

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal Meeting of the Organizational Committee
14 December 2016

Chair's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 14 December, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Chair of the PBC, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Briefing by the Chair of the PBF Advisory Group; (2) Outcome of the work of the PBC on Good Practices in Peacebuilding: briefing by the Vice-Chair; (3) Informal adoption of the PBC reports on its tenth session.

Briefing by the Chair of the PBF Advisory Group

1. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Nigel Roberts, Chairperson of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of the PBF. He noted that this discussion was a timely opportunity to implement the resolutions on sustaining peace, which called for stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund. He also recalled that the need for these synergies also emerged during the discussions on the working methods of the PBC. Member States in fact, while recognizing the independence of the Fund, were increasingly expressing their interest to be more and better informed about the work of the PBF. The Chair underscored that the PBF represented an excellent instrument at disposal of the Secretary-General and appealed to Member States to increase their contributions.
2. Mr. Roberts briefed the PBC on the meeting of the Advisory Group on December 1-2. He stressed the importance of the S-G's PBF as a key instrument in helping realize a new UN commitment to the prevention of violent conflict. As a number of external evaluations have shown, the Advisory Group strongly believe the SG and the UN have a unique instrument, one that fills an important niche occupied by nothing comparable. He recalled that despite a Herculean effort to ensure a level of voluntary contributions sufficient to guarantee allocations to projects of \$100 million per annum, the availability of PBF funds was in decline and with only \$68m committed in 2016. Mr. Roberts spoke of how the Group reviewed progress in building relationships with the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank. He underlined how delighted the group was to see the progress made by the PBSO in building relationships with the Bank. He then proceeded in highlighting investments in a few countries with emphasis on the cross border projects, showcasing how the PBF was unique: integrating various UN communities, catalysing significant contributions from others; operating at great speed and for being highly innovative. He then commented the review of the outline 2017-19 Business Plan and how encouraged the Group was by the approach, the focus on the Funds' advantages. Mr. Roberts said the Group also urged PBSO to make a major effort to tell a better story to potential financiers. He concluded by the positive review of the work of the PBF but also how the group remained dismayed by the PBF's current financing outlook, how much was done with such a small team and commenting on the

hope the new SG will address this funding crisis quickly, including in the report on Peace and Sustaining Peace that he will be presenting to Member States in 2017.

3. Member States welcomed the briefing and the opportunity to discuss PBF activities in the Commission. The representative of Germany announced the decision of his Government to contribute an additional 10 Million Euros to the Fund. In their interventions, delegations highlighted the following issues:
 - In implementation of the resolutions on sustaining peace, the Commission should enhance synergies with the PBF. In this connection, the PBC represents an important platform which countries receiving funds from the PBF could use to showcase the results achieved thank to the PBF. It was also noted that the PBC should convene discussions in preparation for the report of the Secretary-General, mandated by the resolutions on sustaining peace.
 - In that connection, it was noted that the report should be ambitious and look at all possible options to ensure more predictable financing. The report is also an opportunity to reposition the PBF within the UN system as an instrument of the Secretary-General to enhance system-wide coherence on prevention. Furthermore, the report should look at ways to better link the Fund with the broader world of financing.
 - The need for stronger synergies between the PBF and the World Bank was also recognized. Member States underscored the catalytic role of the Fund and the need for the Fund to leverage more resources for sustaining peace.
 - Several delegations recognized the value of the Fund and its importance in the area of prevention. However, its lack of visibility was identified as a possible reason for its limited resources. In this regard, Member States called for a stronger outreach and wider communication on the achievements of the PBF. The PBC, convening discussions on the PBF, can also play an important role in making the Fund more visible.

4. Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support, thanked the AG Chair for its leadership of the AG group and its members for the valuable advice and support to the PBF during its last Business Plan. He underlined how, as a result of this advice and the innovations introduced by PBSO, the PBF recently received the highest possible rating following a review by the UK Government, praising not only the results but also, the strong monitoring, accountability and transparency achieved by the PBF, which we intent to strengthen even more during the next Business Plan period. He highlighted that while options for financing peacebuilding are fleshed out as part of the SG Report on Sustaining Peace next year, the PBF still needs to mobilize around \$150m from voluntary contributions to maintain the level of support at a time when demands are growing. We are grateful to the co-host of the Pledging Conference and to all those member States who pledged funding and we hope the momentum created by the conference can be maintained with further pledges by those who already pledged and new pledges from those who did not.

Outcome of the work of the PBC on Good Practices in Peacebuilding: briefing by the Vice-Chair

5. The Vice-Chair (Republic of Korea) briefed the Committee on the work of the Commission on Good Practices in Peacebuilding. He noted that the discussions were conducted in implementation of the resolutions on sustaining peace and that, building on the theme of the PBC Annual Session (23 June 2016), the Commission discussed the topic of “transition”, with a particular focus on the drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. He noted that the drawdown can lead to a number of challenges for countries concerned, which are often related to the reduced support from the international community and to additional burden on national capacities in an environment where institutions are still weak. He informed that, during two informal meetings, Member States identified a number of good practices on how peacebuilding actors have supported countries during and after transitions, as well as possible ways in which the Commission can be of support.
6. The Vice-Chair recalled that, by focusing on the examples of Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste, delegations recognized the importance of early and long-term planning, which needed to include a system-wide approach, to ensure that transitions did not lead to a relapse into conflict. Looking at the Commission, it was noted that it has a role to play both at the country-level, complementing the work of the Security Council, and at the normative level. In this regard, it was emphasized that the PBC should play its bridging role between security, development and human rights by convening discussions with a broad range of stakeholders, which should contribute to improve the quality of its advisory role to the Security Council. The need for stronger synergies between PBC and PBF was also underscored, as delegations noted how the role of Commission and Fund is mutually reinforcing.
7. The Vice-Chair concluded by recalling the five main findings of the discussions on Good Practices:
 - i. the importance of early and long-term planning;
 - ii. the need for coherence between PBC and PBF;
 - iii. the need to actively utilize PBC’s convening power across the UN system as well as with outside stakeholders, including civil society;
 - iv. the importance of benchmarks as framework during transitions;
 - v. the PBC’s role in raising awareness and sensitizing the UN system of the concept of sustaining peace.

Informal adoption of the PBC reports on its tenth session

8. The Chair presented to the Member States the draft report of the PBC on its tenth session. He welcomed the new structure, which built on the forward agenda of the PBC report on its ninth session but, most importantly, on the work done by the Commission in implementation of the resolutions on sustaining peace. He noted that the Report reflected the range of policy, regional, and country-specific works of the PBC which had aimed at convening more strategic and substantive meetings, as well as work in a more flexible manner. In this connection, he referred to the annex of the report, which contained the

document adopted by the Commission on how to improve its working methods. The Chair thanked Member States for their support on that process and on other areas of work of the Commission in 2016. He referred to the regional approach of the PBC, which also provided an opportunity to further strengthen partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations such as the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union. He also recalled the efforts done by the Commission to strengthen its synergies with the PBF, including through the discussion on Financing for Peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan.

The Committee informally adopted the Report.

9. Referring to the work done by the Commission in 2016, the Representative of Japan underscored the importance of institution building as a prerequisite not only post-conflict reconstruction and conflict prevention, but also peace consolidation to lay a foundation for sustainable peace. In this connection, and as part of the efforts to further strengthen the flexibility and efficiency of the Commission, Japan suggested enhancing the focus of the PBC on institution building. Japan also expressed its interest in being nominated by the Commission as Focal Point for institution building.
10. Member States congratulated the Chair on the adoption of the annual report and on the important work done by the Commission in 2016. Delegations also called for the Commission to bring forward the recommendations contained in the report in the next session.
