

**Working Group on Lesson Learned
14 December 2011**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (CR 4-NLB)

DRAFT Concept paper

**Transition of the PBC's forms and instruments of engagement and the partnership
between the PBC and the Security Council**

Introduction

1. The Working Group on lessons Learned will convene its final meeting of the year on 14 December 2011. At this meeting, the Working Group aims to address, for the first time, two items organized around two panels.
2. The first item will examine the lessons which can be drawn from **the transition/evolution of the PBC's forms and instruments of engagement**. The discussion is envisaged to highlight the experiences of the Country Configurations and the countries on the agenda of the PBC and inform its evolving engagement in these and other countries. To this end, the discussion will draw on the experience in engaging Burundi and Sierra Leone, as the two initial countries for which the PBC's engagement was sought in 2006.
3. The second item will examine the lessons learned so far from **the evolving partnership between the PBC and the Security Council**. This discussion aims to draw on the perspectives and experience of member states which served on both bodies simultaneously to inform on the potentials for, challenges facing and expectations of both bodies from a stronger and more dynamic partnership for the benefit of countries on the agenda of both organs.

Panel 1: Transition/evolution of the PBC's forms and instruments of engagement

4. Since its establishment, the PBC has demonstrated flexibility and adaptability of its working methods to the needs of the countries placed on its agenda. A key recommendation of the 2010 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture was that the PBC should adopt flexible and adaptable instruments of engagement. This recommendation was also reflected as a priority area in the "Chair's Roadmap for Actions in 2011" which spelled out the implementation framework of the 2010 Review.
5. There are important lessons experienced in all countries on the PBC's agenda. In Burundi and Sierra Leone, the PBC moved from designing its distinct instrument of engagement (Strategic Frameworks) and gradually moved towards aligning the instruments with the newly developed and more peacebuilding sensitive strategies (second generation PRSPs). Moreover, the periodic reviews of the instrument of engagement have become more substantial and increasingly generated at the country level. This experience has in turn been incorporated by the countries which have joined the agenda of the PBC more recently.

6. At the same time, the 2010 Review addressed the possibility that the PBC could adopt multi-tiered and light types of engagement in response to the evolving needs of countries that are currently or will be coming on the PBC agenda. Some country configurations have already experienced innovative modalities and could further consider others that are better suited for the evolving nature of the engagement.

7. Although it might not be easy as it is still unprecedented, the PBC needs to carefully consider how it can engage with countries on its agenda when those countries are ready to successfully transit from the PBC.

8. The meeting of the WGLL will, therefore, focus on the experiences gained from the evolution of the PBC's engagement with Burundi and Sierra Leone from the design, implementation and monitoring of the first generation strategic frameworks to gradual alignment with broader national development strategies that incorporate a conflict-sensitive approach to socio-economic development.

Burundi

8. The PBC has been engaged with Burundi since June 2006, and the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi was adopted in July 2007, with a focus on the following priorities: i. Promotion of good governance; ii. Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu - Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL); iii. Security Sector; iv. Justice, promotion of human rights and action to combat impunity; v. Land issue and socio-economic recovery; vi. Mobilization and coordination of international assistance; vii. Sub regional dimension; and viii. Gender dimension. The Burundi Configuration has been chaired successively by Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

9. After the 2010 elections, the instrument of engagement between the PBC and the Government of Burundi was revisited through the fifth periodic review; and the scope of the engagement was narrowed to a limited number of tasks, including i. the consolidation of the culture of democracy and dialogue; ii. the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups; iii. The second poverty reduction strategy paper (peacebuilding issues, resource mobilization).

Sierra Leone

10. The PBC has been engaged with Sierra Leone since June 2006, and the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework was adopted in December 2007, with a focus on the following priorities: i. Youth employment and empowerment; ii. Justice and security sector reform; iii. Consolidation of democracy and good governance; iv. Capacity building; v. Energy sector; and vi. Sub-regional dimension of peacebuilding. Three reviews of progress against the Framework were undertaken.

11. In June 2009, the Sierra Leone Configuration replaced the instrument of engagement and adopted the peacebuilding elements of the Agenda for Change (the second PRSP for Sierra Leone), namely, i. Good governance and the rule of law; ii. Youth employment and empowerment; and iii. Addressing drug trafficking and organized crime; with gender and the regional dimension of peacebuilding as cross-cutting, as the main elements of focus. At the same time, the PBC endorsed the UN Joint Vision, which is the joint coordinated support of the UN

family to the implementation of the Agenda for Change. One review of progress has taken place under the new instrument of engagement to date and the periodicity of the review has been extended to one year.

12. During the first two years of engagement the Configuration met often. Subsequently, and given the progress made by Sierra Leone in consolidating peace, the Configuration opted for a lighter engagement characterized by a smaller number of meetings at principal level and more interactions at working level. Delegations of the PBC have visited Sierra Leone four times while the Chair has visited more frequently. The Sierra Leone Configuration has been chaired successively by the Netherlands and Canada.

Panel 2: The partnership between the PBC and the Security Council

12. It has long been anticipated that the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 would strengthen the Security Council's ability to maintain international peace and security. At the time of its founding, half of countries that signed peace agreements tended to revert back into conflict within a few years. In paragraph 12 of the PBC's founding resolutions, the Security Council was identified as one of the main referring channels that should request the Commission's advice. Currently five of the six countries on the PBC agenda were referred by the Council. Over the past six years, the Chairperson and Chairs of country configurations have been regularly invited to address thematic debates or open briefings of the Council which addresses the situation in countries on the PBC agenda.

13. The publication of the 2009 Secretary-General's report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*, the referral of Liberia to the PBC's agenda and the 2010 Review have generated renewed attention around the broader peacebuilding agenda. Since then, the Council has demonstrated readiness to consider a more substantive interaction with the PBC. Members of the PBC who are also members of the Security Council have played an important role in this regard. Most recently and at the initiative of Japan (during its 2009/2010 membership on the Council), informal interactive dialogues with the Chairs of country configurations were held in informal settings.

14. The Report on the 2010 Review stated that "a Security Council more convinced of the added value of the PBC would have gone beyond the steps taken to date. It would actively and creatively be looking for opportunities to involve the PBC. There would be more frequent requests for advice. The engagement with the PBC would be earlier, beginning at the stage of drafting mandates". It added that "(t)he problem appears to be two-fold: the Security Council perceives that the PBC does not provide much added value in its advice; and the PBC does not provide more focused advice in part because the Security Council does not make more specific requests." The Review recommended that "in a context of a better-performing PBC bringing genuine added value, its advice would be sought when peacekeeping mandates are being established, reviewed, or approaching draw-down".

15. It is in this context that Member States and other external experts believe that there is scope for a more interactive and mutually rewarding relationship between the two organs. This is especially important as a number of new peacekeeping missions are underway, while existing ones are being reviewed or preparing for draw-down. Furthermore, the peacebuilding process in countries on the PBC agenda which have been referred for advice by the Council can benefit

from a shared understanding on progress deserving encouragement and on challenges that need to be addressed by the Security Council and the PBC.

16. The discussion in the WGLL will therefore aim to draw on the experience of the joint membership on both bodies to identify the specific areas around which the partnership could be strengthened, and the expectations of each body from such partnership.

Key Questions to be addressed

Question 1:

How can the PBC manage a growing number of countries on the PBC agenda in light of resource and administrative challenges while ensuring and respecting ownership of the countries concerned?

Question 2:

(1) How do the member states analyse the relationship between the PBC and the Security Council?

(2) How can the partnership between the PBC and the Security Council be strengthened? How can the PBC improve its advisory role for the referring organs such as the Security Council?

Format and Structure

This open meeting will be held as a panel discussion.

Chair:

H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Panel 1:

1. His Excellency Mr. Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Chair of the PBC Burundi Configuration.
2. His Excellency Mr. Shekou M. Touray, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

Panel 2:

1. Representative of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria (TBC).
2. Mr. Lansana Gberie, Security Council Report.

Follow-up

The outcome of the meeting will be consolidated by the Chair of the WGLL in the form of Chair's Summary, as well as initial findings on recommended actions for the PBC. The documents will be shared with the Organizational Committee and Country Specific Configurations for further reflection.
