

PBC ANNUAL SESSION - 2014

23 June 2014

Concept paper

"Sustainable support for peacebuilding: the domestic and international aspects"

Effective and sustainable systems for resource mobilization are a key element of the consolidation of peace in countries emerging from conflict. The session will examine the financial and human capital aspects of resource mobilization as a comprehensive concept and a core mandate of the PBC. Resource mobilization also needs to be addressed both in its national and international components, with due consideration for the principle of national ownership and the fundamental objective of providing sustainable support to improve the lives of affected populations.

The proposed theme matches the criteria set out in the agreed modalities for convening the annual session (see annex of A/68/729 - S/2014/67), while also reflecting the multidimensional nature of peacebuilding and having the potential to attract broader interest from among countries emerging from conflict and key partners within and outside the UN. It will be framed and presented in a narrative and supported by examples through introductory and keynote statements to be made at the opening and closing segments of the session.

Two interactive sessions will address specific aspects of the theme and will be organized around the two sub-themes detailed below. The two interactive sessions are envisaged to allow for the discussions at the annual session to lead to further policy development and to improved coordination among international organizations and Member States. Relevant UN and non-UN actors will be invited to share their perspectives and contribute to the discussions in the interactive sessions.

The interactive discussions should aim at further elaborating where inter-governmental policy and political support can improve outcomes for people in countries emerging from conflict in the selected sub-themes. The discussions will be drawing on examples from the experience of the PBC and the countries on its agenda, and possibly other countries which have undergone similar experiences.

Sub-theme 1: Mobilization of international and domestic resources and revenue generation

Effective mechanisms for generating domestic revenues and mobilizing internal resources are crucial for promoting development, as well as ensuring greater national ownership and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. International engagement and support is often critical in assisting post-conflict countries develop national institutions and revenue systems, as well as in combating illicit financial flows which can represent a significant form of leakage of domestic revenues in post-conflict settings. In this context, the interactive discussion can address strategies for maximizing resources available for public services and development through strengthened institutions, as well as cooperation to restrict international illicit financial flows. The discussion can benefit from and complement the work started by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union, the African Development Bank and the World Bank in these areas.

Sub-theme 2: Lessons learned on the development of national capacities and sustainability of resources in the context of UN missions' transitions

The drawdown or withdrawal of UN mandated missions represent natural outcomes as peacebuilding processes evolve in a sustainable manner. At the same time, they constitute a challenging step, taking into consideration that the development of national capacities in post-conflict settings often occurs at varying paces and requires sustained support. The planning for and eventual transition of UN presence must be carefully managed and undertaken with a view to long-term sustainability of critical activities and processes. Efforts aimed at the development of critical national institutions and capacities are vital and must be harnessed as part of transition strategies from UN missions to UN Country Teams. Drawing upon the discussions within the PBC's Working Group on Lessons Learned, the interactive discussion could illustrate the challenges of peace consolidation in the context of ongoing national capacities' development programmes, as well as changing financial arrangements, predictability and sustainability associated with the transition in the nature of the UN presence from mission to non-mission contexts.

Format:

Opening and closing sessions

Will be held in plenary and will be designed around opening remarks by invited dignitaries and keynote address by an international figure. The keynote address should help frame the thinking around various aspects of the overarching theme and areas for improved policy approaches and coordination.

Interactive working sessions on sub-themes

The interactive working sessions will take place in between the opening and closing sessions. It will bring together Member States (including Chairs of CSCs and countries on the agenda), relevant UN officials, representatives of institutional partners (IFIs, etc.), regional and local actors, relevant experts (practitioners/academia) and civil society organizations.

The interactive working sessions will be initiated by a short presentation drawing, to the extent possible, on specific country example(s), to be followed by an interactive discussion. Each working session will have a designated rapporteur who will present the main outcome of the discussion at the closing session **OR** submit a summary of the main findings of the working sessions for inclusion in the Chair's final report of the annual session.

Structure/Programme:

Opening session

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Opening remarks by the PBC Chair, SG/DSG + Address by a Keynote-speaker

Interactive working session (1)

11:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m.: **Mobilization of international and domestic resources and revenue generation**

Interactive working session (2)

03:00 – 04:30 p.m.: **Lessons learned on the development of national capacities and sustainability of resources in the context of UN missions' transitions**

Closing session

05:00 – 06:00 p.m.: Closing remarks by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council

Concluding remarks by the PBC Chair

Outcome:

As set out in the agreed modalities, the principles, conclusions and recommendations of the annual session will be considered and agreed by the OC and reflected in the PBC's annual report. The Chair will submit an informal Chair's report of the discussions which will be the basis of the OC deliberations.

* * *