

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
8 September 2014

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 8 September 2014, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict; (2) Update on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict

1. Mr. Kenneth Gluck, Officer-in-Charge of PBSO, informed that the 2014 Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict is currently being finalized by PBSO after extensive consultations with the UN system and Member States, including the countries on the PBC's agenda. He noted that the report, which will be issued in December 2014, is expected to be taken up by the Security Council in January 2015.
2. He noted that the report is structured around the 3 priority directions laid out by the Secretary-General in his 2012 Report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict, namely:
 1. **The promotion of inclusive politics:** the report highlights some of the work which was done to help develop effective mechanisms of representation and dialogue with examples from Guinea, Burundi and elsewhere. The role of the PBC in ensuring diplomatic and political support and the role of women in peacebuilding are also highlighted.
 2. **Institution-building:** the report highlights the difficulty ensuring the rapid deployment of funding and expertise for the extension of state authority. The report also reviews some of the UN's experience helping states better manage natural resources, which are a key source of domestic revenue but also a recurring source of tension.
 3. **Sustained international attention:** the report highlights examples such as the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region which brings together thirteen African states, international organizations, as well as civil society organizations in support of political stability, improved security and development.

The report is also looking at lessons learned from cases of relapse into conflict, such as the Central African Republic and South Sudan, as well as the progress made by Sierra Leone.

3. PBSO also shared a few additional elements that the report will be exploring, such as the ongoing challenge to ensure that national peacebuilding plans are rooted in inclusive societal consultations; the need for enhanced UN strategic integration, including through improved planning processes. He concluded by highlighting that the report is also looking at the forthcoming 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture which provides an opportunity to examine how the Peacebuilding Commission and the broader international community can better assist states and societies to recover from conflict and avoid the calamitous return to violence.
4. Member States welcomed the briefing by the Officer-in-Charge of PBSO and the issues paper distributed prior to the meeting and focused their interventions around the following aspects:
 1. The report should further elaborate on the role of the PBC and of the SRSGs.
 2. Inclusive national ownership in peacebuilding processes should be highlighted as a central element of all peacebuilding-related engagements.
 3. Peacekeeping operations should only support the early steps of peacebuilding while the PBC and development partners would adopt long term strategies.
 4. The report should highlight the socio-economic dimension of peacebuilding engagements.
 5. The importance of the regional dimension of peacebuilding needed to feature prominently in the analysis of the factors underpinning progress in or setbacks of peacebuilding processes.

Update on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa

5. Dr. David Nabarro, Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Ebola virus disease (EVD), updated the Commission on the status of the outbreak and on the current response of the United Nations System. Dr. Nabarro opened his presentation noting that the current is the most intense Ebola outbreak since the disease first emerged 40 years ago. He welcomed the decision of the Commission to convene today's meeting in view of the fact that the Ebola crisis can lead to instability in the countries on the agenda of the Commission. He informed that the response of the Secretary-General seeks to draw upon the wider UN system. He also highlighted the risk that a suspension of transportation might lead to country isolation, which will have a negative impact on recovery and the general welfare of the affected countries.
6. Member States welcomed the briefing and focused their interventions on the importance for the PBC to remain involved in addressing the impact of the crisis in the countries on its agenda and its possible consequences on the respective peacebuilding processes. Representatives of the countries on the agenda noted with deep concern the potential for the EVD crisis to reverse the peacebuilding gains achieved in their countries. Delegations appealed to the international community not to isolate the countries affected by Ebola, including through the maintenance of transportation connections, with the adequate prevention measures. Continued engagement and transportation links are essential to allow adequate humanitarian

response and to avoid further deterioration to the economies and food security of the affected countries.

7. Delegations welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to scale up the UN system response to the crisis and reiterated that the PBC should continue to serve as a common platform for discussion, information-sharing and awareness-raising in New York, engaging a wider audience of actors from Member States, International Financial Institutions and UN agencies.
8. It was decided that the PBC would issue a statement reflecting the main elements and messages of the briefing by Dr. Nabarro and the subsequent interventions by Member States.
