

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
2 November 2015

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 2 November 2015, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting at the Ambassadorial-level, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. The meeting, organized as a follow-up to the 2015 Annual Session of the PBC which focused on Predictable Funding for Peacebuilding, provided an opportunity to discuss a country-specific example of the challenges the donor community and its implementing partners face in the development of financing instruments that deliver efficiently in complex post-conflict settings.

Financing for Peacebuilding in Somalia

1. In his introductory remarks, the Chair welcomed the opportunity to utilize the PBC as a platform in a more flexible way. Following-up on the outcome of the PBC Annual Session, he highlighted the inherent danger and limitations that a fragmented funding system represents and the catastrophic impact it has on peacebuilding activities on the ground, such as duplication, unhealthy competition, chronic underfunding of crucial peacebuilding priorities, and an overburdening of the host governments. In this connection, he welcomed the recommendations contained in the Report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the peacebuilding architecture review which stress the need for more predictable financing. A linked-up and joint financing mechanism should thus include enlarged funding platforms between the UN and the World Bank Group, bilateral donors and regional actors to pool resources and mitigate risks, as well as aim at driving integration of UN programming around a central and politically informed strategy for sustaining peace.
2. H.E. Mr. Awale Ali Kullane, Deputy Permanent Representative of Somalia, welcomed the opportunity to discuss predictable financing for peacebuilding in Somalia. He noted the positive experiences the country has had with this unique model of funding and expressed appreciation for the added value of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in empowering local communities, as well as the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF), which ensured national ownership. He highlighted the importance of further focusing on coherence, sustaining institutions, and creating structures that enhance the economic exchange with international partners. Regarding possible lessons learned he suggested a structural breakdown of actions taken in order to identify workable approaches. He furthermore highlighted the Somali commitment to the peaceful transition of power in 2016 and expressed the wish for further engagement with the PBC within this light approach.
3. Mr. Peter de Clercq (DSRSG to Somalia) noted the role of the MPTF as a vehicle for greater UN coherence behind national priorities and ownership from the design phase to the

implementation and reporting through the SDRF structures. He stated the innovative character of the UN MPTF in Somalia as: 1) it shares the same governance structures as the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) funds under the leadership of the Somali Government; 2) it has a national window where funds go directly to the national entities with safeguards only if and when necessary; and 3) it is equipped with a comprehensive risk management strategy. He stressed the MPTF's function as a vehicle for state- and peacebuilding and noted that financing for peacebuilding was not only a technical process but also a political instrument, for which a risk management strategy was indispensable. The DSRS welcomed the constructive collaboration between the UN and the World Bank, as well as the Somali Government and highlighted the unique role of the PBF. He stressed the need for more predictable funding and encouraged investments for Youth related programs, livelihood, and IDP engagement. He mentioned the security, programmatic, reputational, and fiduciary risks of delivering in such a context, but welcomed the structured dialogue and the discussions on solutions.

4. Ms. Preeti Arora (World Bank Country Program Coordinator for Somalia) welcomed the establishment and the unique and flexible design drawn from lessons learned of the MPTF and the SDRF to overcome the fragmented delivery of aid and highlighted the importance of the SDRF Steering Committee in coordinating future steps. She noted that more needs to be done in the areas of national resource allocation, communication and outreach to the population of the activities, and constant improvement while moving forward.
5. Ms. Jennifer Topping (Executive Coordinator and Head of MPTF-O) stressed the role of the UN MPTF as a center of expertise for pooled funding with its comprehensive, coherent, and national-led approach of addressing peacebuilding challenges collectively. She highlighted the UN and World Bank partnership, which could be called a multilateral center of gravity to improve the impact through coherent and effective planning with a robust risk management strategy at its core. Drawing from the key findings of a recent study, she noted that large funds were expected to be more responsive to strategic funding.
6. Ms. Mari Yamashita (Director, PBSO) stated that the PBF's short- and medium term programmatic support for Somalia's Vision 2016 and the Somalia Compact had been initiated in consultation with authorities after the ASG for Peacebuilding Support-led mission to Somalia in 2014 and noted that cumulative PBF support to Somalia since the formation of the PBF amount to US\$14.1 million, of which US\$10.1 million was provided after the establishment of the Federal Government in 2012. She stressed the PBF's role in delivering fast, flexible, and smart risk tolerant financing and its aim to help sustain momentum through immediate and mid-term peacebuilding phases of the Compact, in particular in the 'newly recovered' areas of Somalia. Ms. Yamashita furthermore highlighted the importance of the coherent local governance structures for the successful implementation of peacebuilding initiatives.
7. Member States welcome the initiative to convene the meeting and the presentations made by the panelists. They congratulated the Somali Government for the progress made so far

and reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to support Somalia. Delegations focused their interventions on the following issues:

- Pooled funding through the UN MPTF in cooperation with the World Bank and the AfDB represents an important model to ensure coordination, reduce fragmentation and lead to sustainable peace.
 - National ownership and a coordinated engagement with the Somali Government are key.
 - For this kind of funding instruments to be effective, a more predictable source of financing is required.
 - A strong leadership on the ground is essential to ensure synergies between Missions and UNCTs.
 - Lessons learned from how donors and implementing partners work in Somalia should be applied to other situations, as appropriate.
 - Strengthening local capacities is fundamental to ensure a self-sufficient local economy drawing from local resources, as well as support for national development plans.
 - Some delegations highlighted the importance of a timely delivery of financial pledges, the need for stronger actions in the field of national reconciliation and the stabilization of areas clear of Al-Shabaab, and the preparation of the upcoming electoral process.
8. Responding to questions raised by delegations, the briefers highlighted the advantages of the SDRF structures, which ensured an inclusive dialogue with the Government, the importance of the committed and effective translation of financial instruments on the ground, and the unique catalytic role of the PBF in financial and progressive terms.
9. The Chair adjourned the meeting by highlighting the importance of taking advantage of the momentum in Somalia and learning from this successful example of how to overcome fragmentation.
