

GENERAL SEGMENT
African countries emerging from conflict (item 7 (f))

Background Note

**Lessons learned on integrated, coherent and coordinated support to countries
emerging from conflict**

Background

Africa's development prospects and challenges have been on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council for some time. Beginning in the early 1990s with the launch of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Council was tasked to review the region's progress at its high-level segment in 1995 and its Coordination Segment 1999. The Council again considered Africa at its high-level Segment in 2001 at which time the link between peace and development was highlighted as key to sustainable development. The 2001 Ministerial Declaration established the parameters for the establishment of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflict at the request of the General Assembly (A/RES/55/217). The request was in response to the recommendations made by the General Assembly Open Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the report of the Secretary General on Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (55/45).

The mandate of the two ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau (created in October 2002) and on Burundi (created in July 2003) was to assess humanitarian and economic needs, prepare long-term programmes of support that aim at the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development and provide advice on how to ensure that development assistance is timely, adequate and coordinated. These Groups played a pioneering role in advancing the concept of an integrated approach to peace and development and was a catalyst for addressing the gap in the UN's architecture for dealing with post-conflict countries. The mandates of the two advisory groups were terminated in 2008 and 2006 respectively to allow for their peacebuilding challenges to be addressed by the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). On terminating the mandate of Guinea Bissau in 2008, the Council expressed the desire to be informed about the economic and social aspects of peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau under the item "African countries emerging from conflict". In resolution 2009/32, the Council invited the PBC to strengthen its cooperation with ECOSOC and requesting the Chair of the PBC "to continue to inform it on best practices, particularly on lessons learned from its experiences that are relevant for addressing the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding in other African countries emerging from conflict

South Sudan has been on the agenda of ECOSOC since 2011. This engagement was sparked by a joint informal event of the ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission on "Promoting Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Sudan and South Sudan" held in June 2011. This joint meeting of ECOSOC and PBC was followed the holding of a joint informal transition event of the Operational and Humanitarian Segments on "the role of the United Nations and the international community in supporting the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to manage the transition" on 19 July 2011.

The second report of the Secretary General to the Council on South Sudan, which will be considered under item 7 (f) describes the progress and setbacks related to the implementation of development and peacebuilding frameworks by the United Nations system. In reviewing developments since the last report was discussed at ECOSOC, the report highlights national prioritization of peacebuilding through its participation as a pilot country for the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and membership of the G7+ Group of Fragile and Conflict-Affected States. National implementation of the “New Deal”, which began in August 2012, now forms the basis for the UN’s integrated support to the country as well as that of other international development partners. The peacebuilding and state-building goals identified as forming the pre-requisites for achieving the Millennium Development Goals include: (a) legitimate politics; (b) security; (c) justice; (d) economic foundations; and (e) revenues and services. In addition to South Sudan, it should be noted that Central African Republic and Sierra Leone are also pilot countries for the New Deal.

Given the fact that the UN’s work in the country is now within the peacebuilding framework, the Council’s discussion on “African countries emerging from conflict” during the General Segment provides an opportunity for a lessons learned exercise which could focus on a review of lessons learned in the areas of “economic foundations” and “revenues and services”. To focus the discussion, a panel will be constituted drawn representatives from Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, along with a representative of the OECD/DAC International Dialogue on Peace-building and State-building process. These lessons learned could help ECOSOC in crafting policy guidance that could be relevant for addressing the economic and social challenges of other African countries not on the agenda of either the PBC or beneficiaries of the New Deal.

Objectives

The panel discussion will:

- Identify critical success and failure factors in relaunching economic recovery in post-conflict countries?
- Examine how the UN system can strengthen its efforts to assist the Government’s of post-conflict countries to establish and strengthen its core governance functions at all levels.
- Suggest innovative ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance to these countries.

Format of the Dialogue

The panel will be a moderated dialogue after an initial opportunity for each panellist to make a 5-7 minute presentation of key messages derived from the key questions below in three rounds. The floor will then be opened for an interactive session with delegations.

Key questions:

- What are the key lessons learned from the efforts to relaunch economic recovery, in particular regarding employment generation and job creation schemes, particularly for young people? What has been the impact of regional integration in these countries (for example on infrastructure, employment and trade opportunities)?
- Is there a viable template for the effective management of natural resources for supporting economic recovery and sustainable livelihoods? Are successful benefit-sharing regimes possible in the current context of the countries concerned? How can these help in addressing inequality and environmental degradation?
- What has been the role for development assistance in the countries concerned? How can aid to these countries made more effective (adequate, targeted, predictable and transparent and accountable and linked to country systems and institutions) What are some of the challenges and obstacles?

Participants

Moderators: H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, Vice-President of ECOSOC

Speakers:

1. H.E. Ms. Yvette Stevens, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone (Geneva)
2. Ms. Kaarina Immonen, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Resident Coordinator, Central Africa Republic
3. Mr. Toby Lanzer, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) and Resident Coordinator, South Sudan
4. Ms. Donata Garrasi, Co-ordinator for the International Dialogue on Peace-building and State-building, OECD/DAC.