

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee**  
**27 October 2014**

**Chair's Summary of the Discussion**

**Background**

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On 27 October 2014, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting at the Ambassadorial-level. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Briefing by the Chair of the PBF Advisory Group (via VTC); (2) Advanced preparation for the 2015 Review of the peacebuilding architecture: a. Finalization of suggested Terms of Reference and modalities; b. Briefing by PBSO on the UN system collective contribution.

**Briefing by the Chair of the PBF Advisory Group (via VTC)**

1. Ambassador Jan Knutsson, the Chairperson of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of the PBF briefed the PBC on its meeting held on 7- 8 October 2014. In his welcome remarks the Chair of the PBC commended the Advisory Group chairperson for his able leadership and the Group's excellent work over the past three years.

2. Ambassador Knutsson noted that the Advisory Group had submitted its final Report to the Secretary-General (full report is available on <http://www.unpbf.org>). He further noted that the report highlighted: a) the catalytic potential of the PBF to make the UN work in a more integrated manner; b) the need for greater field collaboration with International Financial Institutions (IFIs); and c) the need for additional progress concerning women's participation in peacebuilding. He stressed the importance of solid conflict analysis as a basis for good programming. He also underscored that the Group reiterated the need for expanded donor support for the Fund to meet its target of USD 100 million in allocations per year.

3. The Chairperson of the Advisory Group noted the importance of taking into consideration the peacebuilding-related implications of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis. He warned that in the absence of conflict sensitive Ebola response, weak institutions in some of the affected countries had increased its vulnerability especially if the crisis is instrumentalized along political and/or social conflict lines. He further noted that the Advisory Group endorsed the Fund's position of not allocating fresh PBF funding for either the medical or the humanitarian response, but rather allowing for rapid re-programming of existing funds already in country, in special cases.

4. The Chairperson of the Advisory Group underscored the synergy between the work of the Commission and the Fund in Burundi. He acknowledged the critical political challenges that Burundi faces and stressed the need for urgent attention especially following the drawdown of BNUB (1 January 2015) which coincides with the sensitive period ahead of the elections in 2015.

He noted that the Advisory Group encourages the PBC to sustain its engagement during that period supported by ongoing PBF funding.

5. The Chairperson also presented an update on the implementation of the current PBF Business Plan for 2014-16. He highlighted in this context the expanded use of the IRF (in the Central African Republic and Somalia); the direct use of Government finance systems in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank; and the launching of the second Gender Promotion Initiative in September. He noted that the Fund was likely to meet its target of allocating \$100 million each year, while PBSO's income forecast for 2014 stood at just over \$75 million.

#### **Advanced preparation for the 2015 Review of the peacebuilding architecture**

6. The Chair noted that the purpose of the discussion under this item was to finalize an agreement on the outcome of the advance preparatory process which was stipulated in the 2014 PBC Forward Agenda. He recalled that the process was initiated on 22 May and consisted of six expert-level consultations to discuss a) the scope and ToRs of the 2015 review; and b) the principles and modalities for conducting the review. The Chair informed the meeting that an agreement was reached at the expert-level meeting on 23 October on an outcome document that reflected the shared understanding that emerged from the consultative process. He then invited the Committee to endorse the agreed outcome.

7. The majority of Member States praised the Chair's efforts to bring the advance preparation for the 2015 review to a successful conclusion and expressed readiness to endorse the suggested ToRs. One delegation, however, noted that it would be advisable to introduce some editorial amendments to improve the clarity of some elements of the ToRs. Another delegation reaffirmed the importance of further emphasizing the need for full transparency in the selection of the members of the group of experts who will conduct the case studies. With the agreement of all Member States, the Chair decided to call for one more, and final, round of consultations at the working-level to address the comments suggested by these two delegations and to place the outcome of the consultation under silence-procedure for its final endorsement by Friday, 31 October.

8. The Chair noted the constructive, candid and forward-looking discussions that took place at the retreat organized by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the PBSO on 17 and 18 October. He underscored that the views expressed at the retreat echoed and reaffirmed the general messages that emerged from the advance preparatory process of the PBC. In this regard he noted that the discussions on the upcoming review confirm the commitment by Member States to the original vision and motivation behind the decision to establish the PBC, PBSO and PBF in 2005. He noted that Member States place particular emphasis on the need to address the risks of relapse into conflict with greater resolve and determination. It was clear from the discussions at the retreat and throughout the process that the PBC and PBSO should to be further adapted to new realities and needs of the countries emerging from conflict and that the 2015 review represents an opportunity to ensure that those needs are at the center of the UN focus, the Chair stressed. He further underscored that by anchoring the analysis that will inform the recommendations emanating from the review in country studies; the outcome of the review will likely reflect those needs.

9. In this connection, the Chair emphasized that the review offered the top UN leadership the opportunity to place "peacebuilding" at the heart of the UN response in post-conflict situations. He recalled that the Secretary-General was in the process of submitting the collective

contribution of the UN system to the 2015 review. The Chair invited PBSO to brief the Committee on the outcome of this process. PBSO noted that in his formal communication of the UN system's collective contribution to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Secretary-General highlighted the continued validity of the original motivations for the creation of the PBC, PBF and the PBSO as crucial additions to the broader UN peacebuilding architecture. The Secretary-General also expressed his hopes that the 2015 Review will help introduce the changes which will enable the PBC to play a more effective role in support of countries emerging from conflict. PBSO further informed that the Secretary-General made four practical recommendations that the 2015 review should consider:

- i. Introducing lighter and more flexible working methods, including smaller country-specific meetings with members selected based on their relevance to a particular context;
- ii. Reinterpreting what it means to be "on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission";
- iii. Using the Secretary-General's Good Offices more actively to refer countries for advice from the Commission, either directly in case of non-mission countries or, where appropriate, through the Security Council. The Chair of the Commission and the Organizational Committee should be engaged in the referral process; and
- iv. Advising the PBC to refrain from using separate instruments of engagement.

10. The Chair thanked PBSO for the briefing and opened the floor to Member States. He invited delegations to reflect on PBSO's briefing but also on the countries to be selected for the case studies of the 2015 review. He noted that there was agreement among Member States that there should be 3 to 5 case studies that include situations that have been considered by the PBC and other which have not.

11. Member States noted that the selection of the situations to be studied by the review should include cases that represent situations of relapse as well as of countries that have made notable progress. The Chair concluded by noting his intention to suggest to the General Assembly and to the Security Council an indicative list of countries that may be the subject of the case studies, pending approval by these countries. These may include Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste of those countries which have made notable progress towards peace consolidation; and the Central African Republic and South Sudan as cases of recent relapse into conflict.

#### **Other matters**

12. The Chair informed that members of the Chairs' Group will visit the AU and ECA in Addis Ababa on 26 November. This visit will be combined with the participation in a workshop on "The regional aspects of peacebuilding", which is organized by the Government of Egypt on 24 and 25 November by way of contribution to the 2015 review. He added that the two main objectives of the visit to Addis Ababa are:

- i. Strengthening collaboration with the AU on broader policy issues as well as country-specific situations, as well as encouraging the AU's active contribution to the 2015 review;
- ii. Follow-up to the PBC annual session by consulting with the AU and ECA on efforts to curb illicit financial flows and to strengthen domestic revenue generation in Africa, including in countries emerging from conflict.

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