

UNSC Sept 2013/Lib

Briefing by Ambassador Staffan Tillander

Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

Meeting of the Security Council on Liberia

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First, let me express my appreciation

do the same, on the basis of an effectively managed, coordinated and implemented road map for national reconciliation.

On security sector reform and rule of law, the challenges are considerable, and in view of ensuring a seamless UNMIL transition, accelerating progress is vital. Next week, I will have the opportunity to take part in the SSR retreat in Monrovia, mentioned by the SRSG. As pointed out in the Report by the Secretary General, lack of Liberian police capacity, mobility, professional management and limited resources hamper necessary progress required in keeping step with the UNMIL transition. Also in terms of numbers, police strength has increased only marginally, as detailed by SRSG Landgren. Progress has also been slow in reforming and strengthening the judiciary. However, the appointment of a new Chief Justice presents an opportunity to press ahead and accelerate progress. We should make sure this opportunity is fully supported and utilized.

The responsibility for speeding up progress in justice and security is shared among all

2014. For this to be possible, UNDP and UNOPS as implementing partners must do their part, together with the Government, and thus show how the Hub concept can be effectively implemented. This will also make partners more willing to give the support needed for the full implementation of the planned five Justice and Security Hubs throughout Liberia.

Now to some other **peacebuilding challenges**. On **gender** related issues, Liberian grassroots and civil society have played a strong and constructive role and continue to do so. This role is even more important in view of the widespread sexual and gender based violence, including against children, and the shortcomings in taking legal action against perpetrators. In line with UNSC Resolution 2106 (2013), efforts need to be stepped up, both in terms of specific gender focused activities as well as actions to reform and strengthen the criminal justice system.

I am pleased to note that the proposal for PBF funding in Liberia for the coming years contains an increased allocation for gender focused activities, which would appropriately leave us with a funding level considerably above the 15% target set by the Secretary General. In upcoming PBC visits and in close cooperation with UNMIL and UN Women, I will continue the dialogue with the Minister of Gender on these issues, as well as with civil society organizations.

Women organizations and civil society were actively participating in the UNOWA initiated high level meeting on a sub regional strategy for the Mano River Union (MRU), held in Dakar in the end of June. I salute UNOWA and SRSJ Djinnit on this initiative. Strengthening the MRU and the strategy, taking into account security as well as development, is an important contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding and we should all consider ways to lend our support.

As mentioned in the Report by the Secretary General, there are concerns about lack of oversight, revenue issues and corruption related to **land and natural resources**. During the last PBC visit to Liberia in May, I had the opportunity to participate in a conference on this topic, arranged by civil society, and with active government and business participation. This is an issue where civil society plays an important role and the conference offered a constructive opportunity for a frank and open dialogue.

The Government of Liberia has expressed its intention to fight corruption. Some actions have been taken, but progress remains slow. Further actions should be encouraged, measures should be implemented, oversight strengthened, and perpetrators taken to court and those guilty should be held responsible.

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PBC welcomes the inclusion of the private sector in building in the strategies for Liberia recently adopted by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. It will be essential to maintain this fragility perspective in the implementation of the strategies. During the PBC visit to Liberia next week, I intend to continue the dialogue with the IFIs and the Government together to ensure synergies and mutual support.

Mr. President, the PBC visit next week will be an opportunity to discuss with the Government and partners on how we can mobilize resources to support the Government's efforts to