



United Nations - Nations Unies

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Presentation by the

Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission

H.E. Eugène-Richard Gasana

Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

To the

Economic and Social Council Substantive Session
2011

Agenda item 7 (f) - African countries emerging from conflict

New York, 22 July 2011

[Please check against delivery]

Mr. President and distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am pleased to join you via video link from New York. I am also pleased to follow the footsteps of my predecessors who briefed the Economic and Social Council's substantive sessions in 2009 and 2010. This annual occasion for the PBC Chairperson to brief the ECOSOC testifies to the linkage between peacebuilding and socio-economic development. ECOSOC can play an important role in ensuring that socio-economic development remains at the centre of the international community's support to and engagement with countries emerging from conflict.

Generating early and sustainable socio-economic dividends remains a key challenge to the United Nations and the global response to post-conflict situations. The Peacebuilding Commission has repeatedly underscored that such dividends are necessary to signal the shift from conflict to peace. This was also a key message from the 2010 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, whose recommendations have guided the Commission's work since the beginning of this year.

The PBC has offered a platform for policy discussions and development around this message. Last April, we convened a special event at which we hosted members of the World Bank Board of Directors to launch the World Development Report 2011 on Conflict, Peace and Development. PBC has also been consulted in preparation of the report of the Senior Advisory Group on Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict. Most recently, the four West African configurations organized a joint event on combating drug-trafficking and organized crime in the sub-region in support of the West Africa Coast Initiative and the ECOWAS Plan of Action in this regard.

In its interaction with senior UN and World Bank officials and other practitioners, PBC has emphasized the need: **1)** to link security-related processes in countries emerging from conflict, such as DDR and SSR, to economic and employment-generation; **2)** to focus on building national capacity at the earliest stage; **3)** to support delivery of quick dividends and long-term institution-building; **4)** to ensure that national ownership should be anchored in inclusive peacebuilding processes; and **5)** to ensure that demand-driven interventions across the security, political and development spectrum are at the core of international support to peacebuilding.

These are the salient principles which the PBC stand by and advocate for at the policy and normative level. These principles are drawn from its experiences in the countries on its agenda and from broader lessons which the international community has learned over decades. These were also the messages which we

shared with the members of ECOSOC at our most recent joint informal meeting on sustainable peace and development in Sudan and South Sudan.

Mr. President and distinguished colleagues,

Allow me to provide the Council with short synopses of the country-specific engagement of the PBC in the countries on its agenda. Since my predecessor briefed the Council in July 2010, two African countries have been added to the agenda of the PBC, Liberia and Guinea. With the addition of these two countries, the PBC is now accompanying six African countries, including: Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

Burundi:

Following the 2010 elections and in light of the outstanding peacebuilding challenges in the country, the PBC country configuration for Burundi is in consultation with the Government regarding the future focus of the PBC in further supporting the peacebuilding efforts in the country. In this regard, the fifth review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi was concluded in April this year and the PBC is now increasingly focused on supporting the development of a new Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and related resource mobilization efforts, under the leadership of Switzerland, Chair of the Burundi Configuration.

Central African Republic:

Since July 2010, the CAR configuration of the PBC has focused its attention on accompanying the Government in preparing and setting the stage for the holding of the country's presidential and legislative elections. The advocacy role of the PBC, combined with similar efforts at country level by the SRSG and other partners, resulted in bridging the US\$ 7.5 million funding gap in the electoral budget. Following the conclusion of the elections, a new Poverty Reduction Strategy containing the critical peacebuilding priorities for the country was developed by the Government. As a result, a "partners' roundtable for the development and peacebuilding needs of the Central African Republic" was organized last June by the Government of CAR with support from the Peacebuilding Commission, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and UNDP. The role played by the CAR configuration, under the dedicated chairmanship of Belgium, has been widely recognized as critical in ensuring the success of the Round Table, and most importantly, in advocating relentlessly for the participation of the largest possible number of potential partners.

Guinea:

Guinea is the most recent addition to the PBC's agenda on the basis of a request from the Government of President Alpha Condé following the 2010 elections that the PBC accompanies Guinea in three peacebuilding priorities,

namely: **1)** the Promotion of national reconciliation and unity; **2)** the Security and Defence Sector Reform; and **3)** Youth and Women Employment Policy. The engagement is in its early phase and has been initiated by a mission led by the Chair of the Configuration, Luxembourg, followed by a technical mission composed of entities of the UN system. An instrument of engagement identifying areas of mutual commitments is currently under negotiation and consultation between the Government of Guinea and the PBC Guinea Configuration. It will draw on the three peacebuilding priorities identified by the Government, as well as the outcome of the Chair's visit and the technical Mission to Guinea.

Guinea-Bissau:

The PBC Configuration, under the leadership of Brazil, advocated with the international financial institutions, at a time when the main bilateral donors had decided to suspend all non-humanitarian assistance to induce stronger civilian oversight as a result of the violent incidents of 2010. At the same time, the PBC urged the country's civil and military leadership to work together to strengthen State institutions, promote economic development, uphold the rule of law, fight impunity and combat drug trafficking and organized crime. Meanwhile, the civilian and the military authorities made a number of crucial steps towards the restoration of normalcy. As a result, Guinea Bissau reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC) at the end of 2010, thus triggering substantial debt relief and the provision of new grants. In the first months of 2011, Guinea Bissau made further progress in stabilizing its economy.

Liberia:

Since September 2010, the PBC Liberia Configuration, under the leadership of Jordan, has assiduously undertaken to familiarize its members with the peacebuilding challenges in Liberia, namely security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation. Through field visits and regular inter-action, the Configuration has identified means as to how to complement and support activities on the ground. A highlight of the most recent visit by the Commission was an agreement reached with the Government, UN and civil society actors on the need to develop a national reconciliation strategy. During its initial phase of engagement, the PBC has brought focus to some critical peacebuilding priorities, for example, the establishment of regional security and justice hubs. Progress on these regional hubs has been facilitated by the PBC's engagement.

Sierra Leone:

A high-level delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission, under the chairmanship of Canada, visited Sierra Leone in May this year. The delegation has noted and commended the progress made by Sierra Leone since the end of the civil war, most notably in the areas of anti-corruption and youth employment. At the same time, there are a number of political and practical challenges facing Sierra Leone in preparation for the 2012 elections. The PBC is

engaged in addressing both sets of challenges, including through its advocacy role with key partners. The last phase of peace consolidation in Sierra Leone demands a steep improvement in living conditions that can only come with substantial increase in private investment. The PBC, by providing an international platform in which to highlight the progress made by the country, is supporting Sierra Leone's attempts at re-branding itself as a profitable destination for private investment as opposed to a post-conflict country.

[French]

M. le Président, distingués collègues,

Je voudrais conclure mon exposé en exprimant mes sincères remerciements à la présidence et au bureau de l'ECOSOC, pour leurs efforts constants à assurer que la collaboration avec la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix (CCP) soit approfondie et renforcée. Les réunions conjointes annuelles sur des thèmes d'intérêt mutuel ont attiré une large attention sur la dimension socio-économique et de développement de la consolidation de la paix. La récente réunion sur le Soudan et le Soudan du Sud a été certainement un pas supplémentaire vers le renforcement de cette collaboration.

Pour l'avenir, la CCP souhaite continuer à travailler étroitement avec l'ECOSOC sur les domaines qui ont un intérêt particulier pour les pays à l'ordre du jour de la CCP, ainsi que pour tous les pays qui sortent de conflits, d'une manière plus générale. Mobiliser les ressources pour les pays sortant de conflits, dont nombreux sont parmi les pays les plus pauvres de la planète et les plus éloignés des OMD, est un objectif fondamental de la CCP. Nous constatons avec grand intérêt la manière avec laquelle les philanthropes, les fondations et les entreprises privées se précipitent pour aider les populations les plus pauvres de ce bas monde. Néanmoins, nous souhaiterions voir un engagement beaucoup plus marqué pour un appui supplémentaire aux pays sortant de conflits. Dans les douze mois à venir, j'exprime le vœu que la CCP bénéficie d'excellentes relations que l'ECOSOC entretient avec le monde de la philanthropie, afin d'établir des partenariats et des échanges avec des fondations, des philanthropes et des entreprises privées disposées à faire la différence dans les pays sortant de conflits.

Enfin, je tiens à affirmer que la CCP a de plus en plus été amenée à reconnaître que les causes profondes de conflits ne sont pas souvent abordées d'une manière propice, globale et durable. Les causes socio-économiques et les dividendes de la paix restent des défis largement insaisissables étant donné qu'ils demandent un engagement durable, une attention constante, des ressources suffisantes et un leadership national. Par conséquent, je pense que cette opportunité que vous offrez annuellement au Président de la CCP est un

rappel important de ce défi crucial auquel sont confrontés tous les pays sortant de conflits, en Afrique et au-delà.

Merci, Mr. President
