

Chairman's Summary
Informal Meeting on Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism
of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi
New York, 18 October 2007

1. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of the progress made both in Bujumbura and in New York on the development of a Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism for the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. The expected outcome of the meeting was an agreement on a calendar of work towards the adoption on 14 November 2007 of the note on the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism.
2. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Johan L. Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations. In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Løvald recalled that the Burundi CSM agreed at its formal meeting of 20 June 2007 to develop a Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism to complement the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. He recognized the quality of the preparatory work undertaken in Bujumbura by a task force composed of the Government and international partners, and in New York through informal/informals and consultations at expert level. Ambassador Løvald noted that it was important to proceed, in close consultation with Bujumbura, with the work on benchmark and indicators, so as to allow all stakeholders to fully focus on the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

Terms of reference of the Partners' Coordination Group (GCP¹)

3. Mr. Pamphile Muderega, Executive Secretary of the Comité National de Coordination des Aides (CNCA) introduced this agenda item by giving a brief presentation of the terms of reference of the Partners' Coordination Group, including the context in which the Group was developed and its key elements (three levels, two monitoring and evaluation groups, role of the CNCA and of the peacebuilding inter-ministerial steering committee).
4. Mr. Muderega noted that a key feature that was not reflected in the organigramme of the GCP was the "variable geometry" of the chairmanship of the Political Forum (highest level of the GCP), whereby the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents of the Republic would alternate in chairing the Forum, depending on whether items on its agenda are related to the consolidation of peace or the PRSP. He underlined that flexibility and pragmatism would guide the implementation of the mechanisms of the GCP.
5. He concluded by indicating that the terms of reference would be finalised based on comments from PBC members. The Bujumbura-based task force will then concentrate its work on the definition of benchmarks and indicators with the technical support of PBSO. The mechanisms of the GCP will be tested in view of their full implementation in 2008.
6. Members of the CSM who took the floor (France, El Salvador, Brazil, Canada, USA and EC) congratulated the task force on the work accomplished since June 2007. They also raised the following questions: what is the added value of the proposed mechanism? Is participation of members of the PBC envisaged in the Monitoring and Evaluation Group of the Strategic Framework (1st level of the structure)? How will the gender and regional

¹ Groupe de Coordination des Partenaires (GCP)

dimensions be considered in the proposed structure? What will be the involvement of civil society organizations and NGOs in the Monitoring and Evaluation Group of the Strategic Framework? What mechanism is envisaged in order to communicate expeditiously with the PBC in case of an emergency?

7. The representative of Canada underlined that it was important to move quickly on the development of benchmarks and indicators, recognizing that benchmarks needed to be based on observable needs on the ground. Although the work needs to be led by the country-level, PBC members look forward to the opportunity to comment on proposed benchmarks and indicators. In addition to the technical support from PBSO, it was suggested that resources be allocated at country-level for further development of indicators and possible recourse to independent entities for monitoring and evaluation.
8. Mr. Pamphile Muderega noted that in view of the advancement of the work in Bujumbura, it was reasonable to envisage the adoption of the Monitoring and Mechanism on 14 November. He noted that the added value of the mechanism would be that the issues raised by the Monitoring and Evaluation Groups for the PRSP and for the Strategic Framework would be resolved together in the Strategic Forum (second level of the GCP) and referred to the Political Forum for further orientation, if needed. He confirmed that civil society organizations and NGOs, along with other actors who participated in the development of the Strategic Framework, would participate in its Monitoring and Evaluation Group. Communications between the GCP and the PBC will be at the political level, using established political and diplomatic channels.
9. Ambassador Antoine Baza noted that the added value of the GCP resided in the fact that participation of the Government, international partners and civil society would ensure true coordination as well as genuine, non complacent monitoring and evaluation. The fact that it covers both the PRSP and the Strategic Framework will also facilitate the work of the Government, since the partners for both frameworks are the same. He concluded by saying that Burundi looks forward to benefiting from the international community's support in this endeavour as well as to share its pioneering experience with other countries in similar situations. Ambassador Nahayo supplemented that another added value of the single monitoring mechanism for the PRSP and the Strategic Framework would be to avoid duplication both in the allocation and mobilisation of human and financial resources and in the establishment of institutional structures for the two processes.
10. The Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations confirmed that civil society organization would continue to be involved in the process. He noted that his Government is committed to pursue the integration of the gender dimension in its work. Regarding the sub-regional dimension, he made reference to the positive response to the recent request from the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region to participate in the work of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Note on the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism of the Strategic Framework

11. Members of the CSM who took the floor on this agenda item (Pakistan, USA, Uganda, Canada, Netherlands, Italy and France) welcomed the note prepared through expert-level consultations in New York. The following observations were made to guide the improvement of the note:

- In addition to providing technical assistance for the definition of benchmarks and indicators for the Strategic Framework, PBSO should play a significant supportive role in building the necessary capacity at the country level.
 - The objective of the semi-annual meetings should also be to draw lessons from the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism.
 - The need to better articulate what would be the follow-up to the PBC's periodic reviews.
 - The need to develop specific benchmarks and indicators for the engagements of the PBC.
 - The proposal that individual PBC members report to the Commission on how they live up to their commitments.
 - The need to also reflect how the contribution of other stakeholders, particularly international partners, would be monitored.
 - The proposal that the calendar of PBC reviews be aligned to that of meetings of UN governing bodies.
 - The link between in-country reviews and PBC field visits.
 - The need to consider the preparatory work required for formal CSMs and the desired level of members' representation at formal meetings.
 - The proposal to amend a sentence in the description of the "Partners Coordination Group" in the MTM note to make it consistent with the text of the TOR developed in Bujumbura.
12. The delegate from Uganda recalled that his country is chairing the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi and is engaged in bringing the Government of Burundi and the FNL together. He underlined that the kind of monitoring to be undertaken by the PBC should be clarified and that the PBC's proposals needed to be harmonized with existing mechanisms such as the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.
13. In his closing remarks, the Chair reiterated his gratitude to the colleagues in Bujumbura for the work accomplished on the development of an integrated mechanism for the PRSP and the Strategic Framework. He thanked all participants for their comments on the documents considered at the meeting. He recommended that informal/informal meetings be held at expert level over the coming weeks in order to allow for a review of the benchmarks and indicators being developed in Bujumbura, and to further develop the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism.

PBSO, New York
19 October 2007