

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
9 July 2012

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 9 July 2012, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Chair of the PBC, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Resource Mobilization for Peacebuilding Priorities: The Role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). A policy discussion on the basis of a PBSO paper; (2) Consultations on Civilian Capacities (Interaction with Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet and Chair of the Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities); and (3) Other matters. Before proceeding to consideration of the first agenda item, the Chairperson reminded members of the Committee that on 12 July, the Security Council will hold an open debate in connection with the agenda item "Post-conflict peacebuilding". The Chair has been invited to deliver a statement on behalf of the PBC, a draft of which has been subsequently shared with the Committee. The Chair encouraged all members to inscribe for the debate and maximize the benefit from the opportunity offered by the Council to address a number of crucial PBC-related topics.

Resource Mobilization for Peacebuilding Priorities: The Role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). A policy discussion on the basis of a PBSO paper:

1. The Chairperson recalled that the Roadmap of Actions in 2012 has identified resource mobilization as a top priority of the PBC in 2012. In response to that decision, and in order to better understand what role the Commission could play in resource mobilization, PBSO has prepared a paper to present few ideas and recommendations which could be considered as a menu of options and possibilities which could be used on the basis of country-specific needs and circumstances. The Chair also recalled that the Committee already had a very useful exchange on this key mandate at the working-level on 22 May and that the WGLL met on 3 July and is taking forward one of the suggested approaches in this paper, namely mapping of resource flows, with particular emphasis on the case of Guinea. Subsequently, the Chair invited PBSO to make brief introductory remarks on the paper.

2. The Officer in charge and Director of PBSO noted that resource mobilization represents a key mandate of the Commission, even if not the only one, and that the paper came in response to the prioritization of resource mobilization by the roadmap of actions in 2012 and from the 2010 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. He stressed the fact that the ultimate responsibility rests with the countries on the PBC agenda. PBSO also underlined that, although the paper presents a large number of recommendations, the PBC Country-Configurations should see them as a menu of options from which country configurations could select the most appropriate and relevant approaches to the country-specific needs

and circumstances. PBSO suggested that the Committee may wish to consider asking some of its individual members to lead the discussions on certain proposed areas in the paper.

3. Member States generally welcomed the paper and underscored the following issues:

- Members recognized the essential role that the Commission can play in resource mobilization. However, it was also stressed that resource mobilization can be effective only if it is undertaken as a collective effort and that it is an inherent responsibility of the membership on country configurations. Members also emphasized that resource mobilization is organically linked to the Commission's functions of political accompaniment and coordination/alignment of partners behind national peacebuilding priorities.
- A number of Member States also noted that "resources" should not be limited to financial support but should also include non-monetary contributions. In this regard, members underlined the need to encourage exchange of technical expertise through a new paradigm for South-South and triangular cooperation. One member also suggested that the PBC could facilitate the transfer of knowledge on increasing the capacity of the agriculture sector of the countries on the agenda which could provide an important source of revenues and employment.
- Members recognized as an important and innovative contribution by the PBC the ongoing mapping process led by the WGLL, which attempts to identify funding overlaps and gaps in Guinea. Members affirmed that the mapping exercise should be lead from the field, corresponding data be regularly updated and that it should lead to assisting the countries develop or strengthen national coordination and aid management mechanisms. One member state also advised that the mapping exercise could also extend to foreign direct investment, patterns of trade and cost of doing business in the countries concerned. These are important pieces of information which could facilitate decision-making on financial allocations and investment opportunities.
- Delegations welcomed the proposal to engage with non-governmental donors, in particular with philanthropists and foundations. Members recognized the need to identify the appropriate entry points to help reorient towards and realign their contribution around peacebuilding priorities in the countries on the agenda. In suggesting a more pro-active engagement with the private sector, a number of delegations underlined the importance of creating partnerships with business organizations in the countries on the PBC agenda as a way to promote national capacity development and economic growth.
- Going forward, members suggested that country configurations should identify one or more of the options presented in the paper, depending on the country needs, integrate the recommendations in their respective workplans and report back to the Committee on progress made, challenges faced and lessons learned.

Consultations on Civilian Capacities (Interaction with Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet and Chair of the Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities)

4. The Chair welcomed Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet and Chair of the Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities, and underlined that the consultations with the PBC, organized pursuant to resolution 66/255 of the General Assembly, represents an important step to ensure that there is clarity on where the membership of the Commission stands on a number of issues which could be of importance to the drafting of the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on Civilian Capacities.

4. In particular, the Chair expressed his hope that the discussion might address the ways in which the PBC could contribute in the following areas: Provide a viable platform for member states consultations; Deepen the analysis of the challenges and the actual capacity needs facing the countries on the agenda; Play a well-defined role in supporting the emergence of a new paradigm for south-south cooperation; Share how certain countries on its agenda practically faced and addressed capacity gaps in critical peacebuilding areas.

5. Ms. Malcorra stressed the importance of national ownership and national institution-building for a sustainable peace. She noted that the report places particular emphasis on the role of peer-to-peer experiences of countries emerging from conflict and on South-South cooperation. Civcap's response includes the development of CAPMATCH, an online platform which aims at better matching the supply and demand of capacities, which will be launched in September 2012.

6. Ms. Malcorra noted that Civcap's ongoing efforts at improving the ability of UN missions to deliver results on the ground and respond to fast-changing environments. Some of the areas of focus include planning, budgeting and partnership modalities, within existing regulations, to align these more with nationally-owned priorities and changing needs. The strengthening of global focal points in the UN system for key capacity deficit areas in the aftermath of conflict was illustrated through the new global focal point arrangement for police, justice and corrections, announced by UNDP and DPKO in June, which involves co-location of staff from both entities on UN premises at headquarters.

7. Ms. Malcorra concluded her by reiterating the importance of the PBC's role in exploring ways to strengthen national ownership of institution-building priorities and South-South partnerships.

8. The subsequent interaction with Member States focused on the following issues:

- Delegations reiterated the need for the Commission to be a platform for consultations with Member States on policy-related aspects of the Civilian Capacity initiative, as well as a direct beneficiary from implementation of Civilian Capacities recommendations in the priority areas identified by the countries on its agenda. The latter could provide a reality check on the progress and challenges facing the implementation of the initiative, and it could support national identification of existing capacities and capacity gaps. Therefore, members sought more information on how to link the work of country configurations with the implementation of the civcap recommendations.

- Members also noted that there is a need to underline the differences between the deployment of civilian capacities in mission and non-mission settings. In mission-settings, consultations with the Security Council on mandate adjustment should be conceived ahead of deployment, in order to allow for proper allocation of budget resources.
- Member States underlined that national capacity development, South-South and triangular cooperation should remain the focus of the implementation process on the ground. Delegations also stressed the need to ensure that the deployment of civilian capacities should take into consideration specific skill sets that allows for mentoring and transfer of knowledge rather than substitution.
- Some members welcomed the introduction of CAPMATCH as an online platform and affirmed the need for matching demand with supply, cautioning against supply-driven approach to civilian capacity deployment. One delegation suggested that the priority areas identified by the PBC in the countries on the agenda should become the focus of the CAPMATCH. A few speakers sought more information on the actual functioning and scope of this tool emphasizing that for such a tool to remain relevant and useful, it will require constant validation, quality control and updating.

Other matters

9. The Chair informed that the Government of Bangladesh is organizing a High-level event entitled “Peacebuilding: way towards sustainable peace and security” to be held in the afternoon of Tuesday, 25 September 2012. The Chair informed that invitations are currently being sent and he invited all Member States to recommend to their respective Capitals participation for highest level representation at the event.
