

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
8 March 2013

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 8 March 2013, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Croatia, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Civilian Capacities: support to national institution-building; (2) Update on transition financing mechanisms: Briefing by PBSO on dialogue and collaboration among key actors.

Civilian Capacities: support to national institution-building

1. The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming the Chef de Cabinet and Chair of the Civcap Steering Committee Ms. Malcorra. He emphasised the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as a policy platform for advancing the paradigm of South-South and triangular cooperation which Civilian Capacities is developing, as well as for developing practical, flexible and demand-driven modalities for supporting such cooperation. He proposed for consideration the possibility of piloting these modalities in two or three countries on the Peacebuilding Commission agenda, and highlighted the importance of the Civilian Capacities initiative continuing to work through the Organizational Committee and Country-Specific Configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission.

2. Ms. Malcorra stressed that Civcap was not a one-off project with limited impact, but rather a cross-cutting initiative commissioned by the Secretary-General which aimed to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to deliver effective, timely, coordinated support to strengthening national institutions in the aftermath of conflict or crisis. She underlined areas of common interest between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Civcap initiative, namely: (i) that national ownership is crucial for institution-building; (ii) that experience from other countries who have faced similar challenges, in particular South-South exchanges, can be an important source of assistance, and; (iii) that the United Nations system needs to work closely together to support the five key areas most related to minimising the risk of relapse into conflict: inclusive political processes, safety and security, justice and rule of law, public administration and economic revitalisation.

3. Ms Malcorra stressed two aspects of the Civcap initiative. First, the Civcap initiative continues to advance country level results already achieved in 2012. These include results in relation to civilian capacities in Timor-Leste, Libya and South Sudan. In addition, there are exchanges of experience underway, or being planned, between national authorities in Côte d'Ivoire and Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa on demobilisation and security sector reform, with the support of the

Peacebuilding Fund; as well as support to the Liberian Government's Security and Justice Strategy and the related activities carried out by UNMIL and the country team through support from the Peacebuilding Fund, such as the partnership with the World Bank on the question of strengthening the Government's commitment to sustain the operation of the planned security and justice hubs.

4. Ms Malcorra added that progress has also been made in supporting national ownership and demand-led approach to prioritization of needs by the further development of tools and approaches which: a) reinforce national ownership in United Nations planning processes, b) support national authorities in operationalizing national priorities, and c) assist missions to respond to national institution-building priorities. Examples of tools and support include:

- the revised guidelines on integrated mission planning;
- guidance for national partners on planning and budgeting across the police, justice and corrections sector;
- guidelines for the United Nations system on national capacity development;
- measures to facilitate access to specialized expertise of Member States through the development of draft guidelines covering civilian government provided personnel with the legal status of expert on mission;
- CAPMATCH, the online platform launched in September and has already helped to provide country-level support to institution-building efforts, for example in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

5. Ms. Malcorra noted that the second aspect of the Civcap initiative has been in supporting increased South-South and triangular cooperation. Work is being launched to identify options for innovative financing models, which will complement the work of the Peacebuilding Commission on fostering South-South and triangular cooperation, identified as a priority in the PBC's 2012 and 2013 Agenda for Actions.

6. Ms. Malcorra concluded her briefing by setting out possible areas of closer collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Civcap initiative: working through the Country-Specific Configurations in areas of highest priority to the countries on the PBC agenda, for example by identifying potential matches through CAPMATCH and using tools developed as part of Civcap to support national institution-building in two or three countries on the PBC agenda.

7. Members welcomed Ms Malcorra's briefing, expressed support for the Civcap initiative, stressed the value of both focusing on and communicating results on the ground, and reaffirmed the importance of Civcap working in close collaboration with the PBC on specific initiatives.

8. Member States noted that institution-building is an important aspect of peacebuilding and that the civilian capacity initiative can draw attention to the need to overcome deficits in support to national institutions. The institution-building areas covered by Civcap – inclusive political processes, security, rule of law, economic

revitalization and public administration – were highlighted as important for countries on the agenda of the PBC. Member States also underlined that greater attention to civilian capacities and institution-building in post-conflict countries where there are peacekeeping operations is an important complement to the work done by military and police components.

9. Member States emphasized the importance of national ownership of institution-building processes, and the need for post-conflict civilian capacity support to be demand-driven and able to adapt quickly to respond to national requests and priorities. In this connection, Member States inquired about plans to report on results and impact of the CivCap support in Libya, South Sudan and Timor Leste.

10. Member States generally welcomed the progress being made in the development of tools such as CAPMATCH . At the same time, it was noted that this tool is still at an initial stage and that it would be necessary to measure results achieved and lessons learned.

11. Member States particularly emphasized the importance of demonstrating the results of new and improved tools and methods on the ground. In this respect, it was suggested that at least one specific priority area covered by the Civcap initiative be identified within each of the six Country-Specific Configurations for joint Peacebuilding Commission-Civcap delivery of results in response to Government priorities. This should include a way to document and disseminate evidence-based narratives of positive outcomes and to learn from experiences. The use of the Peacebuilding Fund to support such priorities was welcomed.

12. Member States stressed the importance of fostering South-South and triangular cooperation, and highlighted the need to show that triangular cooperation could work in situations where governments determine that they want third country support. Interest was shown in the contribution CAPMATCH could play in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation and in aligning with South-South initiatives already underway in governments. Member States looked forward to the CivCap work on innovative financing for South-South and triangular cooperation, including further discussion with the PBC and with bilateral donors in this area. Member States also expressed support for bringing international financial institutions on board with these approaches and for considering links with non-traditional donors.

13. ASG Cheng-Hopkins noted the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in supporting catalytic initiatives and the close cooperation that has already been initiated between the Peacebuilding Support Office and Civcap in supporting innovative South-South exchanges and integrated UN approaches in Liberia and Libya. In this connection. She welcomed the proposal to identify one priority area in each of the six PBC agenda countries to pilot CivCap-type support.

Update on transition financing mechanisms: Briefing by PBSO on dialogue and collaboration among key actors.

14. PBSO briefed on a workshop which took place in February 2013 and addressed the evolving financing mechanism for transition. PBSO noted that this was the second in a series of discussions that brings together practitioners to exchange knowledge and ideas

on how to enhance collaboration and complementarity across conflict- and fragility-focused financing instruments (FCS) - the African Development Bank's Fragile States Facility (FSF), the World Bank's Statebuilding and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF), the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and UNDP's Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (TTF). Participants included managing staff from the four instruments as well as a number of representatives from Member State stakeholders and independent peacebuilding practitioners.

15. PBSO also noted that the objectives of the workshop were to:

- Analyse the roles and key characteristics of FCS financing instruments leading towards a clear and simple overview of the different funds in an agreed format
- Increase collaboration among FCS financing instruments in four pilot countries (Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen) and better understanding of existing collaboration
- Provide an overview of current global trends in FCS financing
- Enhance dialogue with donors on the roles of FCS financing instruments

16. PBSO finally underscored that the workshop helped to build momentum for collaboration and that representatives of participating FCS agreed to jointly develop a document which will describe the different roles of the instruments. It was further agreed to intensify collaboration more formally in two pilot countries in order to experiment with horizontal linkages and mechanisms of collaboration.
