

A vibrant civil society acts as an important source for civic engagement and it will also be vital to national ownership of reconciliation. Yet, in Liberia these actors are constrained by capacity limitations. We need to find ways to encourage their work and strengthen civil society including by building their core capacities. The PBC will maintain focus on this issue and I will continue to meet with representatives of civil society during my visits.

Throughout, the PBC will liaise closely with the SRSG to ensure that our efforts are fully coherent with those of the UN. UNMIL, with support of the UN Country Team, has a vital role to play in reconciliation. The PBC fully supports the suggestion that this should be reflected in UNMIL's mandate.

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SMC. But efforts must be made to enhance the functioning of the Trust Fund for Justice and Security. Bilateral partners are presently working closely with UNDP to this end. A similar set up is being discussed for support to reconciliation activities, and it must work without flaws and delays.

A key project already under way is the Regional Justice and Security Hubs. The Hubs should facilitate the establishment of an effective and accountable State presence throughout the country. This will also contribute to closing gaps and avoiding any appearance of a vacuum. However, delays in the construction of the first Hub, generated valid questions about its viability. The response can best be provided through action on the ground, by completing the establishment of the Hub and showing its impact. As we begin to assess the impact on the surrounding communities, and if security is enhanced and access to justice increased, the PBC will have a persuasive presentation for resource mobilization for the next Hubs.

There are several lessons that have already been identified. The UN system must be able to more effectively coordinate its efforts amongst themselves as well as with the Government. Time frames must be adhered to. The design of the Hubs needs to be adjusted according to the circumstances of each region. If the lessons are effectively applied, it should be possible to complete the next four Hubs within tight time frames. The PBC will continue to monitor the implementation of the Hub, and we will continue to draw attention to shortcomings when necessary.

The third point; on PBC support for capacity building of the Liberian National Police.

I have already touched upon some aspects of police but would like to add the following.

After a request by the President of Liberia, the PBC facilitated consultations on how to strengthen and coordinate training support to LNP. The outcome was an understanding that focus should continue on Government ownership, building on UNMIL accomplishments and its overarching role. But it is also clear that to ensure a smooth transition, we must explore modalities for closer cooperation between UNMIL, bilateral partners and the UNCT, with the purpose of improving LNP quality and quantity.

PBC will continue to encourage partners to get involved, increase

PBC is in the process of finalizing a resource mobilization strategy and a corresponding work plan. We will work closely with the Government and

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