

**Peacebuilding Commission – Liberia Configuration**  
**Report of the Chair’s visit to Liberia, 7 – 15 November 2010**

**I. Introduction**

1. As my first visit, as well as the first official visit of the PBC Liberia Configuration to the country, the overarching goal of the mission was to become familiar with the situation in the country, meet national stakeholders and introduce the work of the PBC. Within this goal four (4) key objectives fell:
  - (1) Hold consultations with stakeholders discussing how the PBC can 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;
  - (2) Explore how the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) can serve as a counterpart for the Liberia Country Specific Configuration (CSC) at the country level;
  - (3) Hold a Country Specific Meeting via VTC in order to adopt the Statement of Mutual Commitment (SMC) and establish a solid link between the NY CSC and the CSC at the country level; and
  - (4) Engage with the JSC in the preparation of the Priority Plan with the prospect of initiating the immediate project implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hub as well as identifying opportunities for resource mobilization;
2. The following report contains a summary of my impressions and assessments for PBC’s engagement. While the trip was relatively short consisting of eight (8) full days, I was able to meet with key international and national (government and non-governmental) stakeholders in the capital and in two (2) counties along with visit 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 documented in the assessment mission. I was also able to assess the comparative advantage of the PBC and from this report am devising a work plan for the next 9 months to be discussed with the configuration.
3. At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Liberia for having guided and facilitated this visit, as well as the national and international stakeholders for their availability, openness and engagement. I also wish to thank 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.
4. I would also like to recognize the important contributions of members of the mission who accompanied me. Andrei Shkourko, Senior Political Affairs Officer, DPKO and Tammi Sharpe, Peacebuilding Advisor, PBSO were with me throughout the mission. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Judy Cheng-Hopkins, the Permanent Representative to the UN for Liberia, Ambassador Marjon Kamara and Robert Pulver, Chief, Criminal Law and Judicial Advisor Service, DPKO joined me from 11 – 15 November.
5. This report is structured around the four objectives. Each section contains recommendations for PBC and in some instances proposals for the JSC to consider for the PBF programme.

These proposals and recommendations identify what I found to be the first priority areas for intervention. Aiming to bring some sequencing into the Configuration's activities, some activities are to be carried out before the scheduled nine (9) month review in July; others are more long-term.

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

6. I was able to consult a range of stakeholders from both the international and national communities. Among nationals, I met a diverse cross-section of the society. Stakeholders expressed consensus with the three (3) priorities that were included in the SMC and shared keen insights on the Liberian conflict and the durability of peace in the country in relation to these priorities. While the country has made remarkable progress since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), remaining challenges are enormous but surmountable.
7. As the PBC's role is to assist in the transition of UNMIL, PBC's activities will be of direct relevance in meeting a number of UNMIL benchmarks: Armed Forces of Liberia operational, Liberia National Police operational, National Security Strategy and architecture operational, security sector budgetary support enhanced, control and monitoring of movements across borders operational, effective State authority throughout Liberia's territory, justice sector reform, corrections reform, promotion and protection of human rights and reconciliation progressing.

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

8. I see rule of law and security sector reform as two priorities that are intrinsically linked. PBC interventions in these areas will need to be well coordinated for their full impact to be realized.
9. **Regional Hubs** is the main project in these two areas. The concept outlined in the project proposal expertly built upon progress achieved to date and lays the ground to realize existing plans falling under all the benchmarks listed above. Significant opportunities equally exist for other complementary projects to be developed alongside the Hub.
10. During my visit, I had the opportunity to break ground for the first Hub. UNOPS is fully in the lead in constructing the structure and is pulling on its extensive experience to ensure that the project is completed on time. The Hub is designed with solar panels, which will reduce recurring costs for the Government. The use of common services (e.g. logistics base, vehicle maintenance facility, radio communication, budget and procurement section) will further reduce costs. The construction will also have a positive impact on youth unemployment as it will generate employment for 300 local community members, who will benefit from construction training in order to maintain the buildings. Another 100 skilled laborers originating from other parts of the country will also form part of the construction team. PBSO has requested for the Government to appoint a focal point for UNOPS to ensure that government officials are deployed to the Hub in a coordinated manner.
11. The Hub is located in Gbarnga in Bong County with coverage extending throughout three (3) counties: Bong, Lofa and Nimba. These counties were well prioritized for the first Hub due to three common key characteristics: area covered includes locations with international borders; communities in these counties were severely affected by the war; and outside of the capital, these counties have the greatest population concentrations (30%).

12. However, I have serious concerns about sustainability. I was fortunate in that the LNP Inspector General, BIN Chief Commissioner and the Acting Minister of Justice accompanied me on my field visits to Bong and Lofa Counties. I found them to be fully committed to the project seeing it as a means to realize their own strategic plans. They also portrayed an appreciation for the importance of ensuring that the Government will be able to sustain the Hubs in the long term. But, as they clearly pointed out, decisions on budgetary allocations are made by the Ministry of Finance and the Executive Office. While I did not have time to meet with the Ministry of Finance during this visit, I did alert the President to the matter.
13. Immediately, at hand are the enormous challenges that exist for the effective deployment of the various branches of rule of law. Below per branch are descriptions of progress and areas for attention.
14. ***Liberian National Police (LNP):*** Impressive progress has been recorded in the reform of the LNP but a number of key activities remain to be achieved to enable the LNP to effectively take over from UNPOL. Presently, UNPOL has a mandated strength of 1,375 deployed in 23 police bases of which 5 have formed police units. These bases are housed in UN Military bases, which total 32 throughout the country. LNP has 168 posts, of which 144 are manned but of these half (72) have less than 4 police officers and absenteeism is problematic. The bulk of officers are currently in the capital. There is a general reluctance to deploy in the interior due to the poor living conditions. I am optimistic that the provisions of staff accommodations, quality workspace and adequate materials for working will serve as incentives.
15. Training has been an on-going activity and key indicators have been achieved: 4055 officers have received basic training. The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is established with a force of 332. Energies are currently devoted to building the Police Support Unit (PSU) which currently stands at 241 and is planned to reach a force capacity of 600 by mid 2011. The National Police Training Academy, which trains all branches of security under the Ministry of Justice, is effectively providing basic training with accreditation by the Ministry of Education. Nonetheless, more specialized training is needed with forensics being the next priority skill to be developed as well as assistance in administrative management matters.
16. Pulling from the LNP Strategic Plan, command and control is to be established at each Hub. Presently, the LNP Headquarters covers the entire country. I have no illusions about the difficulties involved in terms of changing the current practices both standard operating procedures as well as shifting officers' mind sets in reporting from the Police Headquarters to Regional Centres. This will entail properly empowering the Regional Commissioners and will take some time.
17. I visited a number of police stations, some of which had benefited from UNMIL Quick Impact Projects or rehabilitation efforts primarily by UNDP. The conditions varied from poor structures to a relative acceptable building.
18. Critical priority areas for support include uniforms, communications equipment and mobility. Repeatedly people raised the important symbolic importance of uniforms, which can portray project an image of professionalism and competence thereby generating confidence among the population in the LNP. Communications was also mentioned on a number of occasions in terms of enabling officers to communicate with each other. The high costs of the necessary

equipment were noted. The lack of means for transport makes the LNP almost completely dependent on UNMIL in case of an emergency deployment, as demonstrated by the case in Lofa County during a breakdown of public law and order in February 2010.

19. In the sub-regional context, a key initiative of Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) that was highlighted is the West Africa coast Initiative (WACI). All the security forces agree on the establishment of a Transnational Crime Unit. This Unit is currently being set up. Technical expertise is reportedly available but the Unit will need financial resources.
20. **Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN):** Reform within BIN is equally progressing. Ghana is a key partner in terms of training immigration officers. There are 176 crossing points in the country; the Government has prioritized 36. Visits were made to BIN offices including one at the border and another inside a city (Gbarnga). The conditions of the buildings and the working space were generally poor. Like the LNP critical areas for support are uniforms, communications, accommodation and mobility.
21. **Judicial:** As well documented in the assessment report, rule of law is fundamentally overwhelmed by current demands on the system. This is plainly evident from the huge backlog of pre-trial cases and the general public's lack of faith in the system.
22. I see two (2) core challenges. The first concerns staffing and basic working tools - adequate training, court buildings, measuring cabinets, paper, pens etc. The second relates to policies/ rules and procedures and this challenge strikes me as the more critical and more difficult one.
23. The Judiciary is seriously handicapped by its own policies, rules and procedures, which will seriously negate all other efforts in this sector including the development of the LNP, if critical areas of judiciary law are not reformed. Key amongst these is: limited jurisdiction of magistrate judges; time frame of the circuit courts; and jury requirements. Presently, the first instance level (magistrate court) refers the majority of cases to the circuit courts. However, the circuit courts only manage to process around 1/3 of their cases mainly due to jury requirements for all cases and short court time frames.
24. I was impressed by a couple of innovations that are being implemented to address certain limitations. A Magistrates Sitting Programme, which involves 13 lawyers hearing cases at the Magistrate level in Monrovia, is an attempt to clear up the backlog of pre-trial cases detained in the Monrovia Central Prison. This Programme aims to examine the possibilities for expanding the Magistrates' jurisdiction, which is assessed as a means to significantly decrease the current backlog of cases. However, before this pilot can be expanded, there would need to be essentially an overhaul of the system as the education level of the Magistrates throughout the country dramatically varies with some Magistrates based in rural communities having no formal education. These 13 lawyers within the pilot are in fact the only Magistrate Judges who hold law degrees. UNMIL with the consent of the Judiciary is also assessing judges' workloads with the Judiciary's agreement to examine needs for reassignment of judges to better ensure processing of cases.
25. Nonetheless, there is some significant resistance within the system for reform, which seems, at least in part, to be related to nationalistic views with many saying "this is the Liberian way". This is best illustrated by the policy that all persons practicing law in Liberia need to be Liberian;

this is unique to this profession. Foreigners are able to work in all other specialized fields including sensitive ones such as the Chief of Staff of the Army, who is a national from another ECWOAS State.

26. **Corrections:** I visited one prison in Bong County, which had been renovated by UNHCR. A visit had been planned to the Central Prison in Monrovia but due to an outbreak of pink eye, it was not possible to go; this on its own, however; conveyed the poor conditions in the prison. While the prison in Bong County was not overcrowded (capacity of 90 with 81 detainees at the time of the visit), this is a general challenge in the country. Worthy of flagging is that of the 81 detainees, 70 are pre-trial detainees. In my meeting with the President and other concerned officials I mentioned a project for their consideration that had been successfully implemented in Brazil. This project allowed for a reduction of a prisoner's sentence in turn for successful participation in learning programmes. This had the benefit of decreasing the number of prisoners while also assisting in preparing them for life after prison.
27. **Civil Society Actors:** UN Agencies and NGOs are implementing various projects on legal rights awareness, legal aid, community out-reach that are complementary to the activities of the LNP and judicial actors. Some of these have been started with funding from the PBF. Such outreach projects will be critical to the successful implementation of the Hub. The Hub is a concrete example of the extension of the arm of the State into the interior of the country. Historically, Government services have been centered in the capital fueling sentiments of discrimination. This extension of government is, thus, critical in addressing a root cause of the conflict that some argue could still trigger conflict. Yet, this needs to be done in a sensitive manner that does not impinge on the local communities' rights. Accordingly, the implementation of legal rights awareness, legal aid, community out-reach activities will be critical to creating a conducive environment for the establishment of the Hub. The Hub, in addition to being a physical structure, will also promote various soft components such as mechanisms for civilians to lodge complaints, community policing, victim support and community liaison services and legal advice.
28. Lack of a national public broadcast, however, could become a significant obstacle in the long-term for public outreach by the Government and other actors. This service is essentially provided via UNMIL radio at this point. While an array of media outlets exist in the country. Most have extremely limited capacity; only one private radio station comes close to having the coverage of UNMIL. Moreover, most journalists are not professionally trained. Limited communication thus generates sentiments of exclusion and fosters transmission of rumours that can lead to mob violence.
29. **Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL):** Distinct from the Hub, a meeting was held with the Ministry of Defense. ECOWAS support has been and continues to be critical for supporting the development of the AFL alongside the activities of the United States Government<sup>1</sup>. In the sub-region Ghana and Nigeria are the critical States supporting the AFL. ECOWAS is also seen as the regime through which collective security in the sub-region will be maintained. While the Government of Liberia plans for Liberian soldiers to contribute to ECOWAS and the AU's Standby Force, the Ministry expressed the view that this would not be feasible in the near future

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<sup>1</sup> In the CPA the United States Government was given responsibility for the reform of the AFL.

due to the limited capacity of the AFL. On this same point, concern was raised about inclusion in the SMC on the date of 2012 for the AFL to qualify as full operational capacity. The Minister and the Chief of Staff also disputed mention of a lack of clarity on the role of the army arguing that the role of the army is defined in the Constitution and discussed in the National Security Act.

### **Recommendations for the Liberia CSC:**

30. I see judicial reform as the first priority for the CSC. This is critical for the successful implementation of the Hub project as well as all other related activities. Towards this end:
- The PBC can use its advisory role to mobilize and/or support national actors, who are central to advancing judicial reform. In my next mission, I will:
    - Continue to develop partnerships with key government counterparts – Supreme Court Justices, Ministry of Justice (LNP, BIN, Solicitor General, Corrections);
    - Engage new potential national partners, who could advance judicial reform – Liberian Bar Association, Judicial Training Institute, civil society actors with legal portfolios and the Law Reform Commission; and
    - Brief the Judiciary Committees in both Houses of the Legislature on PBC’s engagement in Liberia.
  - The PBC’s fundraising role will also be valuable in promoting and seeking funds for the continuation and expansion of current legal awareness raising projects that were widely praised during the mission.
31. I am also conscious that the successful implementation of the first Hub will likely set an indelible precedent for the PBC that will either greatly facilitate the advocacy and fundraising roles of the PBC in terms of gaining the confidence of the national and international communities or indicate too high of risk in investing in Liberia. I thus advise the following:
- PBC to work with the Government and other relevant actors to determine how to sustainably incorporate recurring costs of the Hub(s) into the national budget in a manner contributes to the Government’s efforts to establish sound fiscal policies.
  - Invite UNOPS and the Liberian Government counterpart to periodically brief the CSC on status of project implementation of the Hub to enable the CSC to remain abreast of the project development advising as appropriate.
32. ECOWAS is a key player in the sub-region and I think the PBC should examine how to support Liberia’s participation in ECOWAS lead activities such as WACI. Fortunately, the Chairs for the Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone Configurations are in the early phases of carrying out such an assessment and the Liberia Configuration has been welcomed to join. I would also advise for ECOWAS’ views to be sought out on the development of the AFL with a view towards ensuring that current plans remain on track for the AFL to be operational by 2012. I will also further examine the difference of views concerning the clarity of the AFL’s role and meet with those involved in the finalization of the National Defense Strategy during an upcoming mission.

### **Proposals for the JSC**

33. With full deference to the role of the JSC, I would like to share a few proposals for possible consideration that stood out as potentially reinforcing the above recommended PBC activities;

these include:

- Support to the bar association in establishing their Secretariat as a means to empower this body to advance judicial reforms;
- Support to progressive national civil society actors with legal portfolios who may also be in a position to advance judicial reforms;
- Expand rights awareness, legal aid, community out-reach projects in a manner that reflects the establishment of the Hubs and can contribute to the development of the national media; and
- Ensure that adequate provisions are made for uniforms, communication equipment and mobility for security personnel.

**B. National Reconciliation:**

34. I heard very strong views on the status of reconciliation in the country. Liberians, particularly representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and political parties, called for international support to advance national reconciliation efforts. Emphasis was placed on the non-resolution of the root causes (namely - foundations / historical establishment of the State, ethnic tensions) as still plaguing consolidation of peace and key to creating the necessary environment for development. Frustration was expressed with one-off events and projects that last for six (6) months or a year. People pointed out that continuous and long-term efforts at the community level are needed in this area. Some cautioned how achievements to date in recovery could easily be overturned such as illustrated by the incident in Lofa County in February 2010.
35. While frustrated, I found Government officials, members of civil society, representatives of political parties and citizens to be quite balanced in their views. People recognized that significant efforts have been made in the area of national reconciliation, notably the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). However, while the Government of Liberia has accepted the TRC's report, efforts to implement the recommendations of the final report continue but at a slow pace. People presented themselves as impatient to see concrete efforts to ensure that the reconciliation agenda continues to advance.
36. No clear activity emerged as the best way forward e.g. reparations, ceremonial events or prosecution but the advice and support of the international community was plainly requested. Many highlighted the importance of building upon activities that are being undertaken at the grassroots level. PBF is supporting some of these community based projects including peace education, establishment of Peace Committees and construction of Peace Huts, the latter are being designed with a view towards creating linkages with the recommendation of Palva Huts in the TRC Report.
37. **Land disputes** were presented as a serious threat to peace that need to be urgently resolved. The exact number of disputes is not known but some estimated that it could reach into the hundreds of thousands. The roots of the disputes are multi-faceted. Some are manifestations of the root causes of the conflict (settlers versus indigenous groups, ethnic tensions, divisions in society). Others relate to other conflictual matters in particular boundaries between communities and counties, some of which have implications for the upcoming elections in terms of voting districts.
38. I was impressed by the efforts of the National Land Commission, whose start up was significantly assisted by PBF funds. The Land Commission is charging ahead with a

comprehensive understanding of the challenges that they have gleaned from extensive field consultations and visits.

39. They have developed a work plan. Key activities of this plan include the finalization of an Alternative Dispute System, which works at the grassroots level relaying upon mediation thereby avoiding adding to an already overwhelmed justice system. A Working Group of different actors working on grassroots mediation [NRC, Peace Committees (funded by PBF) etc] are supporting the Land Commission to standardize working methods. At the same time the Land Commission is working with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the agreements that are reached via such mechanisms have a binding legal status.
40. Efforts are underway to draft a Public Land Law. This law would clearly define public land. The aim is to submit a bill to the Legislature in January 2012.
41. The Land Commission recently signed a MOU with the Law Reform Commission. Under this MOU the Land Commission will take the lead in harmonizing traditional and statutory legal systems as it concerns land.
42. In collaboration with the National Archives the system of land registration is being changed from a deed to a title system with records being digitized. The National Archives is also working to make these records accessible at the county level. A Land Partners Group (USAID, MCC, World Bank, NRC, UN-Habitat) is supporting the Land Commission.
43. The Ministry of Lands and Mines is equally working on related matters, most notable is the development of an official public list of registered surveyors; presently there are only 72 in the country. More surveyors are needed and from a meeting with a women's group there had been a call for extra efforts to be made to introduce women into this field of work. A licensing system has been put in place to remove unqualified surveyors from practicing. In addition to the conflict potential of the land disputes, resolution of these cases have significant economic implications including building the agriculture sector (most agriculture products are imported) as well as facilitating private sector investments.
44. In discussions it emerged and as reported in paragraph 10, implementation of PBF projects could offer the means to provide **youth with employment opportunities** both within the local community as well as elsewhere. A lessons shared by UNOPS on this point was that local communities generally object to unskilled labour being brought in for a project as it is seen as taking opportunities away from the local community. But skilled labour from other parts of the country is generally accepted.
45. I was quite encouraged by meetings with different groups of youths. In Lofa I had the opportunity to receive a report from "Peace Ambassadors" who are effectively working at the local level promoting coexistence. A National Youth Volunteer in Lofa impressively outlined challenges in the justice system. The Ministry of Youth and Sports had spoken highly of this programme as well as the Volunteer for Peace Programme during our meeting with the Acting Minister and this presentation by one of the volunteers definitely supported this assessment. In Gbarnga, I also met with the Motorcyclist Union. This is a group of war-affected youths who found employment as motorcyclist for hire and formed a Union. They have a total of 6,000 members. They described their Union as promoting safe driving as well as contributing to the

economy and assisting the LNP via reporting of suspicious activities.

### **Recommendations for the Liberia CSC:**

46. As highlighted in the SMC, and as I raised repeatedly with national stakeholders, reconciliation must be driven by national actors with the international community playing an advisory and facilitating role. Nonetheless, there was a clear call for PBC engagement. Resolution of land disputes is a critical element within this larger reconciliation context. The PBC should use its advisory role, but prior to offering advice, the CSC should build its knowledge on transitional justice issues as well as good practices in management of land. This should equip myself and others to offer advice during upcoming missions or to be interviewed from NY by UNMIL radio sharing thoughts on the topics. In my next mission, I will also:
- Continue to establish contacts with Peace Committees and community members using Peace Huts, as possible appropriate; and
  - Establish new contacts with deeply affected communities and maintain contact with those communities met during this last trip e.g in Lofa County.

### **Proposals for the JSC:**

47. A funding gap of the Land Commission emerged during our conversations as meriting possible funding to ensure that work on the Alternative Disputes System is finalized by March 2010 for piloting.
48. I would also like to share a suggestion put forward to the mission on examining how to reinforce grassroots peace activities by linking reconciliation interventions with service delivery and seeing how to engage youth groups such as the Peace Ambassadors and Volunteers.
49. The JSC may also wish to examine how to replicate the UNOPS example of youth employment in other PBF projects.

### **III. Objective 2 - Counterpart for the CSC & Objective 3 - Adoption of the SMC**

50. While I did not meet with the JSC as a group, I did have the opportunity to meet with the members of this group as well as other potential members of a CSC at the country level. Unfortunately, a key stakeholder - ECOWAS, who I had hoped to encounter in Monrovia, has recently closed its office. Overall, I was impressed by the quality of debate on consolidation of peace in Liberia at the Monrovia level.
51. On 15 November 2010 in the presence of the President of Liberia, the CSC adopted the SMC. I found that adopting the SMC in the presence of the President was an excellent start to a productive relationship between the PBC and the Government of Liberia. We also opened up greater possibilities to creatively use VTC as a means to engage stakeholders in Monrovia in CSC and for me to chair future CSM from Monrovia.

### **Recommendation for the Liberia CSC:**

52. In reflecting upon the situation, I believe that the best way to establish a solid link between the

NY CSC and actors in Liberia is for the CSC to travel to Liberia in June and hold a CSC meeting in Liberia. I would further advise for the DSRSG as the co-chair of the JSC to put forward invitation recommendations in advance of CSC meeting for additional participation in the CSC via the VTC as another means to ensure that discussions in the CSC are reflective of the relatively quickly evolving situation on the ground.

#### **IV. Objective 4 - Engage with the JSC and resource mobilization**

53. The Priority Plan is being drafted to provide a roadmap for fundraising for financial and in-kind resources. In previous sections of this report, I have indicated where I see potential for establishing reinforcing links between the activities of the PBC and the PBF programme. A results-based framework is being developed as part of the Priority Plan. This should significantly assist the Government to be able to concretely report on the individual and collective impact of PBF projects. Furthermore, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be provided to the Government of Liberia's Peacebuilding Office to assist in carrying out related tasks as well as build local capacity.
54. I am pleased to note that various possibilities for the PBF to complement other funding mechanism exist including the Peace and Security Trust Fund. A partners group for the Land Commission is also functioning.
55. Discussions were also held with Government to consider the utility of approaching Governments whose multi-national corporations are investing in the private sector in Liberia and who have a vested interest in seeing Liberia continue to stabilize in order for such financial investments to be secured.

#### **Recommendation for the Liberia CSC:**

56. I find that substantive actions are being taken that will well equip the PBC to meet its fundraising commitments. Central to this will be solid data on progress in the country both in terms of PBF projects as well as Government activities relevant to meeting their commitments as outlined in the SMC.
57. I further advise for the PBC to continue discussing with the Government of Liberia possibilities for fundraising activities as summarized in paragraph 55 of my report.
58. In carrying out the PBC's fundraising role, we will need to be attentive to ensuring sustainability as highlighted in the discussion about the Hub in this report. I see this as requiring the PBC to have a substantive understanding of the Government of Liberia's budget as well as involving Liberian Officials in fundraising activities to enable them to take over from the PBC in the near future.

#### **V. Conclusion**

59. During my visit to Liberia, I saw a number of comparative advantages for the PBC to complement the interventions of an array of international, regional and national actors, who have been and in large part will continue to be instrumental in helping the country build durable peace. The continued presence of UNMIL provides a particularly unique opportunity for the

PBC to contribute to a smoother transition of UNMIL. Since 2003, UNMIL has been implementing a multi-dimensional mandate, including elements now identified by the Government of Liberia as its peacebuilding priorities: security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation. The provision of security in the country by UNMIL during this period has allowed the Government of Liberia to focus on its peace consolidation agenda, including restoration of the economy and improvement of socio-economic conditions for the population. The Government of Liberia has made some remarkable progress on these fronts, especially reaching the HIPC completion point, which has created new fiscal space for the Government to take on additional costs. Nonetheless, transferring security management from UNMIL to the Government is an enormous task that should not be under-estimated. Significant progress has been made, principally in the area of training and strategic planning. Yet, some clear gaps exist. What appears quite clearly is the dire need for funding to simply enable government civil servants to effectively work independent of UNMIL. The PBC can play an instrumental role in not only fundraising but in assisting the Government to find long-term solutions to resource mobilization for security forces and rule of law.

60. The PBC's political support capacity also emerges as having potential in terms of mobilizing and/or galvanizing national, regional and international actors to ensure progress in reform activities central to operationalizing the national security architecture as well as equipping the judicial system to respond to current demands.
61. The PBC can equally serve as an advocate for civil society and civic duty as Liberia needs a vibrant civil society and an informed citizenry to serve as a check against possible abuse of power, which has historically plagued the country. In the area of national reconciliation, I find a country at an important juncture where it could choose to reckon with its past or retreat. The PBC's advisory role may be instrumental in helping the country identify how to move forward on this very sensitive issue.



## Annex 1 Programme

Delegation: HRH Prince Zeid RZ Al Hussein (7-15 November); ASG Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins (11-17 November); Liberia PR to UN Amb Marjon Kamara (11-17 November); PBSO Desk Officer Ms. Tammi Sharpe (7-17 November); OO/DPKO Andrei Shkourko (7-15); UNMIL Rory Keane (7-15 November)

DAY 1: Sunday 7 November 2010				
Time	Respondent/Organisation	Comments	Venue/Contact Person	Status (confirmed/not confirmed)
20:10	Arrival at RIA	Travel to Palm Springs hotel	Palm Springs Hotel Contact: Roque Tel: 05319381/4269 Helen, Tel: 05319314/4830	Confirmed
DAY 2: Monday 8 November 2010				
8:00-9:00	Working Breakfast		Palm Springs Hotel	Confirmed
9:15-10:00	MLT Meeting	Mission leadership meeting to focus on how to ensure synergy and coherence between UNMIL and the PBC on the ground. The PBC issues will be discussed for 45 minutes after which the PBC delegation may wish to leave.	Third floor conference room, PAP:  Contact: Niloufer ext. 4203	Confirmed
10:30-11:30	Meeting with Acting Minister, and Former Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Hon. Amara Konneh		RRR Office, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, PAP Contact: Edward Eesiah 06695939 or 077356494 (Wilfred to lead)	Confirmed
Time	Respondent/Organisation	Comments	Venue/Contact Person	Status(confirmed/not confirmed)

<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Meeting with US Ambassador, Ms. Linda Thomas-Greenfield</b>		US Embassy Contact: (Rory to lead)	Confirmed
<b>12:30-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>			
<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<b>Meeting with International Partners</b>	Including bi-lateral donors and members of the PBC country configuration for Liberia	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor conference room, PAP (Sam and Anna to lead)	Confirmed
<b>16:30-17:30</b>	<b>Meeting with Acting and with the Deputy Minister of Youth and Development, Hon. Sam Hare</b>	To discuss the pilot youth project proposal as outlined in the PBC Statement of Commitments	Ministry of Youth & Sports; Contact: Sam Hare - 06510058 ( Wilfred to lead)	Confirmed
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	<b>Dinner with ICTY and the Carter Center</b>			Confirmed

<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
<b>DAY 3: Tuesday 9 November 2010</b>				

8:00-9:00	Visit to JORMED III		Star Base Contact: UNMIL Chief of Staff - Force, Tel: 05319031 (Sam to lead)	Confirmed
9:20-10:30	Meeting with DSRSG for Rule of Law Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu and rule of law staff	To discuss issues relating to access to justice and corrections.	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, PAP Contact: Samuel Opoku-Agyakwa, Tel: 06783927 (Sam to lead)	Confirmed
10:30-11:15	Meeting with the UNPOL Commissioner Gautam Sawang and UNPOL staff	To discuss police hub concept	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, PAP Contact: Jane, Tel: 06548607 (Sam to lead)	Confirmed
11:30-12:15	Meeting with Liberian Vice President Joseph Boakai		Capitol Building Tel: 077 573640	
12:30-13:30	Meeting with the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate Hon. Cletus Wortorson		The Senate Contact: Deborah: Tel: 05319128	Confirmed
13:30-14:30	Meeting with Kofi Woods, Former Minister for Public Works		3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, PAP	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
14:45-15:34	Meeting with UNCT	To discuss the SSR and Rule of Law proposals as outlined in the PBC Statement of Commitment	Venue: UNDP Conference room, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Mamba Point Contact: Sam, Tel: 05319023 (Sam to lead)	Confirmed

<b>16:00-19:00</b>	<b>Jordanian FPU medal parade, followed by official dinner</b>	Chair will be requested to make a formal speech during the parade	SKD Sports Complex Contact UNMIL Chief of Staff, Tel: 05319342 and Chief of Staff- Force, Tel: 05319031	Confirmed
<b>DAY 4: Wednesday 10 November 2010</b>				
<b>8:30-09:30</b>	<b>Meeting with Acting and with the Deputy Minister of Defense</b>	To discuss the SSR proposals as outlined in the PBC	Ministry of Defense, Contact: Wilfred to lead Tel: 06647010	Confirmed
<b>10:00-11:00</b>	<b>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia Hon. Johnnie N. Lewis (plus Justices of the Supreme Court)</b>	To discuss PBC statement of Commitment proposals on access to justice	Palace of Justice Contact: Samuel Opoku-Agyakwa, Tel: 06783927 (Wilfred to lead)	Confirmed
<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Meeting with Liberian Political Parties</b>	To discuss the political context for peacebuilding in Liberia	UNMIL 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Contact: Deborah: Tel: 05319128 (Deborah to lead)	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>			
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>Meeting with UNPOL Commissioner</b>		PAP, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room	Confirmed
<b>15:00-16:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the Norwegian Refugee Council</b>	To discuss the land issue	PAP, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Contact: Astrid, Tel: 06592100	Confirmed

<b>16:30-17:30</b>	<b>Meeting with Magistrates Sitting Program team</b>	To discuss proposals on access to justice	PAP, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room Contact: Chijioke Ononiwu Tel: 05319299	Confirmed
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	<b>Reception hosted by SRSG Ellen Margrethe Loej</b>		SRSG Residence, UINMIL, PAP (8 <sup>th</sup> floor)	Confirmed
<b>DAY 5: Thursday 11 November 2010</b>				
<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the Chair of the Land Commission, Dr. Othello Brandy</b>	To discuss the land proposal outlined in the PBC Statement of Commitment	Land Commission: Dr. Brandy 06972111; Rebecca, tel 06526844 (Wilfred to lead)	Confirmed
<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the LNP Inspector General Marc Amblard, BIN Commissioner, Chris Massaquoi and Acting Assistant Minister for Rehabilitation Fatu Daramy-Mensah</b>	To discuss the idea of five regional hubs, as outlined in the PBC Statement of Commitment	LNP HQ Contact: Jane, Tel: 06548607 and Marjo: Tel: 05319536 (Wilfred to lead)	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Meeting with UNOPS</b>	UNOPS has good experience in building infrastructure, including the PBF financed Sanniquellie prison	UNOPS, Mamba Point Contact Sam, Tel: 05319023	Confirmed
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>Meeting on media issues</b>	To discuss media reform challenges in Liberia. Participants will include: Ministry of Information, UNMIL PIO, UNMIL Radio, USAID media project	UNMIL 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Contact: Yasmina, Tel: 05315225	Confirmed

<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>Meeting with UN Habitat</b>	To discuss land policy	PAP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	Confirmed
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Meeting with Acting Minister of Gender and Development</b>	To discuss how to mainstream gender into the PBC priorities for Liberia	Ministry of Gender, Contact: Carole, Tel 0531 9778	Confirmed
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<b>Visit to the National Archive</b>		Madam Blah (tel: 06931687)	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
<b>17:30-19:00</b>	<b>Meeting with civil society representatives</b>	Including ICTY, Search for Common Ground, LINLEA, Federation of Liberian Youth etc	UNMIL 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room. Contact Wilfred, Tel: 06647010 (Sam and Wilfred to lead)	TBC
<b>19:30-21:30</b>	<b>Informal Dinner with American Bar Association</b>	Michael Maya, Deputy Director for ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) and Acting Director for the Africa Division; Hon. Robert Alsdorf, retired judge, member of the Rule of Law Initiative Board; Kevin George, ABA ROLI Country Director and Ervin Bartis	Cape Hotel Contact: Ervin. ABA Offices, Tel: 06 212685 (Rory to lead)	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status(confirmed/not confirmed)</b>

**DAYS 6/7: Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November 2010**

<b>Depart early Friday morning for Lofa with an overnight stay in Lofa.</b>	<b>Field trip to Lofa County (by air)</b>	Itinerary to be put in place by Head of Field Office in Lofa county. The itinerary will include meetings with all relevant SSR and rule of law interlocutors, county officials, civil society, religious and youth groups and international actors. There will also be a visit to the Guinea border, as well as a meeting with the Jordanian FPU (Friday evening).	Gebrehiwot Redai Berhane Head of Field Office, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Voinjama -Lofa County Tel: +212 963 9926/7 Ext. 7908 Mobile: +231 5 319 705 Email: <a href="mailto:berhaneg@un.org">berhaneg@un.org</a>	Confirmed
<b>Depart for Gbarnga on Saturday morning (by air).  Stay overnight in Gbarnga and drive to Monrovia on Sunday</b>	<b>'Break ground' on PBC Hub in Gbarnga and meet with relevant local officials</b>	Programme will be organised by the Head of Field Office and UNPOL  Drive to Monrovia on Sunday will enable stop off at PBF financed projects, including reintegration project in Bong County - National Ex-Combatant Peace Initiative and the PBF funded Small Grants project managed by UNHCR.	Mr. Daniel Mensah-Brande (OIC) Tel: 06536390 and extension 749	Confirmed
<b>Time</b>	<b>Respondent/Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Venue/Contact Person</b>	<b>Status confirmed/not confirmed)</b>
<b>DAY 8: Sunday 14 November 2010</b>				
<b>19:00-21:00</b>	<b>Dinner with Acting Minister and with Former Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Hon. Amara Konneh</b>	To act as both a debrief on the mission and to prepare for the meeting of the PBC Country Configuration	Mamba Point Hotel Contact Wilfred, Tel: 06647010	Confirmed
<b>DAY 9: Monday 15 November 2010</b>				

<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Team meeting</b>			Confirmed
<b>11:45-12:15</b>	<b>Press Conference</b>	Ideally the press conference should take place after the video conference, but there will not be time given the flight schedule.	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room PAP Contact: Yasmina, Tel: 05315225	
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Meeting of the PBC Country Configuration video conference</b>		3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room PAP Contact: Juliet, Tel: 05319608	
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Depart for the Airport</b>		Contact: Roque Tel: 05319381/4269 Helen, Tel: 05319314/4830	

**ANNEX 1: Visit of the Chair of the PBC Country Configuration to Voinjama , *Lofa County***

**Friday, 12 November 2010**

Time	Meeting	Venue	Comments
08:45	<b>Depart for Spriggs Payne Airfield</b>		
08:45-09:00	<b>Arrive Spriggs Payne</b>	Spriggs Payne	
09:00-10:25	<b>Depart Spriggs Payne for Tennebu Air strip</b>	Tennebu-Voinjama	
10:25-10.55	<b>Depart to JFPU Camp</b>	JFPU Camp	
10:55-11:10	<b>Inspect guard of honor &amp; refreshment at JFPU</b>	JFPU camp	
11:10-11:25	<b>Departure to Lofa County Administration Office</b>	Lofa Administration	

		building	
11:25. -11.55	<b>Meeting with Lofa County authorities at conference room (briefing/Discussion)</b>	Lofa Administrative conference room	
11:55-12:55	<b>Departure to Bologiadu Border crossing Point</b>	Bologiadu	
12:55-13:25	<b>Visit at Bologiadu Border crossing point</b>	Bologiadu	
13:25-14:25	<b>Return to Voinjama(JFPU Camp)</b>	JFPU Camp	
14:25-14:55	<b>Guar of honor &amp; Lunch</b>	PAKBATT14 Camp	
14:55-15:10	<b>Trip to Town Hall</b>	Town Hall	
15:10-16:10	<b>Interaction with National reconciliation actors</b>	Town Hall	
16:10-16:20	<b>Departure to Lofa County conference room</b>	Conference room	
16:20-17:20	<b>Meeting with the Youth Ambassadors Group (briefing &amp;discussion)</b>	Lofa Administration conference room	
17:20-17:50	<b>Depart to market place/project site</b>	Voinjama Marketplace /project area	
17:50-18:20	<b>Visit Market site to interact with citizens</b>	Market	
18:20-18:55	<b>Return to JFPU Camp</b>	JFPU Camp	
20:00- 21:00	<b>Dinner at JFPU Camp</b>	JFPU Camp	
08:30-9:00	<b>Breakfast at PAKBATT14 camp (Saturday 13NOV.</b>	Pakbatt14 camp	
09:15-09:45	<b>Trip to Tennebu Air strip</b>	Tennebu Air Strip	
09:45- 10:00	<b>departure to Bong County</b>	Gbargna	

10:00-10:55	<b>Arrival at Bong</b>	Gbargna	
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N.B

- Meeting with County Officials includes All Heads of Local security agents of GOL; County Attorney, Public defense, Circuit & Magistrate Court Judges and representatives of line Ministries.
- Meeting with National Reconciliation actors includes religious & traditional leaders, women Group , conflict resolution Committees , civil society and International Partners.
- Accommodation, escorts, security, border crossing point selection and size of convoy have been discussed with CO PAKBATT and commander of JFPU Voinjama.
- Grouping under bullet 1&2 have been worked out in consultation with Special Assistant to the Lofa County Superintendent.
- Border was visited today by MILOBS, UNPOL, CO JFPU, NFPU& HOFO to assess road accessibility and was rough but manageable. BIN was consulted and agreed on the selection of the border crossing point.

**Annex 2: Visit of the Chair of the PBC Country Configuration to Bong County  
Saturday, 13 November – Sunday, 14 November 2010  
Proposed Program**

Time	Meeting	Venue
<b>Saturday, 13 November</b>		
10:55	<b>Arrive Gbargna Cari Helipad</b>	CARI Helipad

10:55-11:10	<b>Brief refreshment at Helipad.</b>	CARI Helipad
	<i>[10 mins by car from Helipad to Administration Building.]</i>	
11:20-12:20	<b>Meeting with Superintendent, County Attorney, Judges, Court Staff and heads of Security agencies</b>	Superintendent Conference Room, Administration Building
12:20-13:20	<b>Meeting with Civil Society Organizations involved in security, peace building, justice, rule of law reconciliation and human rights</b>	Administration Building, Gbarnga
	<i>[10 mins by car from Admin building to PAKBATT.]</i>	
13:30-14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	PAKBATT 14
	<i>[15 mins by car from PAKBATT to near Tucker Farm.]</i>	
14:15-15:05	<b>Groundbreaking ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14:15 - Opening Prayer</li> <li>• 14:20 - Welcome Remarks by Bong County Sup.</li> <li>• 14:25-14:40 - Remarks by GoL officials</li> <li>• 14:40 – Statement by chair of PBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14: 55 – Chair PBC performs groundbreaking</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 15:05 – Groundbreaking ceremony ends</li> </ul>	Near Tucker Farm on Gbarnga-Lofa Highway

	<i>[15 mins by car to Central Market from near Tucker Farm.]</i>	
15:20-15:40	<b>Interact with market women</b>	Central Market, Gbarnga
	<i>[10 mins by car from Central Market to Ganta Parking.]</i>	Ganta Parking, Gbarnga
15:50-16:20	<b>Interact with Members of Bong County Motorcycle Association</b>	Ganta Parking
16:20-17:20	<b>Brief inspection of Rule of Law Infrastructure in Gbarnga</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNP Regional HQs</li> <li>• BIN Regional HQs</li> <li>• Judicial Circuit Court</li> <li>• Gbarnga Central Prison</li> </ul>	Gbarnga
17:20-17:00	<b>Rest</b>	PAKBATT
17:00-19:00	<b>Recreational activities (to be decided)</b>	To be decided
19:00-20:00	<b>Dinner</b>	Sector B officers' Mess
<b>Sunday, 14 November</b>		
08:00-08:30	<b>Breakfast</b>	Sector B officers' Mess

	<i>[30 mins by car from Gbarnga to Gbartala.]</i>	
09:00-09:20	<b>Inspection of newly constructed police station in Gbartala</b>	Gbartala
	<i>[55 mins by car from Gbartala to Totota Peace Hut.]</i>	
10:15-10:45	<b>Interact with Totota branch of Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET)</b>	Peace Hut, Totota
	<i>[30 mins by car from Totota to Salala.]</i>	
11:15-11:45	<b>Visit Salala Court and interact with officials of the court</b>	Salala
11:45	<b>Depart for Monrovia (2 hour car journey)</b>	

N.B

- The meeting with County officials to be attended by
  - LNP
  - BIN
  - DEA

- NSA
  - NBI
  - MNS
  - Corrections
  - County Attorney
  - Judges
  - Court Staff
- 
- Civil Society organizations involved in justice and peace building to attend the meeting include
    - FIND
    - JPC
    - Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS)
    - Carter Centre