

**Peacebuilding Commission
Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**“Security Sector Reform and Rule of Law for Peacebuilding”,
26 October 2011**

Chairperson’s Summary

I. Introduction

1. The Peacebuilding Commission’s (PBC) Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) held a meeting on the topic of “Security Sector Reform and Rule of Law for Peacebuilding” on 26 October 2011 in New York. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations and Chair of the WGLL. The panel was composed of four speakers:

- Col. Aloysius Kagoro, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Uganda People’s Defence Force
- Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Head of the Security Sector Reform Unit, Department for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations
- Mr. Kevin O. George, Country Director, American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative
- Ms. Camino Kavanagh, Senior Program Coordinator and Fellow, Center on International Cooperation

2. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Nishida indicated that the meeting had been convened under the theme of *security sector reform and rule of law for peacebuilding* which was a follow-up to an earlier meeting on comparative lessons learned from the United Nations (UN) rule of law assistance held in October 2008. He mentioned that both security sector reform and rule of law are recognized as peacebuilding priorities of the countries on the PBC agenda and noted the importance of these two areas in peacebuilding. Ambassador Nishida noted that the *World Development Report 2011 on Conflict, Security and Development* suggested the need for a more coherent approach to address the linkages between security sector reform and rule of law. The report also emphasized the importance of civilian oversight of security forces in the early stage. In addition, the Secretary General’s report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* recognized the centrality of capacity building in the area of security sector reform. He, then, noted that as outlined in the aforementioned documents and experience from PBC country configurations, the discussion of this meeting would be focused on linkages between security sector reform and rule of law, civilian oversight, capacity building and a reliable coordination mechanism and regional approaches.

II. Presentations by Panelists

3. Col. Aloysius Kagoro shared lessons lear

Association Rule of Law Initiative in Liberia. He made several suggestions, which include the following:

- It is important that coordination not only takes place at the macro level, but that it occurs at key stages where human, management and strategic capacity need to be strengthened. It is important to build human capacity to manage security and Rule of Law institutions. Management capacity is often the greatest barrier to sustainability.
- Where human and financial resources are scarce, it is critical for the international community to address the micro level of management capacity even before or contemporaneously with major macro level initiatives to devolve service delivery, such as the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) supported “hubs” in Liberia.
- There is a need to fine tune how the delivery of funds is made. For example, the Liberian capacity should not be overloaded with projects that seek to accomplish too much too quickly.
- Nationally-driven sector wide approach is crucial in order to ensure coherence of donor support and avoid duplication of effort.

6. Ms. Camino Kavanagh spoke of the obstacles which most post-conflict countries face when conducting rule of law reform and the role which the PBC could play in this regard. She noted the numerous definitions and explanations of rule of law which often cause confusion. She also emphasised that rule of law efforts should in essence address actual needs of the people and protect their rights. The PBC was called upon to:

- Involve all national stakeholders, not only the state, in the overall efforts to deepen the culture of rule of law and develop the justice sector.
- Facilitate the sharing of lessons learned among countries facing similar challenges and/or that have overcome these challenges.
- Utilise the political space that the PBC offers in order to encourage an attitude change of states’ security sector reform and rule of law efforts.

III. Discussions on Lessons Learned

7. Participants, including the Chairs of the Country Specific Configurations of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone, underlined some important points regarding security sector reform and rule of law. For example, it is vital that national governments are fully engaged in their security sector reform and rule of law efforts to ensure problems are addressed and solved. When conducting strategic reviews of the SSR, means and problems of the country first need to be identified in order to produce prioritised, realisable and clear goals. Policy makers need to be aware that both security sector reform and rule of law efforts require a holistic approach, with due consideration to cultural and historical contexts. In addition, these are long term

integration of efforts among key actors was strongly emphasized and a South-South cooperation mechanism beyond the UN was recommended.

8. Special emphasis was placed on the gender dimension of SSR and RoL. It was suggested that women be involved in efforts to develop civilian oversight at the early stages of SSR processes. The usefulness of Parliamentary oversight was also emphasised. It was suggested that Parliament's capacity be utilised to draw good legislation to provide