

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
10 April 2012

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

1. On 10 April 2012, 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) PBSO Strategy for 2012 and 2013; (2) PBC Roadmap of Actions 2012: Implementation of Priority Actions (April – July) and Role of the Organizational Committee; and (3) Other matters. This meeting has been preceded by a preparatory informal/informal working-level meeting which took place on 4 April.

2. The Chairperson informed the Committee of the activities he had undertaken since he assumed the Chairmanship on 30 January 2012. These activities included a series of bilateral consultations with different stakeholders including representatives of countries on the PBC agenda, Permanent Members of the Security Council, and key donors, a briefing to the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement; and participation in the General Assembly plenary meeting convened on 19 March to discuss the PBC's report on its fifth session and the Secretary-General's report on the PBF. The Chairperson noted that the sum of these activities and events represented an attempt to explore the views and perspectives of Member States, reenergize their interest in the work of the PBC and encourage a broader ownership by key stakeholders of the Commission's work.

PBSO Strategy for 2012 and 2013;

3. The Chairperson noted that the PBSO developed the strategy in hand in line with the responsibilities assigned to it in the 2012 Roadmap and in order to enhance its focus on supporting the PBC address the key recommendations of the 2010 Review. He referred to the discussion which took place at the informal/informal working-level meeting of the Committee last week and noted that it helped the PBSO in further developing the strategy into the current version before the Committee.

4. In her introductory remarks, ASG Cheng-Hopkins noted that the strategy could prove to be pivotal in supporting the PBC to drive forward the future of the Peacebuilding Architecture in the UN and that it aims to "shift gears" over the next two years, in response to the pertinent findings of the 2010 Review. She emphasized that the strategy directly responds to the PBC's views and concerns communicated through the series of consultations in the preceding weeks, and that it rests on three pillars, namely:

- Placing support to the PBC center-stage by helping it: define its niche and tackling challenges to achievement of results in the field; develop success criteria of PBC

engagement; streamline working practices; develop lighter forms of engagement with the field; and to define an approach to decision-making on 'exit from' the PBC agenda.

- Strengthening UN system leadership and coordination on peacebuilding, both in the field and at Headquarters through: provision of technical support to UN in the field through the Peacebuilding Fund; and by strengthening the role of the UN Senior Peacebuilding Group (SPG) at the Headquarters.
- Improving communications on peacebuilding by: drawing in outside knowledge to the UN and the PBC, maintaining new and user friendly websites, and through a number of communications products and tools.

ASG Cheng-Hopkins finally noted that prioritization of actions will be guided by an implementation plan, which will be internally reviewed every six months.

PBC Roadmap of Actions 2012: Implementation of Priority Actions (April – July) and Role of the Organizational Committee

5. The Chairperson referred to a discussion paper prepared and circulated in order to facilitate the consideration of this item and included indicative questions. He also referred to the preliminary discussion which took place at the working-level and generated an overall agreement with the three priority areas drawn from the Roadmap of Actions in 2012, namely: **resource mobilization, partnerships and capacity-Building; relationships within the UN; and strengthening the working methods**, as well as areas requiring ongoing efforts such as: **enhancing coordination, and communications**.

6. The Chairperson identified the key question being “**how**” the Committee will undertake its two roles, as: a) implementer of certain actions; and b) the body entrusted with overseeing overall implementation of the Roadmap and with reporting on overall progress. The Chairperson sought the Committee’s concrete suggestions on the aforementioned question. He also noted that working-level consultations also placed strong emphasis on the need for a “whole of PBC approach” to the core mandates and objectives of the Commission, while ensuring that the focus remains on delivering results in the countries on the agenda.

7. Member States welcomed the introductory remarks made by the Chair and ASG Cheng-Hopkins and highlighted the following elements:

PBSO strategy:

- a) Overall objectives and tenets of the strategy are welcome.
- b) Prioritization of support to the PBC is welcome and necessary. Particular emphasis to be placed on: the linkage with the field, partnerships with IFIs, convening role within the UN, success/progress indicators, and enhanced communications.
- c) Linking the PBC with UN and global peacebuilding initiatives (Civilian capacities, post-2015 framework, QCPR 2012, “New Deal”/g7+ ...etc) is also essential.

- d) Lessons learned from PBF experience need to support peacebuilding policy development.
- e) Bi-annual reviews of progress in the implementation of the strategy are welcome and much needed.
- f) Corresponding efforts from, as well as responsiveness and commitment by Member States will be necessary for the strategy to achieve its desired results.

PBC Roadmap of Actions 2012 and the role of the Committee

- a) Working-level preparatory consultations ahead of Committee meeting help develop a sense of broader ownership of the Roadmap implementation and evaluation processes.
- b) Priorities identified in the discussion paper are broadly supported.
- c) Enhancing impact in the field must be prioritized in the implementation of the Roadmap. The Committee's role in this regard is essential through: reviewing PBC's working-methods with focus on strengthening linkages with operational actors, exercising its coordination role within the UN system, overseeing the development of realistic indicators for measuring progress and evaluating impact, and defining punctual and distinct contribution to Security Council decision-making process.
- d) Communications with and visibility of the PBC at the capitals and at the country-level are crucial factors for broadening the support to the Commission's objectives. One delegation proposed the consideration of institutionalizing an annual session of the Committee to attract regular capital-based participation.
- e) Linking the PBC with peacebuilding policy development is a crucial task for the Committee by addressing the implications of certain recommendations from the SG's report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict for countries on the agenda, peacebuilding ownership and the role of the emerging g7+, partnerships with regional and civil society actors ...etc.
- f) Reporting by the Committee on overall assessment of PBC and UN system-wide related progress in the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 Review should draw on periodic interaction with country configurations.

8. The chairperson summarized the main points from the discussion and suggested that the Committee re-convene at the working-level in order to agree on practical modalities to take forward a number of valuable and concrete suggestions made around the three identified priority areas within a specified timeline.
