

Fourth informal interactive dialogue - 25 June 2015

Members of the Security Council, the PBC Chairs, and countries on the agenda

Joint summary of key outcomes by the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

The fourth annual informal interactive dialogue (IID) between the members of the Security Council and members of the PBC chairs' group and the countries on the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) agenda was held on 25 June 2015. In preparation for the IID, the Presidency circulated an invitation letter noting that the dialogue offered an opportunity to discuss practical ways to strengthen the future role of the PBC in support of the Security Council and the broader UN peacebuilding architecture efforts to build and sustain peace. The letter outlined three situations where the Council could possibly draw upon the advisory role of the PBC, namely: a) in support of a mandated mission; b) in the draw-down phase of a mission; and c) beyond the life-span of the mission. In this context, the Deputy Secretary-General was invited as the main briefer with a view to framing and stimulating the discussion. The following represents a summary of key outcomes from the dialogue:

1) The role and added value of the PBC vis-a-vis the Security Council:

- The PBC's **advisory role** to the Security is centred on enhancing efforts aimed at preventing lapse and relapse into violent conflict. To this end, the PBC can bring the various concerns of the countries in question and ensure that national priorities are factored in the Council's mandate design and implementation. It is imperative that the PBC's advice is context-specific and tailored to be relevant at different stages of the Council's consideration of/engagement with conflict or post-conflict situations.
- Through its **convening role** of a wide array of critical regional and international actors, the PBC can help bring a peacebuilding perspective to the Council's decision-making, with a view to ensuring early and sustained attention on/investment in: i) inclusive political dialogue; ii) national capacity and institution-building, and iii) the socio-economic dimension of peace. By bringing together security and development actors, the PBC can furthermore help bridge the divide and break the silos between UN principal organs and actors in order to address fragmentation and duplication of efforts.
- In **support of the draw-down phase of peace operations**, PBC's partnerships with regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions will help sustain attention and commitment from the international community to national peacebuilding priorities focusing on addressing drivers of conflict and building resilient institutions.

- The PBC can also **support ongoing operations** tasked with specific peacebuilding-related mandates by performing time-limited tasks in support of specific milestones, e.g. elections, donor roundtables...etc.
- **Efforts aimed at building peace do not have to follow armed conflict.** The PBC can and should become engaged wherever national actors believe they could benefit from international accompaniment during difficult periods of political transitions.

2) **Outstanding challenges ahead of the PBC:**

- a) Proactive engagement from and with UN operational actors at Headquarters and in the field to ensure more efficient information flow and shared analysis;
- b) Insufficient and fragmented funding for critical and long-term peacebuilding priorities;
- c) Greater synergy between its political role and the programmatic support by the PBF;
- d) Flexible and context-specific working methods that help respond to specific needs of the countries and/or regions concerned.

3) **Modalities for leveraging the advisory role of the PBC:**

- a) Regular engagement with the Council's "penholder";
- b) Forward planning with the Council's Presidency;
- c) Timing of field visits ahead of the Council's consideration; and
- d) Informal interaction and consultation at the political coordinators/experts level ahead of the Council's consideration;