

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
17 December 2010

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 17 December 2010, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an [informal] meeting. The PBC Chairperson presided over the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included the following items: (1) Informal adoption of the Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Fourth Session; (2) Chairperson's proposal for taking forward the recommendations of the report of the Co-Facilitators on the "*Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*": Roadmap for actions in 2011; and (3) Other matters.

Informal adoption of the Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its Fourth Session;

The Chairperson referred to a draft of the Commission's report on its fourth session which is placed before the Committee for consideration. He referred to the working-level consultative process within the Committee and expressed appreciation for the constructive engagement of all participating delegations throughout the consultations. The Chairperson also underscored the following points with respect to the content of the draft annual report:

1. The consultations demonstrated awareness by members of the need for the annual report to demonstrate the actual results of the Commission's work in its various configurations. The reports could become a vehicle through which the PBC would document its achievements and challenges, as well as to reflect on how all actors (UN and non-UN) could work together to improve the collective response in the countries on the Commission's agenda.
2. The Chapter on taking forward the recommendations of the 2010 review responds to the mandate emanating from the recently adopted GA and SC resolutions which request the PBC to reflect in its annual reports the progress in taking forward relevant recommendations. For the purpose of this year's reporting period, however, the content of this chapter focuses on the improvements which were underway and recommendations which were being already addressed by the Commission, building on the Committee's discussion of 23 November.
3. The Concluding chapter spells out key objectives and tasks for the Commission which members have underlined during the consultations.

The Committee informally adopted the report with a view to a formal adoption on 26 January 2011.

Chairperson's proposal for taking forward the recommendations of the report of the Co-Facilitators on the "*Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture*": Roadmap for actions in 2011;

The Chairperson referred to the draft proposal (Roadmap for actions in 2011) which he circulated ahead of the meeting. The draft builds on the Committee's discussion of 23 November. The Chairperson underlined that the roadmap focuses on recommendations of immediate priorities to improve the impact of the PBC in the field as well as at the Headquarters. He noted that against the suggested actions, the PBC could report to the GA and SC at the end of 2011 on progress in taking forward relevant recommendations of the 2010 review during the upcoming year. The Chairperson also invited the ASG PBSO to inform of recent steps taken to initiate a discussion within the UN system, which should help the Commission establish more dynamic linkages with the operational entities. He then invited members to reflect on the content of the suggested roadmap. The following points summarize the discussion:

1. ASG PBSO noted that the GA and SC resolutions invited all relevant UN actors to take forward relevant recommendations. To this end, PBSO initiated an internal UN discussion of the Peacebuilding Contact Group (PCG) (a broad-based consultative group of UN actors at the working-level convened by PBSO) to reflect on the recommendations which would be of greater relevance to improving the overall UN peacebuilding response in the field, as well as the UN system's support to the PBC. The ASG noted that the initial outcome of these discussions will also be supported by inputs from the field and that the UN Senior Peacebuilding Group (SPG at the ASG-level) will take it up at its first meeting of 2011 (6 January). She noted that the draft roadmap suggests: (a) greater interaction with senior leaders of relevant UN entities; and (b) drawing on inputs from the UN system as the various configurations of PBC further carry out their work around the identified priority areas. The internal UN exercise should hopefully substantiate the interaction between the PBC and the UN system.

2. Members generally welcomed the suggested roadmap and its focus on national capacity development and on strengthening linkages with actors in the field. At the same time, some members referred to the need of keeping the broader set of recommendations emanating from the 2010 review in mind while focusing on a limited set of priorities for action in 2011. In particular, members referred to the importance of focusing PBC's engagement on areas which would reinforce the peace and development nexus and the contribution of women to and predictable funding for peacebuilding. They also emphasized the role of the PBC in offering an accountability framework between the countries on its agenda and its international partners, as well as the PBC's crucial role as a platform for following-up on the anticipated review of civilian capacities for peacebuilding. One member called for the roadmap to facilitate PBC's "self assessment" of the impact of its engagement on the work of operational actors in the field.

3. Members also welcomed the initial steps taken to engage the UN system in taking forward relevant recommendations. Members expressed interest of being closely informed of the discussions in the PCG and SPG and inquired whether the PBC could contribute to these discussions at some point, including the possibility of inviting PBC Chairs to select SPG meetings. While welcoming greater interaction with senior UN officials, other members stressed, however, the need for all such interaction to be focused and targeted and field-based assessments and analysis of potentials for and challenges facing peacebuilding. One member cautioned against excessive focus on headquarters' views and dynamics and emphasized the need to ensure that the UN system inputs are drawn from "field realities". Members also explored whether the Chairs could be invited to meetings of UN Integrated Mission task

Force/Integrated Task Force meetings for countries on the agenda. ASG PBSO promised to explore various possibilities for dynamic interactions and revert.

4. One member noted the need for advance planning for all WGLL activities and for early contribution by the PBC Chairs to the Working Group's work plan. Other members, however, called for the Organizational Committee to draw lessons from country configurations' engagement which could be applicable to other countries requesting advice from the PBC. It was also suggested that the Committee produces policy advice to operational actors.

5. Members also suggested that meetings to track progress in the implementation of the roadmap should take place as needed but no less than twice a year.

The Chairperson concluded by noting that he intends to draw further on the discussion and on initial inputs emanating from the UN system's exercise, to further refine the draft proposal (roadmap) and to present a revised draft with a view to adoption ahead of the next formal meeting of the Committee, scheduled for 26 January. He emphasized, however, that the roadmap should be a living document which could be updated as needed.
