

**PBC Chairs' Visit to the World Bank (13 September 2012)**

**DRAFT**

**Summary of the discussions and outcome**

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**Background**

The PBC Chairs' Group visited the World Bank's Headquarters in Washington D.C. on 13 September 2012.

The main purpose of the visit was to deepen the partnership between the PBC and the World Bank, both at the policy and country-specific levels. The visit was organized in the context of the PBC's objective to enhance its impact in the field through strengthening the partnership with the international financial institutions, as stipulated in the Commission's Roadmap of Actions in 2012 (Section I (A) – 1).

The composition of the PBC delegation and the programme of the visit are annexed to this summary. In preparation for the visit, a Briefing Note for the delegation was prepared by PBSO. It is circulated separately.

**Key issues discussed during the visit**

**1. Complimentary roles of the PBC and the World Bank**

It was generally acknowledged that PBC offers a political framework which addresses the interlinkage between political, security and socio-economic development challenges of peacebuilding through its instruments of engagement. It was also noted that the World Bank possesses the expertise and resources which it can bring to bear on peacebuilding work through its Country Assistance Strategies (CAS). It was emphasized that programmes designed to foster an enabling political environment, for example, in areas of political dialogue and reconciliation represent important entry points for the PBC's work, and can be complimentary to the World Bank's engagement in countries on the PBC's agenda.

The World Development Report of 2011 on *Conflict, Security and Development (WDR 11)* represents a paradigm shift in the manner with which the Bank works in fragile and conflict affected countries and will evolve over time. The establishment of the Global Centre for Conflict Security and Development (CCSD) with locations in Nairobi and Washington also marks a shift towards an operational approach to the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the WDR.

## 2. Areas for country-specific collaboration

### (A) Design and implementation of country strategies

The PBC and the World Bank could support governments of countries on the PBC's agenda to ensure that Poverty Reductions Strategies (PRS') highlight critical peacebuilding priorities. Examples of such support include PRSP developments in the Central African Republic and Burundi in 2011 and 2012, respectively. A similar approach could be followed in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Active participation of the World Bank in the country-level consultations leading to the design of the PBC instruments of engagement will help in aligning these instruments with the Bank's CAS. At the same time, the PBC and the Bank should jointly work to improve coordination and alignment at the country-level among UN, World Bank and other actors behind national priorities and objectives.

The CCSD is promoting the analysis of stresses and institutional resilience as part of Bank strategies, and has recently started to provide technical assistance to Bank country teams in a number of fragile and conflict-affected states (a recent example: Burundi) on conflict-sensitive CAS and ISN (Interim Strategy Notes). This new approach should enable the Bank to ensure that its strategies and programs tackle key drivers of conflict.

The World Bank, PBC and UN teams could further build on successful examples of collaboration in the lead up to donor conferences/roundtable organized by countries on the PBC's agenda (e.g Donors Roundtable in CAR, upcoming Partners Conference in Burundi).

There are considerable opportunities for the UN and the World Bank to work even more closely together in countries where the Mission's draw-down or withdrawal is imminent. In Liberia, a Public Expenditure Review and Needs Assessment of the security sector was jointly managed by UNMIL and the Bank and completed in 2012, with support from the UN-WB Partnership Trust Fund in the context of the gradual transition of UNMIL.

The implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (New Deal) in countries who have endorsed it and that are also on the PBC agenda was identified by the World Bank as another possible entry point for collaboration.

### (B) Specific sectors for collaboration

#### *Job creation*

This is an area which the PBC and the World Bank accord high priority and promises to be a flagship area for mutual cooperation. The 2012 World Development Report on *Gender Equality and Development* places significant emphasis on job creation for women. It was noted that youth employment is a key priority in the PBC's engagement with Sierra Leone, Guinea and Burundi.

Initial work on job creation in the context of the Global Facility for Job Creation in Fragile States involving the World Bank, PBSO, the African Development Bank, UNDP and ECA is



**Prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office with comments from the World Bank**