

begin on 1 January. The resolution invited all other bodies with members on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to adjust the term of office of their respective members accordingly.

4. On 7 January 2009, the Commission elected its new Chairperson, Heraldo Muñoz (Chile), and Vice-Chairperson,¹ Park In-kook (Republic of Korea). The Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations were chaired by Anders Lidén (Sweden), Jan Grauls (Belgium), Maria Luiza R. Viotti (Brazil) and Frank Majoor (Netherlands), respectively. The Working Group on Lessons Learned was chaired by Carmen Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador).

5. On 25 February and 29 June 2009, on the basis of consultations with the Governments of Sierra Leone and Burundi, the Organizational Committee elected the Permanent Representative of Canada as the new Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and the Permanent Representative of Switzerland as the new Chair of the Burundi configuration. The election of the new Chairs of the Sierra Leone and the Burundi configurations followed the resignations of the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Sweden.

6. The various configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission met regularly and addressed issues pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

A. Organizational Committee

7. During the third session, the Organizational Committee held on average one monthly informal meeting to address organizational and substantive matters. Formal meetings were convened only as necessary. The monthly meetings of the Chairs of the Commission configurations contributed to developing the agenda of meetings of the Organizational Committee and, in general, the Commission work programme. In particular, the meetings of the Organizational Committee provided an opportunity for the members to interact with the Peacebuilding Support Office and to contribute to the drafting process of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), as requested by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 20 May 2008 (S/PRST/2008/16). The Organizational Committee addressed that issue on five occasions during the period 15 September 2008 to 27 May 2009.

8. In addition, on 6 and 7 February 2009, the Organizational Committee convened its second annual informal retreat at the ambassadorial level, at which it focused on the value added and visibility of the Commission in the countries on its agenda; improving the Commission working methods; and building and strengthening partnerships. The Deputy Secretary-General inaugurated the retreat with a keynote address.

Interaction with the United Nations principal organs

10. The Chairperson maintained regular and direct contacts with the Presidents of

15. The participation of the Chairperson in those public events was part of a broader outreach and advocacy strategy aimed at raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the Commission in different quarters and enhancing awareness about its work. Members of the Organizational Committee also organized events relating to the work of the Commission, including a round table hosted on 10 and 11 December 2008 by the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, on augmenting input from the South into peacebuilding theory and practice.

16. Furthermore, the Chairperson held a meeting and made further contacts with artist and pro-peace activist Yoko Ono (3 March) and with other philanthropists in order to seek their contribution to the work of the Commission and to the Peacebuilding Fund. The Chairperson also launched discussion among the members

dialogue with the representatives of the European Community, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on countries emerging from conflict, with special emphasis on countries placed on the Commission agenda. On the same day, the Chairperson met with the Senior Vice-President of External Affairs of the World Bank on the cooperation between the World Bank and the Commission, within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the World Bank and the United Nations.

21. On 24 March 2009, during a visit to the headquarters of IMF and the World Bank in Washington, D.C., the Chairperson reflected to the authorities of those institutions the concerns expressed by the members of the Organizational Committee regarding the implications for the post-conflict countries of the current economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, during the same visit the Commission's keen interest in continuing to strengthen the evolving partnership with IMF and the World Bank was confirmed.

22. In addition and as part of the Commission strategy to strengthen its outreach to regional organizations, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. and met with its Secretary General.

23. The Chairperson also met with the Head of the United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union and later received an open invitation from the African Union Commission to meet with its authorities at its headquarters before the end of 2009.

24. On 4 and 5 May 2009, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the European Commission and the Council of the European Union in Brussels, where he exchanged views with senior European officials and advocated for the continued engagement of the European Community in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in the countries on its agenda.

25. On 19 June, the Chairperson chaired a panel on the theme "Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict" in an annual event entitled "Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Member States: towards an interactive dialogue".

26. Furthermore, during the first half of 2009, the Chairperson held bilateral meetings with high-level officials dealing with peacebuilding from several Member States.

Consideration of broad strategy on implementing core mandates of the Peacebuilding Commission

build partnerships and to intensify its advocacy and awareness-raising activities with key partners, as well as its direct resource mobilization support for countries on its agenda.

29. On 29 April 2009, in connection with the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission to improve coordination of all peacebuilding actors, the Organizational Committee held a discussion on the United Nations rule of law coordination strategy, with particular emphasis on the implications for countries on the Commission agenda. The Organizational Committee was briefed by the Director of the Rule of Law Unit, who underlined possible areas in which the evolving coordination strategy would contribute to the coherence and effectiveness of the Commission's advice on peacebuilding activities related to rule of law.

Procedure and working methods

30. The Organizational Committee continued to adopt and devise flexible practices on procedural matters that were not originally addressed in its provisional rules of procedure or its working methods, including the adoption of a new approach to meeting management in order to streamline its work under a predictable and stable workplan, while at the same time ensuring the allocation of the requisite resources to facilitate the conduct of its meetings. It also continued to take a number of organizational decisions through the silence procedure.

31. In the context of its annual retreat, the Organizational Committee addressed the connection between the Commission working methods and the ability to further enhance its value added and effectiveness. The Organizational Committee recognized the need to continue to introduce improvements in the working methods that did not necessarily require new mandates, such as modified approaches to the purpose and scope of integrated peacebuilding strategies, strengthening and diversifying the approach to resource mobilization, calibrating response to emerging situations in the field and harmonizing the work of the various configurations. In the course of various meetings, the Organizational Committee also discussed areas of improvements that might be addressed in the context of the upcoming mandated review in 2010, such as the nature and scope of its advisory role and the establishment of its agenda.

B. Burundi configuration

32. During the reporting period, there were a number of crucial developments in Burundi's peace process and peacebuilding efforts. In its third year of engagement with Burundi, the Commission focused on supporting those efforts, with particular emphasis on ensuring the durability of the peace gains and making such gains amenable to the country's socio-economic development needs.

33. From 21 to 23 October 2008, the Chair of the country configuration undertook a mission to Burundi in order to discuss with stakeholders the opportunities for and challenges of mutual engagements in the peacebuilding process. On the basis of the Chair's mission and consultations, the Burundi configuration adopted a workplan focusing on three main issues: (a) support to the peace process, notably on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu-Forces Nationales de Libération (Palipehutu-FNL); (b) assistance to Burundi in creating an environment conducive to free, fair and transparent national elections

in 2010; and (c) support to refugees and land issues and socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. In addition, the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to attach priority to two strategic issues: (a) improving the impact of the Commission on the ground, including through effective coordination of its members present in Burundi; and (b) efficient communication on the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi and its relationship with other complementary tools, such as support from the Peacebuilding Fund and the Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

34. On 10 December 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration briefed the Security Council on the Commission's engagement with the country, reiterating the priority plans for its support to the country. On 12 December 2008, the Burundi configuration addressed the developments in the peace process with the participation of the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, Charles Nqakula. The Facilitator briefed the members on the outcome of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes region, which took place on 4 December 2008, and on the challenges relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the political integration of Palipehutu-FNL. Following his briefing, the members of the configuration confirmed their support to the efforts aimed at addressing those challenges and their readiness to contribute to the funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Commission adopted the conclusions of the Burundi configuration (PBC/3/BDI/1) calling for urgent international support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and requesting, inter alia, that the Government develop a longer-term strategy for sustainable socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, return refugees and internally displaced persons.

35. In the light of the developments in the peace process, the Chair was invited to the meeting of the Group of Special Envoys for Burundi, which took place on 16 and 17 January 2009 in Bujumbura. The Envoys issued a declaration expressing support to the peace process and calling on the parties to fulfil their respective commitments made in the Bujumbura Declaration. The commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process on 16 March 2009 was an important development supported by the African Union Special Task Force, with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund and contributions of several members of the Commission. On 18 April 2009, the leader of Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL),² Agathon Rwasa, laid down his arms thereby effecting the separation of the movement's security arm and the registration of FNL as a political party.

36. On 4 February 2009, the Burundi configuration held the second biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. The review was led by the Government of Burundi and conducted on the basis of a consultative process involving a broad range of stakeholders in Burundi, including civil society.

the preparations for the national transitional justice consultations; and the involvement of women and youth in peace consolidation efforts. However, the review also noted a number of important remaining challenges that required attention and support from the Commission. Those challenges included outstanding elements of the peace process, the institutionalization of the political dialogue among stakeholders and the preparations for the forthcoming national elections, the consolidation of good governance and the efforts to strengthen rule of law and human rights, and the regularization of monitoring and reporting against established benchmarks. The Government of Burundi also urged the international community to deliver on the commitments made during the May 2007 donor round table. On 6 February 2009, the Commission adopted the conclusions of the second biannual review (PBC/3/BDI/3).

37. From 25 to 27 May 2009, the Chair undertook a visit to Burundi in order to follow up on the commitments made in the implementation of the

efforts resulted in securing funding for the elections in due time. As part of the advocacy role of the Commission, on 21 November 2008, the Guinea-Bissau configuration and the Sierra Leone configuration organized a high-level briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, on the theme “Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa”.

49. On 26 November 2008, following an armed attack against the residence of President João Bernardo Vieira shortly after the announcement of the results of the legislative elections, the Guinea-Bissau configuration condemned the use of violence and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/4). While welcoming the successful organization of the elections on 16 November and the high level of participation of Bissau-Guineans, the Commission expressed its concern over the incident, stressing the need to ensure full respect for the results of the elections and the rule of law.

50. On 4 March 2009, following the assassinations of President João Bernardo

(which took place later, in December 2008 in Bangui) and the implementation of its recommendations as a cross-cutting priority. The Commission agreed that progress in all three priorities, in the context of achievements in the implementation of the conclusions of the inclusive political dialogue, was paramount for peace consolidation in the country.

58. From 30 October to 6 November 2008, a delegation representing the Peacebuilding Commission and led by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a field visit to the country. The delegation met with Government representatives at all levels and political parties of the majority and of the democratic opposition; civil society, including the private sector; the diplomatic community; and the United Nations country team. The delegation also travelled to Paoua, Guinea-Bissau, a city that exemplified some of the key peacebuilding challenges facing the country.

59. From 22 January to 5 February 2009, a delegation from the Peacebuilding Support Office visited the country to facilitate inclusive consultations among all national and international stakeholders in preparation for the development of the country's strategy document. On 6 May 2009, following the successful completion of the consultative process, including a number of informal consultations of the Central African Republic configuration in New York, the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7).

60. Following the formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a mission to Bangui to present the Strategic Framework document to all national stakeholders, including Government officials, members of Parliament, the international community, civil society, representatives of the United Nations system and the press, with a view to further strengthening national ownership of the strategy and officially begin its implementation.

61. The Chair of the Central African Republic configuration also directed his effort at: (a) increasing and sustaining the attention of the international community to the situation in the Central African Republic; (b) mobilizing resources for the implementation of the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding; and (c) supporting the coordination among stakeholders. Over the reporting period, the Chair also focused his efforts on sensitization and resource mobilization and, therefore, paid a number of visits to the European Commission and the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in Brussels, the World Bank and the Department of State in Washington, D.C., the

reintegration programme. The Central African Monetary and Economic Community had pledged \$16 million for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, of which the Government had received \$10 million.

67. In addition to its regular briefings to the Fund donors, the Peacebuilding Support Office provided quarterly briefings to the Organizational Committee on global and country-specific activities and operations of the Fund during the respective briefing periods.

68. On the basis of operational experience and growing recognition of the potential of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing support for the peacebuilding process, there was room to further enhance the effectiveness and the catalytic impact of the Fund. To that end and on the basis of the earlier intention of the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Support Office, as fund manager, had commissioned an independent evaluation of the Fund undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2008. The OIOS evaluation concluded that the Fund had potential to fill a unique peacebuilding niche in the post-conflict arena. The evaluation also identified a series of management and operational challenges that required the attention of the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure full implementation of the Fund's mandate.

69. In December 2008, in compliance with the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund (A/60/984, annex), the Peacebuilding Support Office initiated a consultative process leading to the revision of the terms of reference of the Fund. The revised terms of reference, which were guided by the experience of the Fund in the four countries on the Commission's agenda, emphasized key principles for the Fund's operations, namely transparency, flexibility, operational speed, accountability, catalytic effect, effectiveness, needs-based allocation and national ownership.

70. On 17 June 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/282, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on the progress of the implementation of the Fund's mandate. The report of the Secretary-General is contained in document A/64/582, which was adopted by the Assembly on 10 October 2009.

partnerships would add to the Commission's repertoire of knowledge and expertise,

B. Evolving engagement with countries on the agenda

76. Drawing on the lessons learned from its first three years, the Commission has recognized that its value added will be further enhanced through focused and demand-driven engagement with national actors, which would lead to sustained attention to the critical peacebuilding priorities and the promotion of an integrated approach to peacebuilding in the various phases of the post-conflict response of the United Nations.

77. The Commission has started discussions on how it can build on or make use of existing in-country assessments, strategy-setting processes and plans in countries on its agenda in order to ensure that peacebuilding priorities receive focused attention and support without generating high transaction costs for the national partners. In that regard, the Commission will continue to advocate for early and inclusive national-level engagement in post-conflict needs assessment.

78. The Commission has also begun to explore the possibility of diversifying the forms of its engagement with countries on its agenda, including through a possible multitiered approach. In that regard, advice could be provided on specific peacebuilding priorities on the basis of lessons drawn from the experience of other countries, and by mobilizing the contribution of experts, practitioners and national stakeholders who are engaged in peacebuilding efforts. The Commission will also continue to explore ways to simplify processes and streamline planning, monitoring and reporting tools, while maintaining their robustness. The Commission will also continue to work towards forging closer links between headquarters and the country concerned in taking forward key priorities.

C. Resource mobilization

79. The Commission recognizes that rapid and flexible funding, aligned to an agreed and prioritized strategy, is critical for successful peacebuilding. The Commission remains convinced that funding for peacebuilding should be viewed as an early investment in sustainable peace and development and, therefore, may require greater risk-taking than normal development funding.

for key peacebuilding priorities identified by the countries on its agenda. In that regard, the Commission will continue to utilize the evolving capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office to identify critical resource gaps for peacebuilding and will encourage the United Nations and the international financial institutions to develop coordinated measures to build national capacities for aid management and coordination as an integral element of a peacebuilding strategy.

D. Communications, outreach and greater visibility

82. The Commission notes the limited awareness about and some lack of understanding of its role, the evolving concept of peacebuilding and how the international community can best support peacebuilding, especially in the countries on its agenda. Even where there is some understanding about the role of the Commission, there is little awareness and much confusion about its role and links with the Peacebuilding Fund. This lack of understanding pertains equally to the capitals of its own members, the country-level actors and the populations in the countries concerned. This needs to be addressed if there is to be sustained and increased support for peacebuilding.

83. The Commission has recognized the need to further develop and adapt its outreach and advocacy activities through a number of communications means. This could include field visits (ideally coinciding with the biannual reviews), which could be used to promote the engagement of all stakeholders and for raising awareness of, and mobilizing support for, the peacebuilding process in the countries on its agenda. Moreover, the Commission has decided to explore outreach initiatives, such as the appointment of goodwill ambassadors, the establishment of a group of friends for peacebuilding and the convening of an annual high-level peacebuilding forum. The Commission would also encourage targeted outreach activities by its Chairs, members and the senior-most United Nations representatives in the field in support of the critical peacebuilding priorities.

84. The Commission will develop a targeted communications strategy that is flexible and adaptable in order to address the various actors and partners, such as national stakeholders, bilateral and institutional donors, regional actors and practitioners. This strategy, which should complement existing country-specific strategies, should also aim to build a strategic partnership with international and national media, encouraging them to take a focused approach to peacebuilding, thus helping to increase public understanding of both the challenges and successes of peacebuilding.

V. Conclusions

85. During the past three years, the Commission has consolidated its core advisory role and demonstrated increasing support for the countries on its agenda.

86. The Commission played an important advisory role in the development of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) and will continue to pursue the agenda outlined therein. The Commission welcomes the report and will support the implementation of its recommendations on strengthening the United Nations leadership in, and

coherent and integrated response to, post-conflict situations, enhancing financing for peacebuilding and building national capacities. The Commission will also consider engaging in the envisaged review to be undertaken to analyse how the United Nations and the international community can help to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian experts and volunteers for peacebuilding, giving particular attention to

Denmark
Egypt
Kenya
Norway
Rwanda
Switzerland (Chair of the configuration)^b
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
African Development Bank
African Union
East African Economic Community
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Community of Central African States
Executive Representative of the Secretary-General
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

**Additional members of the Central African Republic configuration
(in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution
60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))**

Angola
Belgium (Chair of the configuration)
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
United Nations Development Programme

^b Beginning on 1 July 2009 and following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of Sweden.

African Development Bank

African Union

Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale

Economic Community of Central African States

Economic Commission for Africa

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Additional members of the Sierra Leone configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))^c

Austria
Brazil
Egypt
Ghana
Guinea
Ireland
Italy
Liberia
Portugal
Sierra Leone
African Development Bank
African Union
Central Bank of West African States
Commonwealth
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Community of West African States
Executive Representative of the Secretary-General
International Organization for Migration
Mano River Union
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Participants in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission (in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

International Monetary Fund
World Bank
European Community
Organization of the Islamic Conference

Annex II

Chronology of the work of the Organizational Committee

Formal meetings

2008

23 June

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

2009

7 January

Employment and income-generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries; election of the Chairperson and other officers

25 February

Election of officers

29 June

Election of officers

Informal meetings

2008

15 September

Programme of work and way forward; quarterly briefing on the Peacebuilding Fund operations

29 October

Enhancing cooperation with UNDP

19 November

Employment/income generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries: case studies and their core elements; briefing on the preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund; briefing on the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery

17 December

Preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund;

Annex III

Chronology of the work of the Burundi configuration

Informal meetings

2008

12 December

Annex IV

Chronology of the work of the Central African Republic configuration

Formal meetings^a

2008

2 July

Brief on the Chair's upcoming exploratory mission and discussion on the calendar of work

8 October

Presentation by the Government of the Central African Republic on challenges and priorities for peacebuilding in the country

2009

6 May

Formal adoption of the Strategic Frameworkcan RrGn challenges prcfentendar

2009

7 January

Annex V

Chronology of the work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration

Formal meetings

2008

1 October

Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

Informal meetings

2008

30 June

Thematic discussion of the issue of energy in Guinea-Bissau

3 September

Update on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau; discussion on the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

17 September

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009

25 March

Discussion on recent political developments in the country; preparations for the presidential elections; developments in security sector reform

9 April

A briefing from the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

15 April

Discussion on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

11 May

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau and her participation in the Praia conference on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

22 June

Annex VI

Chronology of the work of the Sierra Leone configuration

Formal meetings

2008

15 December

Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

2009

10 June

High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone

Informal meetings

2008

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as

Annex VII

Chronology of the work of the Working Group on Lessons Learned

2008

20 October

The role of the United Nations in rule of law assistance

24 November

Regional approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region of Africa

15 December

Development of national capacity after conflict

2009

30 March

Collaboration and coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations

28 May

Sustainable community-based reintegration in post-conflict situations
