

**Peacebuilding Commission – Liberia Configuration**  
**Report of the Chair’s visit to Liberia 14 – 18 May 2012**

**I. Introduction**

1. As my first visit, the overarching goal of the mission was to become familiar with the situation in the country and meet national and international stakeholders building upon the work initiated by the first Chair of the Liberia Configuration. Within this goal, I had four (4) terms of references.
  - a) Hold consultations with stakeholders discussing how the PBC can continue to support progress in the identified peacebuilding priorities while gaining stakeholders’ insights on these priorities: Rule of Law (RoL), Security Sector Reform (SSR) and National Reconciliation including land and youth;
  - b) Review progress of the implementation of the Liberia Peacebuilding Programme (LPP) as well as identifying opportunities for resource mobilization;
  - c) Explore how to strengthen the linkages between the PBC Members based in Liberia with those in New York; and
  - d) Assess how to ensure the complementarities of the efforts under the ambit of the PBC engagement with those of the New Deal.
2. The following report contains a summary of my impressions and assessments for PBC’s engagement. While the trip was short, I was able to meet with key international and national stakeholders in the capital and in two counties along with visits to security and justice facilities. The full programme is attached as Annex 1. These meetings and site visits were invaluable in providing me with first-hand insights on the issues reported in the first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments (SMC).
3. At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Liberia for having guided and facilitated this visit. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for their advice, logistical and substantive support to the visit, as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) for their continued support. Representatives of the United Nations Country Team equally provided insightful briefings. The Swedish Embassy in Liberia gave me and will continue to provide a strong base, support and connect to the realities and challenges on the ground.
4. This report is structured around the four objectives. Each section contains recommendations for the PBC Liberia Configuration. These proposals and

## **II. Objective 1 – Consultations with stakeholders on the Peacebuilding Priorities**

5. I was able to consult a variety of stakeholders from both the international and national communities. My overall impression from these conversations is that the country has made some tremendous strides in initial recovery but as best articulated by the President in our meeting, the country stills needs to undergo a “transformation”. This “transformation” will entail some radical reforms over the next five years, most notably in the justice system and in strengthening the security sector. As documented in the first review of the SMC, national reconciliation will also be central to building justice and security institutions<sup>1</sup>.
6. The bulk of this work is carried out at the country level and this is also where there may be a need and an openness for the PBC to assist. There are definitely expectations for resource mobilization but also the advisory capacity of PBC as well as for its role in political accompaniment should be explored. In what follows, I provide summaries of the current status of activities in each of the peacebuilding priorities.

### **A. Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform**

7. Visits to the Bo Waterside border crossing between Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as to the Hub and the county prison in Gbarnga provided insights into reforms affecting the work of security actors, namely the Liberian National Police (LNP), Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). As has been previously reported, all actors lack basic equipment, namely in communication and mobility. In Bo Waterside, it was evident that lack of mobility to patrol the border hinders the different security actors to respond to incidents of drug trafficking and illicit mining, which were cited as main crimes in Grand Cape Mount County.
8. Discussions with security officials brought to light the remaining work for streamlining the security forces. In August 2011, the Legislature passed the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act fulfilling a Government commitment in the SMC. The implementation of the Act is the next immediate challenge and one that should be followed with great attention. Key provisions of the Act are the dismantling of two security actors: Ministry of National Security and the National Bureau of Investigation. The Act also calls for the revision of the Police Act, which should be seen as a priority, alongside a review of the DEA’s mandate, which was not addressed in the Act. The Drug Law also needs to be revised.

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<sup>1</sup> This assessment drew on the analysis carried out in the 2011 World Development Report which argued that the legitimacy of state institutions were based not only on their professionalism but equally on the credibility of political processes underlying the development of state institutions. To contribute to the evolution of a democratic state, relevant Government’s commitments and related deliverable targets were amended to this effect during the first revision of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. More information is available in the First progress report, PBC/6/LBR/1.

9. An additional element of the legal framework is the Ministry of Defense's Strategic Plan. The Minister of Defense, Mr. Brownei Samukai, informed that a third draft is currently with him. Following efforts to streamline the document, it will be shared with a range of national and international actors for comments. The aim is to complete the Plan by the end of the year.
10. In terms of infrastructure, I was impressed by the concept of Regional Justice and Security Hub. However, management and monitoring efforts need to be enhanced. While the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the LNP have been deployed to the Hub since October 2011 reportedly due to problems with the water system, an estimated 60 percent of those deployed had recently left the site. This issue was being addressed when I left but it appears to be symptomatic of larger problems of coordination between actors in Gbarnga and those in Monrovia. Upon returning to Monrovia, in various meetings, I urged that the Hub Manager should immediately be deployed to Gbarnga. Attention must also be paid to the coordination between different UN agencies regarding infrastructure and staffing. As a pilot, now is the opportunity to learn from mistakes and improve practices enabling the establishment of next Hubs to benefit. I advocated for the immediate staffing of the monitoring and evaluation function and I am pleased to learn that since my return a lessons learned workshop is being prepared for June.
11. Steps are being made to ensure the sustainability of the Hub. The Programme Management Unit<sup>2</sup> is estimating the recurring costs for the Hubs. The Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Konneh assured that these costs will be incorporated into the 2012/2013 budget along with allocations to recruit new justice and security personnel. When realized this would fulfill the trigger on recurrent costs set for release of PBF monies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hub. The other trigger is 70 percent deployment of staff at the Hub. According to estimates, the Hub would be 60 to 70 percent operational by July reaching 100 percent by December 2012. It is crucial that all functions be deployed so as to ensure that the police and security functions operate in a broader context of community outreach and rule of law functions. The relations with the broader surrounding communities make this aspect crucial. Having only an increased police presence may not be entirely welcomed by the population.
12. With regards to deployment and distinct from the situation cited above, I repeatedly heard concerns about staff retention in outlying counties. At Bo Waterside deployed officers explained how without proper housing accommodations they have been separated from their families. The Minister of Defense, with reference to practices before the war to provide accommodations for families of security personnel, also highlighted this as an issue that will contribute to officers leaving their posts to visit their families. In recognition of this reality, various discussions are being held about

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<sup>2</sup> The Programme Management Unit is located in the Ministry of Justice and was established in part with PBF monies. In particular, this Unit hosts the international and national Programme Managers, which had been discussed during the preparations of the LPP to ensure effective monitoring of the justice and security component of the LPP.

providing accommodations as well as rotating staff. This is another topic for the Lessons Learned Workshop.

13. Alongside these issues, the importance of continued training for the LNP was raised. The President and the Minister of Defense both spoke of the need for a lead country as a means to avoid a plethora of approaches being taught to the police. The Government would like to have one doctrine informing police training. As explained by the Minister, the Government is flexible in how to achieve this result. Training could, for example, remain under the direction of UNMIL, while at the same time supported by a lead country. The example of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was cited as a good practice. In that case, representatives of the United States Police Force were seconded to UNPOL to lead the training in coordination with other police forces within UNPOL. A main criterion for success of this effort was the quality of the officers.
14. In addition to gaps in police training, my visit to the Gbarnga Prison starkly revealed the urgency for justice reform. On average, 80 percent of prison populations are pre-trial detainees and detention times can exceed a year. The frustrations of the detainees are expressed in attempted breakouts and riots. While there have been improvements and efforts continue to decrease pre-trial detention rates, they remain unacceptably high, and the issue should remain at the forefront of the PBC's efforts. The President, officials from the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary, see this as a priority. A core remedial effort is the Jury Bill. This Bill, which had been submitted to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature but was not passed before the session concluded, has been resubmitted by the President. Officials were optimistic that the bill would be passed during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Legislature. At the same time, while this Bill will go far in rectifying fundamental weaknesses of the justice system, it is not a panacea and its implementation will be challenging
15. Efforts that would facilitate the implementation of the Law, if passed, are already being pursued, namely the training of Magistrate Judges at the Judicial Institute. This training will be critical to raising the qualifications of the Magistrates for a broader jurisdiction foreseen in the Bill. The first group of sixty-one graduates has begun to be deployed. A second class is currently undergoing training. The deployment of the first group was being obstructed due to lack of funding to permit sitting Magistrate judges' retirement or dismissal of judges due to lack of credentials or situations of unethical action(s). This is reportedly in the process of being addressed. If this proceeds according to plans, qualified Magistrate Judges would be gradually deployed throughout the country. It should take a few years to bring the more than 300 Magistrates up to qualification. Gradually, this would rectify a significant weakness in the current system that has contributed to the backlogs of cases at the Circuit Courts level. In turn, this should significantly lower pre-trial detention rates.
16. At the same time, the number of Magistrate Judges coming to the Monrovia Central Prison as part of the Magistrate Sitting Programme is to be increased from six to ten with a new afternoon session. UNMIL has also made representations to the Solicitor

17. Nonetheless, this is only a fraction of the reform needed. A discussion with the Chief Justice and four of the Associate Justices provided further insights on the scope of pending reform. In brief they cited the below issues:

- Lack of infrastructure,
- Harmonizing the population size and number of cases on a docket with the number of courts and county attorneys in a county,
- Reviewing bails,
- Adopting a practical system for the right to appeal<sup>3</sup>,
- Updating the record keeping system and training of clerks,
- Reviewing the right to a jury,
- Building an effective prosecution system, and
- Updating procedures<sup>4</sup>.

18. In terms of time considerations to realize needed reforms, it is important to note that many of these issues require Constitutional reform, which is only in the early phases of beginning. The discussion with the Justices did not delve into the status of efforts to remedy these issues but a few are being addressed. The Jury Bill for example would define when a jury is necessitated. Projects for the record keeping system and some court facilities are being pursued within the LPP. Some other issues, however, require difficult decisions that will likely have political ramifications such as harmonization of courts. The Ministry of Justice also raised the issue of the need to strengthen prosecution and has reportedly begun to discuss the issues with prosecutors.

19. The Law Reform Commission is equally carrying out some invaluable work. However, staffing limitations and competing tasks have hindered their ability to follow up on the conference related to the harmonization of the traditional and statutory legal systems as well as significantly engage the public to create a bottoms up approach to legal reform but they have made significant strides in reinitiating the codification of the laws. The President, the Legislature and different line-ministries have also been seeking their advice on a number of bills, such as the recently adopted law on children's rights. Work is also proceeding on revising laws the Petroleum Law and the Revenue Management Law with pro-bono support from a New York based law firm, White and Case.

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<sup>3</sup> The Associate Justice explained that presently all cases, regardless of the severity of the case or relevance to broader issues of justice, can be appealed the level of the Supreme Court. To illustrate the implications of this a case concerning a cell phone was cited as having been appealed at the level of the Supreme Court.

<sup>4</sup> Current procedures date back to the 1970s.

## ***B. National Reconciliation***

20. While I was impressed by recent progress on national reconciliation, I equally gained an appreciation for the complexity of the issue. Reconciliation in Liberia will require a multitude of interventions to repair historical divides between Liberians as well as between the state and society. The Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Blamoh Nelson informed that the draft Roadmap for national reconciliation should be available for review within the next few weeks. The Roadmap will enumerate components of reconciliation opening a path to the development of a policy and strategy on national reconciliation. The Roadmap was being aligned with the time frame of the National Vision 2030, which in addition to a focus on economic development, addresses issues of immediate relevancy to reconciliation - national identity. The Principals of the five main national actors – Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Leymah Gbowee’s Liberia Reconciliation Initiative, Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the Governance Commission – would first review the Roadmap before it goes through a national vetting and validation process. I repeatedly underscored the importance of pursuing an inclusive vetting and validation process, which will be critical if this Roadmap and the subsequent policy and strategy are to provide a widely accepted starting point, address key issues and last the 18 years foreseen. The vetting and validation process is to conclude at the end of July at a national conference, which is already planned for the endorsement of the National Vision. Additionally, it has been proposed for the Roadmap to be submitted to the Legislature as a means to gain a national endorsement. Again, ensuring that the Roadmap is an acceptable starting point for all affected parties will also aid in enabling this strategy to deal with some of the root causes of the conflict.
21. Decentralization was put forward as a core component to facilitating national reconciliation. Minister Nelson (see para 20), whose Ministry is responsible for the implementation of the recently adopted policy on decentralization and for coordinating national reconciliation efforts, described how the history of the country combined with the experience of war has created divides in Liberian society. He sees decentralization as a core means to empower the local population to discuss issues of common interest through political processes. Decentralization has two streams. One requires constitutional change, such as to allow for the election of the county superintendent. The second is the deconcentration of government bodies from Monrovia out to the counties, such as is occurring with the security actors’ deployment to the Hubs from Monrovia. As was confirmed in discussions with local authorities in Grand Cape Mount, the process is still very early in its inception. They highlighted the management of county development funds as indicative of various issues that will need to be amended to truly empower local government<sup>5</sup>. It has been mentioned by UN actors that it might be worthwhile for the UN, together with bilateral partners and private interests, to examine ways and means to support this

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<sup>5</sup> While county development funds are controlled at the local level, the participation of line ministries, who have to defer to their respective headquarters, hinders a truly driven local process.

process of decentralization and the establishment of regional centers and urban areas around the country.

22. My visit with the Peace Committee in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount provided some further insights into the challenges as well as opportunities for linking community efforts with those at the national level. This meeting took place in a Peace Hut, which is synonymous with a Palava Hut. These Committees, which are present throughout the country, were established by UNMIL with PBF financial support. The Peace/Palava Huts provide a meeting location for the Committee. These Committees appear to be filling a needed gap in the counties. This emerges with regards to the work of the Committees in assisting the Land Commission with the piloting of the Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) is also considering how to engage the Committees in with regards to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation on the Palava Huts. With regards to the meeting in Sinje, the Committee is focused on small community disputes and, trying to foster relations between the Government and the population. Supportive of Minister Blamo's views, the Committee equally assesses state-society relations as one of the greater challenges. Discussions with members about hypothetical cases revealed that even within the local population there can be reluctance to bring disputes forward. A lack of clarity between the roles of the Committees vis a vis those of local authorities and traditional leaders can also hinder the work of the Committees.
23. The composition of this committee and discussions with them brought to the forefront the issue of gender in Liberia. While three of the members out of nine are women, only one female participated in the meeting. As noted by the Minister of Gender, we need to see women as "agents of change" in promoting their empowerment. Liberia is also a pilot for the UN's Seven-Point Action Plan on gender responsive peacebuilding. Together with UNSC Resolution 1325, the Seven-Point Action Plan should inspire a strong gender focus in for example the reconciliation process, in the strengthening of the security sector and rule of law and in the decentralization process.
24. I equally had the opportunity to meet with the INCHR. They fully recognized the need for a coherent approach to national reconciliation and have placed their plans for the Palava Hut on hold till efforts for the Roadmap are concluded. While the Commissioners noted resource constraints, I highlighted the value of advocacy for a few cases, which may be representative of broader issues.

### ***Recommendations for the PBC Liberia Configuration***

25. ***Second review of the SMC:*** The peacebuilding priorities agreed upon in the SMC remain central to peace consolidation in Liberia. I will continue to closely follow developments in relation to current deliverable targets in preparation for the upcoming review of the SMC in August 2012. As part of this review, my trip has indicated that it would be prudent to consider if the issue of Constitutional Reform

26. **Police Training:** I have convened a Steering Group meeting in June to examine how the PBC can contribute, in close collaboration with key actors in Liberia, to identifying needed policing expertise within the international community to work with UNMIL to find mechanisms to address current gaps in the training.
27. **Reconciliation Roadmap:** While reconciliation is a long-term objective, current activities will be fundamental to ensuring that Liberians successfully advance towards this end. This is not the start of the process as is best evidenced by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). However, since the issuance of the TRC Report, there has been a lack of a coherent approach that has had an overall negative impact on reconciliation. Current efforts to prepare the Roadmap and the subsequent policy and strategy on national reconciliation hold immense potential for the country to comprehensively begin rebuilding relations between people and also between the state and society. The inclusivity of the validation process for the Roadmap will be one key criterion to its success. With an objective to ensuring the inclusive nature of the validation process of the Roadmap, I will closely monitor ongoing activities and examine the possibility to participate in the National Conference. In addition to building strong relations with the five (5) principals, I will also examine possibilities for PBC to partner with Peace Committees, which might provide a valuable link between national and community efforts. The role of the Law Reform Commission also emerges as vital and in future trip I will examine more closely how to engage with them. At the same time, the Configuration can build contact with some key experts on the issues to help in sharing lessons learnt from other countries.
28. **Budget:** At the time of my trip the national budget was still under preparation by the Executive Branch. It will be important for the PBC to closely follow the finalization of the budget and the debates in the Legislature concerning its passage. On the matter of the Legislature, time did not permit for meetings with key legislators this trip but I will make this a priority for future trips, together with meetings with civil society and business.
29. **Gender:** In addition to incorporating a more gender sensitive focus in the SMC, the PBC can examine how it can support Liberia as a pilot for the 7 Seven-Point Action Plan. I will inquire further on this matter, particularly with UN Women reverting with more concrete proposals before the 2<sup>nd</sup> review of the SMC.

## II. Objective 2 Implementation of the LPP & Resource Mobilization

30. As discussed above, I had the opportunity to visit the Hub. The first Regional Justice and Security Hub is nearing completion. Outside of the construction of the Courts



31. Participation in the JSC also provided a detailed briefing on the status of implementation of other projects included in the Justice and Security component of the LPP including the preparation of a deployment strategy, the record keeping system, procurement of communication equipment and community outreach. A comprehensive approach is being taken. However, as previously noted, while it is evident that a great deal of coordination is taking place at the Monrovia level, my visit to the Hub indicated that there was insufficient engagement with concerned actors (local authorities, and security actors) in Gbarnga. This applies as much to construction matters, as to issues of reconciliation. As discussed in the above section on national reconciliation, state and society relations are torn. The Hub, if well implemented, could be a significant step forward in helping to mend that relation. However, at present local populations reportedly see the Hub as a barrack and not as a facility that will enhance their security and access to justice. Increased security presence must be part and parcel of a broader rule of law and presence and outreach component, in line with the principle of “do no harm”. These are all matters that should be considered more thoroughly in the lessons learned workshop.
32. While a trip had originally been foreseen for me to travel to Zorzor, Lofa County to visit the Land Coordination Center, weather unfortunately prevented this visit. The meeting with the Land Commissioner also was cancelled due to time conflicts. Alternatively, I met with the Chief Technical Advisor for UN-Habitat. The project is reportedly moving ahead. The Center has begun assessing the situation within the county identifying who is involved in resolving land disputes and providing these individuals with training on the Alternative Dispute Resolution system that has been agreed upon. Centers are planned to be piloted in Bong, Margibi, Maryland and Nimba Counties starting in August 2012. The process stands out as establishing structural solutions rather than ad hoc responses. I look forward to visiting the Centers in an upcoming trip.
33. While a trip to the Voinjama Youth Center was also cancelled due to weather, I was able to visit the Sinje Youth Center, which had been funded by the first tranche of PBF. UNICEF accompanied me on this trip. The Ministry of Youth and Sports also briefed on the project during the JSC. It was evident from my interaction with the youth at the center that such centers hold great potential. The need for empowering youth was mentioned throughout the trip. I was, thus, well convinced of the need to focus on youth. Minister Konneh equally briefed of youth empowerment plans that the Executive Branch is proposing for inclusion in the budget at a cost of US\$ 20 million per year over the next three year budget cycle. This project should benefit between 15,000 to 20,000 youth.

34. In terms of fundraising, I see the Justice and Security Board, which is overseeing the Justice and Security Trust Fund, as a good vehicle through which the PBC can channel funds for justice and security projects. The oversight by the Board promotes a coordinated and coherent approach in these sectors. Towards this end, I inquired with Government officials about the priority allocated to the Hubs; if they see this as a priority, I urged them to add the second and third Hubs to the work-plan of the Board. This work-plan guides the Board in determining allocations for projects from the Trust Fund. Donors could either contribute directly to the Trust Fund or consult the Board and contribute to a programme within the coordinated effort, thereby contributing to a coherent approach. Presently, the work-plan for 2012 is budgeted at US\$ 45.5 million and for which there is a gap of US\$14.7 million. It should also be clear that the Trust Fund must be run effectively and efficiently, unnecessary delays avoided and a functioning monitoring and evaluation implemented.
35. The same option may soon be available for national reconciliation. Minister Konneh informed that in the draft budget, US\$ 5 million had been allocated to establish a National Reconciliation Trust Fund. Discussions on this are still preliminary.
36. I stressed the issue of coherence and coordination as while there is some degree of coherence and coordination within current efforts, it is clear that these efforts can be strengthened. As noted in the SMC review, not all partners are coordinating their activities. I would also like to emphasize the importance of activities supported by partners being well aligned with Government priorities. This is clearly needed in the justice and security sector, for which a donor coordination group has been formed and progress has been made. The Justice and Security Board, which with the preparation of the Justice and Security Joint Programme revised its working methods, holds potential. Norway and Sweden are currently carrying out a review of the Justice and Security Trust Fund with national experts as well as specialized consultants. The findings of this review should be helpful in determining how to further strengthen this Fund and Board and might provide some useful information for a reconciliation trust fund or as may also be considered, a separate “window” for reconciliation within an existing trust fund.

### ***Recommendations for the PBC Liberia Configuration***

37. ***Lessons Learned Workshop:*** This workshop should provide some valuable insights on how to prepare for the establishment of the next two Hubs. Drawing on the conclusions of this workshop and as noted above, the PBC should also continue to keep abreast of developments related to the finalization of the Liberian budget, specifically the inclusion of recurring costs as well as increases in the justice and security budgets. These matters will help PBC in responding to concerns over sustainability that have been raised about the Hub projects and which will likely be a key deterrent to mobilizing resources.

38. ***Fundraising Strategy:*** Later this year, I will convene a meeting of the Configuration on fundraising. Such a strategy discussion must be well prepared and I intend to initiate some preliminary deliberations in the Steering Group in the coming months. A key issue in the PBC's approach will be how to ensure that our efforts contribute to a coordinated and coherent approach. I will keep the Configuration informed of the current review of the Justice and Security Trust Fund. I fully appreciated the opportunity to visit PBF projects during this trip and will aim for this to be a regular component of future missions. Familiarity with these projects should assist the PBC in contributing to the catalytic role of PBF. I see this already in relation to the Hub as well as UNICEF's youth projects. I have also already begun examining with the Justice and Security Board how the PBC can join efforts with them to mobilize resources and will keep the Configuration informed as efforts materialize.

#### **IV. Objective 3 – Linkages between Monrovia and NY**

39. I was able to have some excellent meeting with representatives of PBC members in Monrovia. As in meetings with Government officials, previous interaction with the PBC has laid some strong foundations for PBC engagement. As a result of the work of my predecessor, key interlocutors were well informed of the PBC's engagement and showed a genuine interest to continue building relations. This had been achieved through the former Chair's repeated missions and the video conferencing that had been employed.

40. The presence of a Swedish Embassy in Monrovia equally provides an advantage. A SSR Advisor in the mission accompanied me on a number of visits and took the lead in organizing meetings with different members of the PBC represented in Monrovia. I will equally have the benefits of being briefed by the Embassy on developments in the country in addition to updates that can be provided by Government and UN counterparts.

41. In addition to engaging through video links and missions, counterparts in Liberia can also participate in New York based meetings. Minister Konneh informed that he plans to report to the Configuration on the Government's progress towards meeting its commitments in the SMC this year, as he had the previous year. This presents itself as a good precedent to establish. I am also aware that key counterparts including the Minister of Justice and the Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee have also briefed the Configuration.

#### ***Recommendation for the PBC Liberia Configuration***

42. ***Tools:*** Missions, video conferencing, and participation in meetings are all valuable tools to continue to utilize to build the linkages between Liberia and New York. Working closely with the Liberian Mission in New York, I will proactively look for opportunities for Liberian counterparts to interact with the PBC. I will do the same with international counterparts.

## **V. Objective 4 – PBC Engagement and the New Deal**

43. I have begun informing myself of the New Deal through discussion involving Government Officials in Washington, New York, Stockholm and Monrovia. The United States and Sweden have agreed to partner with Liberia in piloting the New Deal. We share a common assessment that this is an opportunity for the international community as well as Liberia. The engagement of the PBC stands out as a strong example of partnership and bodes well for piloting the New Deal in Liberia as well as strengthening the PBC's engagement. The Government of Liberia is currently reflecting on the implementation of the New Deal.
44. Liberia has been a principal leader, among other war-affected States, in formulating these PSGs as well as principles of the New Deal. This provides an ideal opportunity for Liberia to position itself in the lead for its continued recovery and peace consolidation process in line with the goals and principles established by them and which are very much in line with international standards.
45. Deliberations on specifics are still in the very initial phases. The Government supports the view that the SMC should provide a basis for the New Deal.

### ***Recommendation for the PBC Liberia Configuration***

46. **SMC Review:** As the second review of the SMC is in August, I propose that we continue deliberations within the Steering Group in the coming months on this matter. We will need to work closely with the Government clearly recognizing their leading role in the implementation of the New Deal.

6 June 2012

**Annex 1**

**Programme for the visit of the Chair of the PBC Country-specific Configuration to Liberia  
14 – 18 May 2012**

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**Monday 14 May 2012  
National holiday: Unification Day**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attending-UNMIL</b>	<b>Comments /Status/Contact</b>
17:00-17:15	<b>Security briefing (TBC)</b>	Mamba Point Hotel Lobby	Ambassador Tillander	Confirmed Security Courage Awittor X: 5341 C: 0531 9957
18:00-19:00	<b>Meeting with the JSC co- chairs</b>	Ministry of Planning		Sara Rendtorff-Smith X: 6996 C: 0531 9643 / 0880 909 430 Confirmed with Minister Nelson
19:30	<b>Working Dinner</b>	Ms. Katja Svensson's residence, 13th Street – Comium Compound	Mr. Mr Börje Mattsson OiC UNMIL / DSRSG R&G Katja Svensson	Confirmed Katja Svensson C: 088 053 3215

**Field visit to Grand Cape Mount County  
Tuesday 15 May 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attending-UNMIL</b>	<b>Comments /Contact</b>
09:30-12:00	<b>Transfer from Spriggs Airfield, Monrovia to Bo Waterside border crossing, Grand Cape Mount County (by road)</b>			PPU / Security Cooper Dorbor X: 5347 C: 088 655 0082
12:00-12:45	<b>Visit to the border crossing at Bo Waterside incl. interaction with BIN and LNP</b>			Grand Cape Mount HoFO Gibril Allan Turay X: 8904 C: 0531 9685 / 0886 575 853
12:45-13:45	<b>Transfer from border to UN compound in Sinje</b>			
13:45-14:15	<b>Lunch (15 pax)</b>	UN Compound NiBatt		Chris Dagadu (FC's Office) X: 0531 C: 088 087 4564
14:15-14:30	<b>Presentation by HoFO and CO NiBatt</b>	UN Compound NiBatt		Grand Cape Mount HoFO  Chris Dagadu (FC's Office) X: 0531 C: 088 087 4564
14:30-14:45	<b>Transfer to Sinje</b>			
14:45-15:30	<b>Meeting with Superintendent and Government Officials</b>	Sinje District Adm building		Overview of county progress and challenges, with a focus on SMC targets including land, youth, social cohesion, rule of law and security sector reform and situation (e.g. border related)

				Grand Cape Mount HoFO Gibril Allan Turay X: 8904 C: 0531 9685 / 0886 575 853
15:30-15:45	<b>Transfer to Sinje Youth Centre</b>			
15:45-16:30	<b>Interaction with GCM youth</b>	Sinje Youth Centre		Grand Cape Mount HoFO Gibril Allan Turay
16:30-16:45	<b>Transfer to Sinje Palava Hut</b>			
16:45-17:30	<b>Interaction with County Peace Committee</b>	Sinje Palava Hut		Grand Cape Mount HoFO Gibril Allan Turay
17:30-18:45	<b>Transfer from Sinje to Monrovia (by road)</b>			Security / PPU Cooper Dorbor X: 5347 C: 088 655 0082
19:30 –	<b>Dinner / Briefing from UN-Habitat</b>	Mamba Point		

**Field visit to Gbarnga, Bong County  
Wednesday 16 May 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attending-UNMIL</b>	<b>Comments /Status/Contact</b>
9:00-12:30	<b>Drive to the Gbarnga Regional Justice and Security Hub</b>		DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf	Security / PPU
12:30-13:30	<b>Briefing and accompanying tour of the Gbarnga Hub by UNOPS, UNDP and GoL</b>	Gbarnga Hub	DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf UNPOL Police Commissioner UNDP UNOPS UNPOL GoL (LNP, BIN,	Gbarnga HoFO Mr. Karimu Yorose

			BCR, MoJ, Judiciary) - TBC	
13:30-13:40	<b>Transfer to the Gbarnga Prison</b>			Security / PPU
13:40-14:20	<b>Visit to the Gbarnga Prison</b>	Gbarnga Town	DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf UNOPS HoFO GoL (LNP, BIN, BCR, MoJ, Judiciary)	Gbarnga HoFO Mr. Karimu Yorose
14:20-14:35	<b>Transfer to PakBatt</b>			Security / PPU
14:35-15:05	<b>Lunch (15 pax + Gbarnga Team)</b>	PakBatt	DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf	Chris Dagadu (FC's Office) X: 0531 C: 088 087 4564
15:05-15:30	<b>Transfer to Gbarnga Cari Airfield</b>		DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf	Security / PPU
15:45-16:45	<b>Special flight from Gbarnga Cari Airfield to Spriggs Airfield (MI-8)</b>		DSRSG RoL Hon. Siakor-Sirleaf	Teofilo Natividad X: 5085 C: 0531 9724
16:45	<b>Transfer to Mamba Point Hotel</b>			Security / PPU
17:00-19:00	<b>Refresh</b>	Mamba Point Hotel		
19:00-21:00	<b>Reception in honour of PBC delegation</b>	Mamba Point Hotel	Hosted by the OiC UNMIL	Confirmed Georgina Hackman X: 4209 C: 0531 9608



**Thursday 17 May 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attending-UNMIL</b>	<b>Comments /Status/Contact</b>
8:40	<b>Transfer from Mamba Point Hotel</b>			Security / PPU
9:00-10:30	<b>Meeting with the Minister of Justice, Prosecution and security sector agencies</b>	MoJ	DSRSG RoL UNPOL Police Commissioner	Katie Barley X: 6371 C: 088 640 7768
10:30-10:45	<b>Transfer from the MoJ to the MoFA</b>			Security / PPU
11:00-12:00	<b>Meeting with the President of Liberia</b>	Executive Mansion	OiC UNMIL	Confirmed Elizabeth Chester X: 6305 C: 088 658 1691
12:15-12:45	<b>Lunch at the UNMIL HQ Cafeteria</b>			Georgina Hackman X: 4209 C: 0531 9608
13:00-14:30	<b>Roundtable with UNMIL Sections</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room	OiC UNMIL DSRSG RoL	Sara Rendtorff-Smith X: 6996 C: 0531 9643
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Meeting with the Law Reform Commission</b>	MoFA	Tammi Sharpe, PBSO on behalf of the Chair	
15:00-17:00	<b>PBC Joint Steering Committee</b>	Ministry of Planning Conference Room	OiC UNMIL / DSRSG R&G	Confirmed Wilfred Gray-Johnson C: 088 664 7010
17:15-17:45	<b>Debrief with DSRSG</b>	Office of the DSRSG	OiC UNMIL / DSRSG R&G	Sara Rendtorff-Smith X: 6996 C: 0531 9643
17:45-18:00	<b>Transfer to Mamba Point</b>			

	<b>Hotel</b>			
19:00-	<b>Cocktail</b>	The French Ambassador's Residence, Congotown	OiC UNMIL Ambassador Haroon Ambassador Tillander Ms. Tammi Sharpe	Richard de la Falaise X: 4331 C: 0531 9468

**Friday 18 May 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attending-UNMIL</b>	<b>Comments /Status/Contact</b>
8:15-9:00	<b>Breakfast meeting with the EU Head of Mission (7 pax)</b>	Mamba Point Hotel	Ambassador Tillander Tammi Sharpe EU Head of Mission German Ambassador Swedish Charge d'Affaires KatjaSvensson	KatjaSvensson C: 088 053 3215  Harmon Winham X: 4843 C: 088 655 3388
9:00-9:30	<b>Transfer from Mamba Point Hotel to the MoD / BTC</b>			Security / PPU
9:30-10:30	<b>Meeting with the Minister of Defense</b>	MoD / BTC		Rory Keane X: 6270 C: 0531 9908
10:45-12:00	<b>1: Meeting with USAID and US Embassy</b>  <b>2: Meeting with Justice and Security Donor Group</b>	Swedish Embassy	TBC	KatjaSvensson C: 088 053 3215
12:00-12:15	<b>Transfer to Mamba Point Hotel</b>			Security / PPU
12:15-13:15	<b>Meeting with the Chief</b>	Temple of	DSRSG RoL	Ancy Price

	<b>Justice and Associate Justices</b>	Justice		X: 4214 C: 0531 9465
13:30-14:15	<b>Meeting with the INCHR</b>	INCHR (Congo Town)		Raphael Abiem X: 6713 C: 0531 9227
14:30-15:00	<b>Interview with UNMIL Public Information Unit</b>	PAP	DSRSG RoL	YasminaBouziane X: 5225 C: 0531 9147
15:00-15:15	<b>Transfer to UNDP, Mamba Point</b>			Security / PPU
15:15-16:00	<b>Debriefing to the UN PBF recipient agencies</b>	Jordan Ryan Conference Room (UNDP), Mamba Point	RCO UNDP UN-Habitat UNICEF UNOPS JSJP PMU	SmaroSkoulikidis C: 088 687 6990
16:45-18:00	<b>Transfer to Roberts International Airport</b>			Security / PPU
20:40	<b>Departure from Monrovia on Brussels SN 247</b>	RIA	Ambassador Tillander	MovCon Margaret Jackson X: 6120 C: 0531 9183