
On 26 January 2011, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The PBC Chairperson presided over the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included a briefing by Dr. Bruce Jones, Member of the Senior Advisory Group to the Secretary General on the Review of the international civilian capacity and Dr. David Harland, Director of the Review Team.

Briefing on the review of the international civilian capacity

1. Dr. Jones framed the discussion by stating that peacekeeping can only provide temporary security and that measures to sustain lasting peace must be developed from the onset of peace operations. To date the civilian component has been lacking in quality, sufficiency and speed. One explanation was the short time span of peacekeeping operations against the need for long term perspectives for allowing peace to take root in a country. Therefore, 85% of the conflicts we witnessed in the past decade were in countries that had already experienced conflicts in the decade prior to that. Adding to this, conflicts themselves were changing and new patterns emerging such as the interconnectedness with organized and transnational crime as well as significant sub regional dynamics. Appropriate civilian capacities should therefore address not only the challenges of the past but also those of the future. This would require a more nimble United Nations with the ability to tap into the most appropriate capacities in Member States, regional organizations or civil society. Currently the UN had neither the people nor the systems to manage these partnerships.

2. The report would recommend a United Nations that is **OPEN** in that is focuses on **O**wnership, **P**artnerships, **E**xpertise and **N**imbleness. Dr. Jones emphasized that the PBC would be a particularly appropriate forum for taking forward a number of recommendations because of its mandate to work across organizational boundaries and address the entire continuum of peacebuilding activities.

3. Dr. Harland emphasized that many of the report's recommendations reflects points made by Member States during the debate in the Security Council on Peacebuilding and Institution building on 21 January 2011. He pointed to the importance of national ownership, national capacity development, the need to limit 'brain drain', the need for a more demand driven approach with stronger partnerships between the UN, Member States, regional and sub regional organizations, training centers and civil society.

4. Dr. Harland also noted that the previous discussions in the PBC OC on the Review of International Civilian Capacity had provided useful input to the Review in terms of focusing

on existing structures rather than inventing new ones and in pl

7. In the follow up remarks, Dr. Jones again emphasised the role that the PBC could play in taking some of the recommendations forward. In addition, coherent positions in other fora such as the boards of the World Bank and UNDP would also be required.

8. The Chair concluded the discussion by reminding the members and the Review team that engaging with partners would be a process, not an event.
