



**United Nations - Nations Unies**

**PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

Statement by the

**Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission**

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Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

at the formal briefing  
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Mr. Chairperson of the Working Group,  
Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to appear before the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission. You would agree with me that the question of peacekeeping and peacebuilding synergy has gained added momentum since the release of the 2009 Secretary- General's report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* and subsequent Security Council increased attention to post-conflict peacebuilding in the contexts of transition and exit strategies of peacekeeping missions, the link between security and development in mandated missions and the challenges for institution-building in post-conflict settings.

Since the briefing of my immediate predecessor last year, the Security Council authorized a new multidimensional mission in the new-born State of South Sudan (UNMISS) with an explicit peacebuilding mandate; the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Liberia began implementation of the Statement of Mutual Commitments for Peacebuilding in Liberia (SMC). Therefore, I must point to the fact that the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding is no longer a matter of theoretical and conceptual debate. It is rather now anchored in realities on the ground; and we have emerging lessons that must be learned and documented in order to help the UN enhance its comprehensive response to post-conflict challenges. The UN ability to live up to its claim that peacekeepers are peacebuilders need to translate into an operational modality which could translate to real dividends for the populations in places where a mission is deployed or planning a transition. The specific context and circumstances in which peacekeepers operate in each of these countries will vary and so must be the nature and scope of our response and engagement. Therefore, one mandate fit for all does not work anymore.

Today, I would like to focus my briefing on the two cases of South Sudan and Liberia from the perspective of specific work undertaken by the PBC in 2011.

On **South Sudan**, the Peacebuilding Commission and ECOSOC convened a joint meeting a few weeks prior to the declaration of the birth of the new State, where it was emphasized that

the, then anticipated, UN Mission in South Sudan should help create an environment which would help the nascent Government and its regional and international partners focus on socio-economic development from the onset. To this end, participants in the meeting, including the Vice President of South Sudan, affirmed that in parallel to the UN efforts in the areas of security, humanitarian assistance and development, commitment from international donors must focus on capacity building in critical areas relevant to enabling core government functions. While naturally challenging and faced with competing priorities, a simultaneous approach to security and socio-economic development is the core of the peacekeeping and peacebuilding linkage. It is therefore imperative that a UN multidimensional peacekeeping mission is led and configured so as to draw on the comparative advantage of its various components (that is, all members of the UN Country Team), as well as the engagement of international donors and partners. In a situation where state institutions are nascent and absorptive capacity is weak, infrastructure is poor, long run perspectives or roadmap plans are non-existent, the UN mission is expected to facilitate dialogue, identify unnecessary overlaps and dangerous gaps, and help offer solutions. As part of UNMISS mandate, the South Sudan Peacebuilding Plan could represent a useful tool to initiate such dialogue.

In **Liberia**, the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding is manifested in supporting a seamless transition of UNMIL to a different type of UN engagement. In responding to the request from the Government of Liberia in 2010, the Security Council sought the PBC's advice on requirements necessary to help accelerate progress in meeting key benchmarks as set out by UNMIL, in three areas, namely: **strengthening rule of law; supporting security sector reform; and supporting national reconciliation**. The instrument of engagement (the Statement of Mutual Commitments) between the PBC and Liberia, acknowledged the role which UNMIL played in maintaining security and committed to help consolidate Liberia's peacebuilding efforts and to strengthen the Government's capacity to gradually assume the critical functions that UNMIL and the UNCT are currently performing in Security Sector Reform and Rule of Law. Therefore, the peacekeeping and peacebuilding linkage in this context is centered on measures to ensure increasing focus on building national capacity in critical areas for long-term peace consolidation, which would normally outlive the peacekeeping mission.

The role of the PBC as a key interlocutor is two fold: 1) to encourage the Government to prioritize the measures to which it is committed in relation to the transition planning for the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL, and 2) to help the Government address its capacity constraints by mobilizing international support to national strategies and concrete projects which will ensure that it is able to assume the security and justice responsibility over its entire territory.

In this regard, the Regional Justice and Security Hub project, for which the Peacebuilding Fund provided catalytic funding, is an example of how we should draw on the collective effort and capacity of several actors and on their respective comparative advantage. For example, while the Government of Liberia owned the project by integrating the hubs into the wider national justice strategy, the PBC and PBF mobilize interest, and potentially resources, within the international community, UNMIL provides the capacity on the ground, UNDP helps to strengthen the long-term development context around the hubs, and DPKO provides the much needed expertise and technical advice to national counterparts to man and manage the hubs. This is where system-wide-coherence is in action.

With the successful completion of the 2011 Presidential elections, UNMIL has entered its final phase and the Security Council expects a report from the Secretary-General on plans for further drawdown and transition of the Mission and the progressive hand-over of responsibility to national authorities. I understand that a technical assessment mission is currently deployed to Liberia for this purpose. As the Secretariat entity supporting the PBC, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is represented on this technical assessment mission. This will certainly provide the Secretary-General and the PBC with a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and challenges for UNMIL's transition, including from the perspective of the outstanding peacebuilding tasks. In keeping with its advisory function, the PBC will also contribute to the Security Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's recommendations in light of the ongoing implementation of the Statement of Mutual Commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me now move to broader policy developments in the area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding nexus. In October last year, the PBC was briefed by DPKO on a strategy entitled: **Contribution of UN Peacekeeping to Early Peacebuilding**. I would like to bring to the attention of the Special Committee three key points which have been emphasized by the Members of the Commission during its interaction with DPKO on this topic:

- 1) The PBC placed particular emphasis on the need for peacekeeping missions to draw on the capacity and expertise of the UN country teams in the context of the integrated nature of multidimensional peacekeeping missions.
- 2) We stressed the imperative of ensuring that prioritization and sequencing in the early stages of peacekeeping presence is nationally-owned and demand-driven.
- 3) We emphasized the need to assess, at the appropriate time in the future, the contribution of this evolving strategy to a more effective and successful performance of critical peacebuilding tasks by peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairperson,

In its report from last year's session, the Special Committee made a number of observations on peacebuilding. These observations addressed a number of issues from national ownership and national capacities to integration to the evolving work on the socio-economic impact of peacekeeping missions and their contributions to local economies. I would like to suggest that the Special Committee consider how its observations this year could be further focused on ensuring greater clarity on the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding in two particular areas: 1) the contribution of integrated and multidimensional peacekeeping missions to building national capacities and institutions at an early stage in the aftermath of conflict, and 2) the contribution of a peacebuilding perspective to facilitating a seamless transition and draw down of peacekeeping missions.

I would like to add three critical issues from my personal experience where peacebuilding initiatives can focus its attention and they are:

- 1) **Security:** strengthening National Security Forces especially police force;
- 2) **Legal system:** development of an enforceable legal system particularly to resolve land disputes;
- 3) **Youth Employment:** in many post conflict countries 60%-70% youth are without any meaningful jobs and unless they are provided with some hope, some peace dividends and jobs, they can easily be misused to create security problems.

And it is also critical to listen to the needs of local leaderships

Let me conclude by reiterating that we should not misconceive “peacebuilding” as a term implying a set of tasks, activities or stand alone mandates. Peacebuilding is rather the “end-state” to which the people in the countries emerging from conflict aspire. The “end-state” is one achieved when national institutions are capable to deliver security, justice, basic services and jobs. To this end, the UN needs to create an enabling environment for the development of a national vision which will guide all actions and programmes undertaken at various stages of the post-conflict response.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson

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