

Progress in the implementation of the PBC Roadmap for Actions in 2012
“Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture”

Mid-Year Assessment Report

July 2012

Chair’s preliminary findings and suggested deliverables until the end of 2012

[For Discussion at the Organizational Committee]

Introduction

While each configuration has conducted its work in different and very specific circumstances, all of them have made progress and encountered challenges within each of the three priority areas. Tackling the challenges requires additional attention from and further discussion by the members of the Organizational Committee. The various configurations suggest a number of deliverables until the end of 2012 as well as possible ways to improve the overall work of the PBC. The latter will benefit from the SC-PBC interactive dialogue of 13 July 2012.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

The fact that the PBC is not endowed with its own financial resources but is expected to generate substantial new financial and in kind contributions for countries on its agenda (much above what PBF can contribute) is predicated on the assumption that members of the Configuration will strive to contribute financial, in-kind or technical resources to the countries concerned. The lack of progress in this area represents one of the main challenges to the effectiveness of the PBC.

The PBC’s ability to fulfil this role has been made particularly difficult by the current international financial situation. Still, there is need to advise the countries on the agenda on how to maximize their chances to attract financial and technical support. In this regard, the resource mobilization function of the PBC is linked to its function of political accompaniment and advocacy, which require full support from the Government concerned.

The use of existing coordination mechanisms which brings the Government and its partners at the field-level provide possible entry points through which the PBC can contribute to coherence and coordination of actors and of resource allocation.

Suggested deliverables until the end of 2012:

Taking advantage of the paper on **Resource Mobilization for Peacebuilding Priorities: the Role of the Peacebuilding Commission** prepared by PBSO, identify the options that are more relevant to configurations and take them forward.

- Engage foundations and philanthropic organizations. Members of the Organizational Committee, particularly those members who are interested and willing may provide guidance to the OC to explore how the PBC could possibly utilize national networks and connections to link-up with relevant foundations and private investors;
- Take forward the outcome of the mapping of resource flows and actors in Guinea, with a view to facilitating the eventual development by the Government of Guinea of its national aid management and coordination systems;
- Follow-up with the African Development Bank on joint initiatives to align the work of both institutions behind the nationally identified peacebuilding priorities; and
- Continue to explore with the World Bank the opportunities for improved alignment and collaboration at the field-level.

Support to national ownership and capacity-building

- The PBC should continue to intensify its linkage with the ongoing civilian capacities initiative, with a view to promoting new methods for capacity-building and technical support in the six countries on its agenda.
- Representatives of countries on the PBC agenda should be more actively involved with the different initiatives taken by the PBC [OC and CSC]. Their feedback and expectations should constantly feed the work of the PBC.

Relations within the United Nations

Relationships with principal organs

For formal briefings by the CSC Chairs to be useful, a bi-directional interaction between the PBC and the Security Council would be needed. This will require more clear and punctual guidance by the Security Council on the advice it needs from PBC on specific issues and also to support the process of clarifying the respective roles and responsibilities between the PBC Chairs and the S/ERSGs in the field.

In this regard, communications with the Security Council through letters from the CSC Chairs, on the outcome of field missions or other critical issues, have been introduced in the cases of Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. These letters could help the Council become more aware of the work of the PBC and identify the areas for which the advisory function of the Commission could be most helpful.

Suggested deliverables until the end of 2012:

- In close collaboration with the members of the PBC who are members of the Council, the Organizational Committee and WGLL to follow-up on specific ideas generated through the Security Council debate and informal interactive dialogue of 12 and 13 July respectively.
- The Organizational Committee, led by members of the PBC who are members of the ECOSOC, to evaluate the practical benefits of jointly organized thematic debates on the engagement of the PBC with the countries on the agenda.
- The Organizational Committee to invite its General Assembly members to make recommendations on opportunities for engagement with the Assembly.

Enhancing coordination

Alignment of the PBC's instruments of engagement with the activities of the UN in the field has proven very helpful in facilitating a coherent approach to addressing identified priorities. For example, contribution by the UN mission to the design and review of the instruments of engagement has proven to contribute to a broader ownership of PBC activities in Liberia.

Generally, the PBC has reached out to UN actors at Headquarters and the field in various formats and with varying degrees of effectiveness. A recent meeting facilitated by PBSO and DPA between the PBC Chairs' Group and E/SRSGs in the countries concerned revealed the need for continuing dialogue and clarification of how the relations with the senior UN leadership in the field could be mutually reinforcing.

Suggested deliverables until the end of 2012:

- Follow-up to the preliminary outcome of the meeting with the E/SRSGs.
- PBSO to advise on how the Senior Peacebuilding Group (SPG) could become a primary interlocutor for the PBC on broad policy issues affecting coherence in the field.
- PBSO to facilitate a dialogue between the PBC Chairs' Group and the SPG on a specific topic of mutual interest.

Working methods

Reducing the intensity of Headquarters-level formal meetings while deepening the discussions on critical country-specific issues has been a key result in configurations which have either introduced a steering group or those which have primarily conducted work at the working-level. The meetings of the steering group allows for more in-depth discussions amongst fewer members who have shown direct interest and willingness to engage. Working-level discussions help deepen the engagement of member states and allow for in-depth and detailed consideration of issues ahead of principal level meetings.

The outreach by the Guinea-Bissau Configuration to a panel of experts who have met the day before to address the situation in the country has proven to be very useful and insightful for the Configuration. The dialogue with the experts allowed for the articulation of specific options and opportunities for the PBC to support the country.

Generating and sustaining the interest and attention of national capitals to and engagement with the PBC represents a key challenge and an opportunity for the PBC to elevate the level of support it receives from within its own membership. An upcoming High-Level event in the margins of the High-Level segment of the 67th session of the General Assembly could be an important step in this direction. In addition, there is a suggestion made by a Member State to convene an annual session of the Committee through which capital-based senior-level officials could engage in setting the Commission's policies and priorities.

Suggested deliverables until the end of 2012:

- PBSO to present a comprehensive, yet realistic, communications strategy for discussion at the Organizational Committee.
- Agree to specific ideas to enhance capital engagement with the PBC at Headquarters and in the field.
- All Country Configurations to consider working modalities that draw lessons from the steering group in order to further engage members and better tap into their potential [so that the Chair is not the only one to bear the entire work of the Configuration on his/her shoulder].
