The Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission
Informal Interactive Dialogue (15 July 2014)

Joint summary of the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Introduction and opening remarks

The third annual informal interactive dialogue (IID) between the members of the Security Council and members of the PBC chairs' group and the countries on the PBC agenda was held on 15 July 2014. It was the second such dialogue to be convened under Rwanda's Presidency of the Council. Ahead of the IID, the Presidency circulated a short concept note that provided background information on the follow-up process to last year's IID. The concept note articulated the purpose and focus for this IID.

In his opening remarks, the President of the Security Council noted that the IID offered an opportunity to update on the progress made and the evolving practice in the content and modality of interaction between the Security Council and the PBC. At the same time, he noted that for this year's IID, a joint reflection on the question of "recurring relapse into conflict" is needed in view of the recent crises in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan.

The PBC Chair noted that the crises in CAR and South Sudan reaffirmed the need for comprehensive, long-term and sustainable solutions. He emphasized that in view of the complexity of these and other conflicts, the Security Council's strategies and tools needed to be diversified. The Chair stressed that the PBC was established as a strategic tool to enable the UN to more effectively respond to these complex crises. The Chair recalled that the focus on the causes of and the strategies needed to prevent relapse into conflict is timely as the Security Council and the General Assembly prepare to launch the ten year review of the peacebuilding architecture next year.

The PBC's advisory function to the Security Council: Progress in focusing the content of the advice and the evolving practice in the modality of interaction

The President recalled that Rwanda coordinated, on behalf of the PBC, a quarterly informal expert level stock-taking exercise that examined the scope of the PBC's advisory function and the modality of interaction between the two bodies when countries on the agenda of both organs came up for consideration by the Security Council. The stock-taking discussions brought together representatives of the Council's presidencies, penholders, members of both bodies, chairs of country configurations and the countries on the agenda.

The President noted that the exercise confirmed that the PBC's advice to the Council needed to remain flexible, pragmatic and, at times, opportunistic in its approach. The advice also needed to be targeted and guided by country-specific contexts. Going forward, the President called for a strategic approach that would help clarify how the PBC's diverse membership structure and flexible outreach to regional and international partners can complement and reinforce the Security Council's and UN political strategy in each specific context. He placed particular emphasis on the political and

convening role that the PBC could potentially play to improve regional and international coherence of positions and actions.

The President pointed to three main princip

3. How can the upcoming 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture help analyze and address these systemic gaps?

Several participants noted that the peacebuilding architecture was intended as a dedicated institutional mechanism that would help address many of the systemic gaps that undermined the effectiveness of UN response to and engagement in post-conflict situations. While many noted that the architecture had a positive impact in countries where they have been involved, it was argued that such impact remained context specific and that it fell short of fundamentally changing the manner with which the UN addressed the risk of relapse into conflict.

Several participants noted that the upcoming review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2015 needed to be approached against the backdrop of recent cases of both successes and relapse in order to identify the elements of progress and the ongoing systemic gaps in the UN response to conflict and post-conflict situations. Others emphasized that the review offers an opportunity to revisit the original vision behind the peacebuilding architecture, identify the ongoing and emerging challenges and broader systemic gaps and suggest measures for adapting the architecture's functions, structures and resources to address them. One participant noted that the review should help suggest ways for mainstreaming a "peacebuilding" approach into Security Council's mandated peacekeeping and special political missions.

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