

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP ON LESSONS LEARNED

Concept Note

The PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned
Economic Revitalization and Youth Employment for Peacebuilding
--with a focus on Youth Employment and Natural Resource Management--
NLB ECOSOC Chamber
8 July 2011, 10:00a.m. – 01:00p.m.

I. Introduction

Although there had been efforts by the international community to improve its responses to support post-conflict economic recovery, it has been found that international responses to date in this regard have lacked coherence. The recent launch of the World Bank's *2011 World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development*, provided a renewed window of opportunity for the international community to improve its responses. One of the key messages of the report was the need to strengthen legitimate institutions and governance through scaled-up assistance in security, justice, and jobs in order to break cycles of violence.

Building on findings thus far which are explained in the separate *background paper*, the Chair of the PBC WGLL intends to hold its next meeting with the aim of bringing together the outcomes of previous meetings of the WGLL as well as subsequent reports issued.

The Chair of the WGLL is aware of a broad set of enabling circumstances required to revive a devastated economy. With a view to reflect on the outcome of the WDR 2011, however, the Chair wishes to give special focus on identifying concrete actions to support youth employment and natural resource management. These are the some of the key areas to address in order to avoid a relapse into conflict. Yet international responses to date have lacked coherence, subsequently making these areas potential sectors for a PBC intervention to be of added value. Jobs are one of the focal issues from the outset in the WDR 2011, while natural resource management requires security and justice to become an entry point for economic revitalisation and job creation.

The conclusions of this meeting could contribute to elaborating practical measures the PBC can take in order to improve the way in which the international community supports these areas.

II. Key questions to be addressed

1. Youth Employment

(1) Policy development

- What are the specific challenges faced by various actors on the ground including IFIs for developing employment creation/income generation initiatives especially for youth in fragile settings?

- What role could the PBC play in supporting national efforts to develop coherent, and effective strategies for job creation? Who can initiate the role of defining terms of basic data on employment so that the relevant stakeholders can work collectively on result-oriented interventions based on common indicators?
- How can the PBC facilitate the assessments that identify existing national capacities and capacity building investment needed? How can the PBC help implement the findings of the civilian capacity review in the field of youth employment that require closer linkage between short-term civilian deployment and longer-term planning for developing national capacities?
- What role can the PBC play in facilitating an environment conducive to the engagement of multinational enterprises and developing local private sector?

The relevant policies may include:

- Analysis of the sectors with the most employment potential –eg. agriculture, minerals, infrastructure, etc.
- Systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Coordination between those concerned with the technical side of development projects with those concerned with employment promotion
- Linking district economic development planning with planning for public works, value chain analysis, projects on employment and national macro-economic planning
- A detailed plan of how to develop the system of linkages at the national and district level
- The development of services such as Business Development Skills; Careers Advice and Placement

(2) Donor alignment

- What sort of mechanism is needed to bring actors together and coordinate programmes and resources in order to overcome the current incoherent and fragmented approach by the international community, where job creation projects have often adopted a short-term outlook with limited linkages to long-term employment and income generation, or labour market analysis?
- What can the PBC do to bring donors and the private sector together for the agriculture sector to develop a value chain approach for specific commodities?
- How can the donor community improve the quality of programming of job creation and private sector development initiatives?

eg.

- Development of criteria for new projects based on the best practices
- The training/orientation of NGOs to become skilled in employment creation interventions
- The training of specialized skills for the multinational companies so as to develop public-

private partnerships

(3)Monitoring gaps in capacity, policy, and resources/Disseminating lessons learned

- What sort of monitoring system is needed to assess progress and alert stakeholders on gaps in programming capacity, policy deficiency, and lack of resources? How can the PBC play a role to this effect?
- How can the PBC disseminate good practices and lessons learned regionally and globally to those who implement job programmes as well as to the private sector? How can the regional institutions be involved to this effect?

2. Natural resource management

- How can the PBC help integrate natural resource issues into post-conflict planning?
- How can the international community support governments to improve their ability to better negotiate natural resource contracts with private companies to protect national interest and to effectively collect revenues from the exploitation of natural resources?
- What incentives can be provided to get governments to effectively reinvest state revenues from natural resources back into the communities to benefit local populations or to ensure local employment?
- How can the UN system collaborate with mechanisms outside the UN such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)?
- How can the PBC help align various tools of the UN system to deal with the issue of natural resource management?
- How can the perspective of civil societies be brought into policy formulation, including the increased transparency?

III. 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.

Panellists:

Mr. Stephen N. Ndegwa, Adviser Fragile & Conflict Affected Countries Group
Operations Policy and Country Services - The World Bank (TBC)

Mr. Ichiro Tambo, Executive Advisor to the Director General, Director, Office for TICAD
Process, Africa Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA

Mr. Oli Brown, UNEP Programme Coordinator in Sierra Leone and UNIPSIL Environmental
Affairs Officer

Mr. Owen Shumba, Team Leader, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Group, UNDP BCPR

IV. Follow-up

The outcome of the meeting will be consolidated by the Chair of the WGLL in the forms of a Chair's Summary, as well as initial findings on recommended actions for the PBC. The documents will be shared with the OC and CSCs for further reflection.
