

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
20 December 2013

Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion

Background

On 20 December 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) Informal adoption of the PBC report on its seventh session; (2) Update on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund; and (3) Other matters.

Informal adoption of the PBC report on its seventh session

1. The Chairperson presented to Member States the draft Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its seventh session. He noted that the Report follows the agreed structure of last year's report by streamlining the reporting on progress in the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 Review. In this regard, the Report addressed progress made in the implementation of the 2013 Forward Agenda, as well as achievements and challenges in the Commission's performance of its three core functions, namely: advocacy and accompaniment; resource mobilization and partnerships; and forging coherence. He stressed that the Report emphasizes the links between these three functions and the need for the PBC to perform them within an overarching strategic vision of what added value it can and should bring in each country-specific context.

2. The Chair also noted that the Report places particular emphasis on enhancing the role and contribution of its membership across the board; its links with the three UN Principal Organs; and on further rationalizing its working methods, most notably on cross-learning amongst configurations. With regard to the role of the membership, the Chair expressed his sincere appreciation for Member States who volunteered specific tasks related to the implementation of the 2013 Forward Agenda, namely Indonesia, Norway, Rwanda and South Africa.

3. The Chair further noted two key highlights of the 2014 Forward Agenda: (1) The agreement reached on convening an annual session of the PBC starting June 2014, and (2) The initiation of advance preparation for the 2015 Review: the Chair noted that the actions envisaged under the Forward Agenda for 2014 are introduced in support of this advance preparation.

4. After the Committee informally adopted the Report, Member States took the floor and focused their interventions on the following issues:

- Welcoming the decisions to hold an annual session of the Commission in connection with the annual stakeholders meeting of the Peacebuilding Fund; and to initiate preparation for the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture;
- Welcoming the emphasis placed on the need for increased participation of a broader segment of the PBC membership in guiding and supporting the activities of the Commission at the policy and country-level;
- Improving the working methods of the Commission. A proposal was introduced by one delegation to seek PBSO's advice on options for improving the participation of Member States and its connection with seating arrangements in PBC meetings. This, it is believed, can help facilitate interactive and more result-oriented discussions among members.

Update on the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund

4. The Chair invited the representative of PBSO to present the progress made by the Peacebuilding Fund in 2013 and its priorities for 2014. The Chair underlined the importance of the synergy between the PBC and PBF in promoting coherence and strengthening partnerships. Both pillars of the Peacebuilding Architecture share the same objectives in the countries where we are engaged, namely support national peacebuilding efforts and objectives. The briefing by PBSO was structured around key points from the report of the 7-8 October meeting of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of the PBF. The Chair of the Advisory Group could not brief the PBC in person following the October meeting due to issues of logistics.

5. The presentation highlighted the results of PBSO's enhanced strategy in 2013 aimed at improving PBF allocations from a relatively low level in 2012 while strengthening the quality of peacebuilding interventions. As of December 2013, allocations stood at about \$84 million which commensurate with the Fund's Business Plan target of a \$100 million a year. To achieve these results, PBSO noted that it instituted a more proactive approach to assist in country project/programme design, focused attention and resources on a select list of priority countries, and continued to intensify efforts to improve collaboration with International Finance Institutions (IFIs). Specific reference was made on how the more nimble, agile and risk-taking Immediate Response Facility (IRF) was utilized in countries, such as Guinea-Bissau and CAR with suspended Priority Plan and programmatic Peace and Recovery Facility (PRF) support. The IRF allocations were aimed at supporting renewed political engagements by the respective SRSGs in those countries.

6. Although the projected PBF income in 2013 of about \$40 million was expected to be lower than the previous high of about \$80 million, PBSO noted that the Fund's current liquidity position will enable it to achieve the Plan target for allocations.

7. The comprehensive PBF Review, launched in July 2013 to assess the implementation of the PBF Business Plan 2010-13 in anticipation of updating the Plan for the next three year, will be an important discussion item for the next annual Stakeholders event in June 2014. The final Review report, expected in February 2014, will also be an important input into the 2015 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

8. PBSO further shed light on its efforts to support Liberia with the development of a peacebuilding financing dashboard. This was a result of a joint project with the EU to help the country track and monitor financing for peacebuilding. PBSO noted that the PBC may find this financial tracking tool useful and applicable in other countries on its agenda.

9. Following the presentation, Member States took the floor and made the following points:

- Expressing satisfaction with the work and trajectory of the PBF. One member took the opportunity to announce its commitment to continue its funding contributions.
- Acknowledging the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding interventions when the political (the PBC) and the funding (PBF) aspects of such intervention work in concert to achieve set common goals.
- Emphasizing that the ongoing PBF Review is an important process that will generate important lessons on how to further improve the synergy between the PBC and the PBF.
- Stressing the need for renewed efforts to bolster partnerships with IFIs and calling for greater PBC advocacy with the World Bank to complement country-level initiatives by the PBF and other instruments.

Other matters

10. The Chair referred to his note pertaining to the chairmanship of the Commission in 2014 and recalled that, as established by the PBC provisional rules of procedure, 2014 will be the turn of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group (GRULAC) which endorsed Brazil as its candidate. The Chair informed that he is undertaking consultations with other interested regional groups in order to identify the two vice-chairs of the Commission, noting that the Group of Eastern European States (EEG) endorsed the candidature of Croatia for one of the two Vice Chairs positions.

11. The Chair also informed Member States that, in view of the expiration of terms of the Chair and other officers of the Commission on 31 December 2013, and as per established practice, he will circulate a note seeking the consent of the Committee to extend the terms of office until 29 January 2014. He noted that on that day, the formal adoption of the PBC report on its seventh session, as well as elections of the Chair and other officers will take place.
