

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
22 June 2011

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 22 June 2011, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The PBC Chairperson presided over the meeting which addressed the following agenda items: (1) Strengthening the UN system-wide approach to capacity development for peacebuilding (*Briefing by Mr. Jordan Ryan, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP*); (2) Mid-year briefing on progress in the implementation of the Chairs' Roadmap for Actions in 2011; and (3) Other matters.

Strengthening the UN system-wide approach to capacity development for peacebuilding:

1. The Chairperson noted that the PBC has identified national capacity development for peacebuilding as a key priority in the "Roadmap for actions in 2011". To this end, the Chair invited Mr. Jordan Ryan, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP to shed light on the scope and objective of the ongoing work lead by UNDP in this area.
2. Mr. Ryan noted that the following streams of work in which UNDP and other UN entities are engaged are underway:
 - a) Drawing upon the experiences of field-based practitioners from different UN-system entities to develop specific guidance and tools for capacity development for peacebuilding.
 - b) Ongoing discussions in the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding which aims at aligning international support to the priorities of post-conflict and conflict-affected countries.
 - c) The follow-up to the 2011 World Development Report through close collaboration with the World Bank.
3. The Assistant UNDP Administrator also pointed to a number of elements that are forming an emerging and broad understanding around capacity development for peacebuilding as follows:
 - a) Inclusive country ownership of peacebuilding processes, including by women and youth, is essential for societal transformation and sustainable results.
 - b) Capacity development must be rooted in a long-term national vision.
 - c) Capacity development should be based on key priorities and realistic sequencing.
 - d) Innovation and flexibility are essential to effectively approach capacity development objectives.
 - e) Capacity development processes take place within political contexts; hence there is

a need to ground approaches in country realities.

- f) The diaspora constitute a crucial source of capacity transfer to their country of origin..

4. Going forward, Mr. Ryan affirmed UNDP's commitment to strengthening partnerships across the UN system, member states and with other key agencies including the World Bank, through:

- a) Building on the existing UNDG policy framework for capacity development.
- b) Tapping into fresh and quality analytical work of a wide range of partners drawing from expertise across organizations.
- c) Linking with the implementation process of the Review of Civilian Capacities with a view to improving capacity to deploy expertise without undermining local capacities and distort incentives.
- d) Engaging further with member states and the PBC to ensure broad support and to support the work of the PBC.

5. In the follow-up interaction, Member States raised the following issues:

- a) The suitability of the "sector-leads" approach (e.g. in post-independence South Sudan) for ensuring effective and coherent capacity development programmes.
- b) The dilemma which governments of countries emerging from conflict have often faced to deliver quick dividends (e.g. job creation) whereas capacity development is usually a long-term objective.
- c) Security aspects tend to attract more attention for capacity-building at the expense of economic revitalization.
- d) The capacity challenge facing the UN in non-mission settings in the area of planning for, coordination of and implementing capacity development programmes.

6. Commenting on a question regarding the future of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, Mr. Ryan affirmed that the international community is currently experiencing an important moment where there is emerging convergence of views around what matters most for "peacebuilding". He noted the need for Member States to seize this moment by discouraging competition within and among UN system and bilateral actors and by providing coherent guidance to the various actors. The PBC, he stressed, could play a crucial role in this regard.

Mid-year briefing on progress in the implementation of the Chairs' Roadmap for Actions in 2011;

7. The Chairperson noted that the discussion under this item refers to the action stipulated in the "Roadmap" that members of the Organizational Committee would review overall progress in the implementation no less than twice a year. He referred to his written report which placed activities of cross-cutting nature or undertaken at the policy-level. He affirmed, however, that the actions stipulated in the "Roadmap" are being primarily undertaken through the country configurations, and through a combination of activities undertaken through and contributions made by the PBC, UN and non-UN partners. He also

emphasized the need for Member States to demonstrate broader ownership of the PBC's efforts and strengthen the linkage with other UN principal organs.

9. The Assistant-Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support referred to the contribution made by PBSO in support of the implementation of the Roadmap through its:

a) Role as the Secretariat to the PBC by supporting the Commission to explore practical approaches to resource mobilization (e.g. exploring possible entry points and options for the PBC's partnership with the African Development Bank; improving synergy between the PBC and PBF; introducing new capacity on aid coordination and mapping of resource flows). She also referred to initiatives undertaken to energize cross-learning between the PBC, UN and civil society actors in specific priority areas of the "Roadmap" (e.g. IPI/PBSO event on instruments of engagement for peacebuilding).

b) Convening role in the UN system through the work of the Senior Peacebuilding Group (e.g. forward agenda for the implementation of the 2011 World Development Report with focus on linking-up the World Bank's development work to security and justice initiatives); the implementation of the Review of Civilian Capacity as related to strengthening the approach to capacity development for peacebuilding.

10. The Chairs of the Burundi, CAR, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone Configurations briefed on ongoing activities within the respective configurations in support of the implementation of the actions in the "Roadmap". The representatives of CAR, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone further highlighted areas of particular importance in the current phase of the respective peacebuilding processes, as follows:

Burundi: There is increasing focus on resource mobilization for socio-economic reintegration of former combatants and returnees, with catalytic support from the PBF. Moreover, the country is in the process of developing its second Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) where the Government of Switzerland identified an expert to help ensure that the peacebuilding dimension is reflected in the Strategy. The PBC is in contact with BNUB in order to explore the most appropriate means to support the country in the preparation for a donor conference and in the mobilization of resources for key priorities identified in the PRS.

CAR: The most recently held donor conference in Brussels demonstrated a high degree of interest in the new PRS for the country which pays particular attention to national capacity development and to ongoing peacebuilding efforts. The PBC also underscores the need to enhance the capacity of national civil society organizations as part of overall national capacity development. The representative of CAR emphasized the problem of insurgency by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), which he described as a sub-regional problem demanding more focused attention of the PBC and the international community.

Guinea: The ongoing development of the PBC instrument of engagement builds on the interim PRS and will ensure coherence between the two documents. In this regard, national capacity development will be a central component of the Commission's evolving instrument of engagement. The representative of Guinea underscored the centrality of

capacity development to enable Guinea to take full ownership of the process of institution-building.

Guinea-Bissau: The PBC is engaging with key donors to enhance financial support to crucial peacebuilding priorities, notably SSR; the combat against drug trafficking and organized crime; and youth employment. The Configuration is exploring with the Government the possibility of organizing a donor roundtable in support of reforming the security sector, strengthening the justice sector, and combating drug trafficking. The representative of Guinea-Bissau reaffirmed his Government's commitment to work with key regional partners in support of collective effort to combat drug-trafficking.

Sierra Leone: The PBC is assisting the Government of Sierra Leone in addressing critical gaps in the capacity of the national police, especially in connection with ensuring successful conduct of the upcoming elections. The PBC is also exploring how it would assist in identifying capacity needs in the context of the envisaged draw down of UNIPSIL and the imperative of strengthening the capacity of the UN Country team. The representative of Sierra Leone highlighted the need for PBC's support to building the national capacity for the effective management of natural resources. He also emphasized the need for the transfer of technical expertise from the South.

11. The representative of the Chair of the WGLL noted that the Working Group has structured its workplan for 2011 with a view to generating knowledge around the key priority areas of resource mobilization and capacity development.

12. During the subsequent interaction, Member States highlighted the following issues related to suggested areas of emphasis during the second half of 2011:

- a) The need to enhance coordination of peacebuilding-related initiatives at the Headquarters. One Member State requested that the PBC should proactively engage in the process of the development of the "strategy for early peacebuilding tasks for peacekeepers" and with the Steering Committee overseeing the implementation of the Review of Civilian Capacity.
- b) The WGLL should explore the efficacy of micro-credits for job-creation and community development in the countries on the agenda.
- c) The promotion of private investment in the countries on the agenda should form an important dimension of the PBC's support for resource mobilization and capacity transfer.
- d) The PBC could consider bi-annual statements on the status of its engagement with the countries on its agenda with a view to disseminating knowledge and generate public interest in its work and to draw attention to needs of these countries.
- e) There is a need to develop indicators of progress for the PBC's engagement which would facilitate the recognition and assessment of its contributions to the peacebuilding process.
- f) The Country Configurations should continue to encourage the participation of and contribution by relevant UN operational actors (e.g. UNDP, UNODC, UN Women...etc).

13. Members of the PBC who are members of the Security Council were invited to make brief interventions to describe the progress made in strengthening the linkage between the two bodies and highlight areas requiring additional effort as follows:

Ongoing progress

- a) In cases where briefings by the Chairs of Country Configurations were not foreseen whenever, members of the PBC who are members of the Security Council advocated for extending invitation to the Chairs.
- b) Informal interaction with the Chairs of Country Configurations and the representatives of the countries on the agenda were introduced when the mandate of the corresponding mission is being re-formulated (e.g. most recently in the case of Burundi).
- c) Under the Presidency of members of the PBC, peacebuilding-related thematic discussions were organized in the Council (e.g. Brazil's Presidency in February 2011 and the organization of a high-level thematic debate on the linkages between security and development).

Areas requiring additional effort

The PBC should:

- d) Strive to address the fragmented response by security and development actors in the field and advise the Council accordingly.
- e) Consider indicators which could help the Council's consideration for change in mandate of or draw down and/or withdrawal of missions, as well as facilitating the phasing out of countries from the PBC agenda and/or towards a lighter form of engagement.
- f) The PBC should increasingly focus on providing high quality analysis of specific problems and on suggesting options to address them;
