

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
23 June 2010

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 23 June 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) The Secretary-General's progress report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*: Briefing by PBSO on the draft report, Questions/Answers, Discussion; (2) Partnership with the World Bank (follow-up and progress); and (4) other matters.

1. The Secretary-General's progress report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*

The Chairperson recalled that the Security Council had asked the Secretary-General for a progress report on implementation of the agenda for action in his 2009 report *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*. He noted the PBC's role in implementing the agenda for action, including through its work to strengthen partnerships with the IFIs and regional organizations and its recent discussion of the review of civilian capacities. Subsequently, the ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, briefed on key areas of the progress report (as set out in the background paper circulated in advance by PBSO).

Member states appreciated the briefing. They hoped the report would contain a frank assessment of progress. Improvements at Headquarters were welcome, but what mattered was their impact on the ground. Better monitoring and evaluation were important. In subsequent discussion, the following priorities were noted:

- National capacity and national ownership: these were the foundation of sustainable peacebuilding and should be recognized as such in the review of international civilian capacities. Ms Cheng-Hopkins agreed; training for civilian personnel deployed to post-conflict situations should underline the importance of building national capacity from day one.
- Review of international civilian capacities: The review should take into account the extensive experience and capacities of many member states and international organizations in this area, and should address interoperability between them. Ms. Cheng-Hopkins confirmed that the Senior Advisory Group would brief the OC in due course. The importance of south-south cooperation was particularly stressed; Ms. Cheng-Hopkins noted that that regional meetings would help the review to develop

personnel.

- Roles and responsibilities: clarity was needed in order to hold entities accountable for delivery and to determine what funding they needed. Several of the six key areas where arrangements were under internal review overlapped; they must be properly coordinated. Ms Cheng-Hopkins agreed that there were considerable linkages; nevertheless, overall clarity of roles was crucial. The importance of public administration and economic revitalization was noted. Ms. Cheng-Hopkins underlined that the initial reviews were focusing on areas where the UN played a leading role; public administration and economic revitalization were areas of particular focus by the World Bank.
- UN/World Bank relationship: It was important to improve the relationship at country level as well as at Headquarters. One member state emphasized that it was also important to know which parts of the systems needed to be strengthened and asked when real progress would be seen with respect to predictable international support in rule of law and public administration assistance. In response, the World Bank representative noted that the Bank was ready to work toward predictability of process, including for example, how joint assessments could be conducted. Other member states recommended that progress report makes specific reference to coordination mechanisms between the two institutions. One member state emphasized a desire for more in-country collaboration between the UN and the Bank, while another noted that in the CAR, the coordination efforts of the Chair of the Country Specific Configuration had been well supported by the Bank.
- Financing: it was noted that, given the multiplicity of actors involved in financing for peacebuilding, coordination among them was essential. The continuing difficulty of raising financing for “aid orphan” states like CAR, even given the catalytic role of PBF funding, was noted.

Members stressed that the PBC would continue to support the implementation of the agenda for action.

2. Partnership with the World Bank (Progress and follow-up)

Mr. Faris Hadad-Zervose, Advisor to the Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries Group (OPCFC) of the World Bank, identified a number of steps that the Bank has taken to enhance its capacity and flexibility to assist countries emerging from conflict. These included:

- Doubling the number of senior international staff in conflict-affected countries.
- Commencing the drafting of a new operational protocol on how the Bank operates in fragile and conflict-affected states.

- Committing to its shareholders, in IDA 16, to produce a mid-term report on concrete outcomes.
- Reconfiguring the Bank's Africa Region to have a post-conflict hub, headed by a Director.

With respect to the partnership between the PBC and the World Bank, he observed that its fulcrum should be the national government. In this regard, he noted that it was important to consider how collaboration between the PBC and the Bank could benefit the situation on the ground, and how effects could be measured. He welcomed reviews that would identify what needed to be done to achieve results, based on government-owned frameworks.

Following the presentation by Mr. Hadad-Zervose, member states asked what role the PBC could play in ensuring that Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) were conflict sensitive. Recalling the discussion paper circulated in advance of the meeting, member states also asked how the biannual reviews of the Strategic Frameworks for Peacebuilding could be harmonized with the reviews of the PRSP.

The representative of the Bank responded by pointing to Sierra Leone, where the PBC had adopted a conflict-sensitive PRSP as its instrument of engagement and the Bank had endorsed sections of the UN Joint Vision for Sierra Leone, as an example of successful collaboration between the two entities. He also noted that progress was underway in the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.
