

Concept Note
Peacebuilding Commission - Working Group on Lessons Learned

**Meeting on Peacebuilding Strategic Frameworks, Indicators,
and Monitoring Mechanisms**
19 September 2007 (10 am – 1 pm; Conference Room 6)

Objectives and Rationale for the Meeting

At the center of the Peacebuilding Commission's response to prevent the recurrence of violent conflict in a country on its agenda is the design of a coherent approach to peacebuilding involving all relevant national and international actors. Beginning with the large multi-dimensional peace operations of the early 1990s, the United Nations has increasingly advocated coordinated efforts between myriad civilian and military actors. Through the "Strategic Framework" approach adopted in the late 1990s, the activities of distinct political, humanitarian, and development actors in the UN system were coordinated around shared goals in Afghanistan and Somalia, where UN peacekeepers were not deployed at the time. Moving from "coordinated to more integrated" missions, the UN began this decade to introduce more sophisticated tools to align UN and donor resources with national strategic priorities. From the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Country Assistance Framework to the Compact mechanisms in Afghanistan and Iraq, and others under consideration, many important lessons are beginning to emerge.

With their varying forms and mandates, strategic frameworks are proving useful as political, policy-making, gap-filling, and performance monitoring tools. Although complex in scope and often difficult to implement, strategic frameworks assist war-torn countries facilitate political dialogue, enhance coordination, monitor progress and setbacks, and marshal, align, and sustain donor resources. In even the most aid-dependent societies, they represent a shift in thinking towards reorienting assistance to a conflict-affected society around a shared sense of purpose and responsibility.

This meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned is designed to distill lessons from various experiences with strategic frameworks as a direct input into the PBC's design and implementation of integrated peacebuilding strategies for Burundi and Sierra Leone as well as other future IPBSs. Key questions to be examined include:

- (i) how participatory consultations can lead to stronger peacebuilding commitments and better implementation;
- (ii) how benchmarks and indicators can help to ensure accountability towards national and international peacebuilding commitments;
- (iii) the role of monitoring mechanisms in facilitating national leadership, strategic coordination, aid effectiveness, and national capacity building;

- (iv) the extent to which peacebuilding strategic frameworks can build on and reinforce existing frameworks or strategies by focusing attention on critical factors that can impede the transition to sustainable peace.

Format and Structure

The meeting will be held from 10 am to 1 pm on 19 September 2007 in the UN Conference Room 6. It will involve short presentations (10-12 minutes) by several panelists and a facilitated dialogue.

Chair:

H.E. Mrs. Carmen María Gallardo Hernández, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

Panelists

Mr. Haile Menkerios, Assistant Secretary-General, DPA
On the need to link political and security objectives with national aid coordination frameworks

Ms. Lise Grande, Head of Integrated Office, MONUC/UNCT
On the Country Assistance Framework in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Dr. Erin McCandless, Adjunct Faculty, New School for General Studies
On the Agenda for Peacebuilding in Liberia

Mr. Adib Farhadi, Director of the ANDS Secretariat (tbc)
On the Afghanistan Compact's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board

Ms. Madalene O'Donnell, DPKO, Best Practices Section
Discussant

Output

A Chair's summary report of the meeting with relevant insights and lessons learned of direct relevance for the PBC.

Background Documents

A briefing paper titled "Lessons Learned from Peacebuilding Strategic Frameworks since the late 1990s" and an accompanying information note on "Key Instruments related to Peacebuilding Strategic Frameworks."