

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
17 may 2010

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 17 May 2010, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The PBC Chairperson (later deputized by the Vice-Chairperson) presided over the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included the following items: (1) Annual report of the PBC to the GA and SC: adjustment of the reporting cycle; (2) Report of the Secretary-General on "Women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding and planning in the aftermath of conflict": Briefing by PBSO on the progress, Background Paper, Questions/Answers, Discussion; and (3) Other matters.

1. Annual report of the PBC to the GA and SC: adjustment of the reporting cycle

The Chair circulated an information note prior to the meeting in which he presented a proposal by which the PBC's reporting cycle will be aligned with the membership Organizational Committee and the chairmanship terms, i.e. aligned to the calendar year.

On behalf of the NAM, the delegation of Egypt expressed support to the idea of aligning the reporting cycle with the calendar year and underlined the need for the annual report to cover the activities of the PBC in an entire year. Therefore, it was suggested that the consideration of a draft and the provisional adoption of the annual report be scheduled as far as possible towards the end of the year.

The Chairperson noted the suggestion made on behalf of NAM and promised to revert back with a proposal which would take on board to the views expressed by the movement.

2. Report of the Secretary-General on "Women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding and planning in the aftermath of conflict": Briefing by PBSO on the progress, Background Paper, Questions/Answers, Discussion

Members received a briefing from Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, on the process of preparing the Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding. The Report was requested in Security Council Resolution 1889 (OP 19), and will be submitted to the Council in October of this year. The mandate for the Report calls on the Secretary-General to take into consideration the views of the PBC. Members had before them a background note which underlined the key objectives and emerging issues in the report. The following points emerged from the discussions:

- There was general agreement that the Report was timely, coming on the tenth anniversary of the passage of Security Council resolution 1325. Particularly welcome was the focus on concrete steps to fulfill the promise of this resolution on women's meaningful and sustained participation in all aspects of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.
- Members remarked positively on the Report's general approach, which sought to build on the foundation supplied by 2009's Report of the Secretary-General on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*. It was considered appropriate for the Report to identify ways in which gender issues can be addressed in each of the five 'recurring peacebuilding areas' identified in last year's SG's Report. Ensuring that recommendations from this year's Report are subsumed within existing follow-up and implementation mechanism was also considered crucial.
- Members emphasized the need for coherence between the present Report and a number of other ongoing processes, including: (1) the identification of indicators for tracking implementation of Resolution 1325 (called for in OP 17 of SCR 1889); (2) the PBSO-led review of international civilian capacity; and (3) the 2010 Review of the PBC itself. The ASG for Peacebuilding Support reiterated that the Report-preparation team was in close communication with all three processes, and that the findings and recommendations of all three would be mutually supportive.
- Addressing specific elements of the Report's outline, members highlighted in particular the role that women could play in economic revitalization, a key pillar of sustainable peace. Strengthening the ability of women to contribute to the economic, social, and political dimensions of peacebuilding was considered an innovative means of building national capacity.
- There was also general agreement regarding the need for mediation teams to include gender experts (on issues of constitutional design, transitional justice, and security issues); for robust measures to ensure that women are fully represented not only in post-conflict planning bodies but also in national governance institutions; and for sufficient funding to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The PBC's mandate on gender issues was emphasized in the Assistant Secretary-General's presentation. Three concrete suggestions to deepen this role were also voiced by members: (1) that the PBC support countries formulating National Action Plans on the implementation of SCR 1325 with strategic advice and resource mobilization; (2) that the PBC convene the Working Group on Lessons Learned to identify best practice in addressing sector-specific constraints on women's participation in peacebuilding and (3) that gender issues be systematically addressed in the Strategic Frameworks through which the PBC engages with countries on its agenda.

4. Other matters

No other matters were raised.
