the Fund's activities.
- There is a need to address how the actual disbursement of the funds matches the initial allocations and the linkage with often limited capacity in the field to implement the PBF projects.
- It is crucial to put in place an ambitious replenishment strategy for the PBF.

4. Other matters

No other matters were raised.
