

**Peacebuilding Commission  
Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**Informal /Informal expert-level preparatory meeting on**

leveraged even more going forward. Yet it is also important to recognize that the drawdown and withdrawal of UN missions invariably result in less capacity on the ground and that UN Country Teams (UNCT) cannot compensate every function which UN missions provided at a one by one level. Thus, it is crucial for the UNCT and the international community to identify priority areas and to focus on of the broader goals and priorities of the post-transition period.

**Mr. Lund** noted that while “the policy on UN transition” is very useful, officials on the ground need to have more operational guidance; thus UNDP is now developing additional guidance on transitions for its country offices building on the system-wide policy.

One of the challenges for UNDP is that while there is huge expectation about the roles of UNDP and UNCT in general after UN missions leave, there are key gaps. For instance, he argued, UNDP does not have a clear political mandate, so that it may be difficult for UNDP or UNCT to perform the good offices role which some member states expect. In this context, he argues that the PBC can play very important political advisory role to the host states following UN missions’ transition.

He emphasized that although the UN missions’ withdrawal demonstrates the positive transition for the post-conflict states, it does not mean that peace-building efforts should cease. Nevertheless, for donors, UN missions transitions lead to decrease in the level of support provided for peacebuilding-related objectives. He thus mentioned that the PBC can play an important role in sustaining attention and support for the countries that undergo UN missions’ transition so that attention to those host states is sustained if not enhanced.

He also stressed that a compact or mutual agreement between the host states and the international community could be a very good idea in advance preparation for the transition as they help affirm the mutual commitment by the host states and the international community for peacebuilding-related goals.

### **III. Main findings**

On the basis of the presentation and interactions between the panelists and the Member States, the following represents the main findings from this meeting:

#### **Advisory role to the Security Council:**

UN leadership might need an intergovernmental platform to reinforce its efforts during pre-draw down consultations with national (and possibly regional) stakeholders. The results of these consultations aim to help the Security Council's factor in its decisions on drawdown public perceptions, priorities and concerns linked

well as changing realities and priorities of the countries concerned. These changes may not exactly match the mission tasks, but still require calibrated response from the UNCT and the international community.

The Security Council can use a political forum to help sustain political accompaniment of certain processes (e.g. constitutional review in the case of Sierra Leone) beyond the Council's periodic consideration of the situations concerned. Such accompaniment can also help sustain financial and technical support/engagement from the international community for ongoing and longer term peacebuilding programmes beyond UN mission transition processes.

Transition of UN missions in a country is only a part of the overall transition that countries undergo when emerging from conflict. The Security Council would benefit from a broad-based membership platform where there is focus on the overall transition that countries are making from conflict to peace.

#### **Creation of an enabling environment for transitions by:**

Drawing greater international attention to emerging opportunities and needs in the countries concerned as they transition to a more development-focused UN presence (position the countries concerned in a more positive light internationally to help attract investment and build greater confidence in its economy).

Pointing to challenges and gaps (such as national capacity gaps) requiring greater national, regional and international commitments.

Engaging development actors at the earliest stages of the UN transition process to facilitate greater alignment between development and peacebuilding-related priorities (compacts can be a useful framework).

#### **Other points that participants discussed:**

Possible larger roles for the Resident Coordinator in post UN-mission transitions. These roles should be based on the recognition that UNCTs tend to design and implement programs in institution-building in politically sensitive areas, such as support for constitutional review processes and capacity building of parliaments in host states.

The imperative of establishing partnerships with