

Progress in the implementation of the PBC Roadmap for Actions in 2012

Peacebuilding Commission” view” on a range of issues. There is a need to further discuss how this latter aspect could practically materialize. The mid-year assessment of the implementation of the 2012 Roadmap under the auspices of the Committee represents an opportunity for cross-configuration interaction, learning and recognition of common opportunities and challenges. More importantly, the experience so far has shown that there is a need to intensify efforts aimed at garnering support from the broader membership in order to enable the PBC to fulfill its mandate.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

6. In July, the Committee organized a discussion on practical approaches to the Commission’s role in resource mobilization. The discussion was based on a paper entitled *Resource Mobilisation for Peacebuilding Priorities: the Role of the PBC* prepared by the PBSO outlining various options and opportunities for the Commission to consider as it undertakes to fulfil its mandate in this area. The discussion afforded the members an opportunity to consider how the PBC could possibly redefine its role in resource mobilization and how it can manage the expectations of the countries on its agenda and other operational actors. The discussion underlined the need to engage non-governmental donors, in particular philanthropic organisations and foundations.

7. One of the options presented in the aforementioned paper, which the WGLL is correctly working on, relates to using the tool of mapping of resource flows to identify gaps in resources to help the countries on the agenda develop effective aid management and coordination systems. This exercise is closer linked to the efforts of the PBC to identify specific entry points to engage private investors, philanthropic organizations and NGOs. The Committee needs to exercise sufficient leadership in taking forward this stream of work. Willing and interested members should be tasked to explore how the PBC could possibly utilize national networks and connections to link-up with relevant foundations and private investors.

8. The Committee met with the members of the newly reconstituted PBF Advisory Group. The discussion at this meeting focused on ways of ensuring that the synergy between the work of the PBC and PBF will continue to be among the key priorities for consideration by the Advisory Group.

9. The Committee is yet to identify the issues and themes around which the PBC could further pursue the partnership with the World Bank. There is an ongoing discussion regarding dates and focus of the next interaction with the Board of Directors. Similarly, a pro-active follow-up to the outcome of last year’s consultations of the PBC Chairs’ Group and the African Development Bank is required.

Support to national ownership and capacity-building

10. The Committee needs to clarify its role in taking forward the discussion on civilian capacities, in particular how it could facilitate future thematic discussions and consultations, as well as how to foster exchanges of direct experiences between countries on the agenda and other countries which have undergone successful transition from conflict to development. The initial

consultations with the Head of the Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities confirmed the view of member states that the Commission become a platform for, both, policy level consultations and for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations on civilian capacities in countries on the PBC agenda.

Relations within the United Nations

Relationships with principal organs

11. The Committee is yet to initiate work on inviting its Security Council members to make recommendations on opportunities for engagement with the Council building on the outcome and recommendations of the WGLL meeting of 14 December 2011. The 12 July Council's debate on the PBC's annual report and the subsequent informal interactive dialogue have generated a number of important ideas which the Committee and the WGLL should develop further in close collaboration with the members of the Committee who are members of the Council.

12. Similarly, the Committee is yet to initiate work on inviting its General Assembly members to make recommendations on opportunities for engagement with the Assembly. This has been clearly an area which has not witnessed any movement so far.

13. The Committee co-organised with ECOSOC a joint event on youth employment on 4 June. The identification of this year's theme was a result of the strong recommendation from the chairs of country configurations. The Committee should consider an evaluation, led by its ECOSOC members, of the practical benefits of these thematic debates on the engagement of the PBC with the countries on the agenda.

Enhancing coordination

14. In effort to improve coordination between PBC and UN senior representatives on the countries on the agenda, the Chairs Group and S/ERSGs held a meeting in New York in May 2012. The meeting recognised the need for the two sides to share the ToRs and improve relations between the Group Chairs and the S/ERSGs. The PBC Chairs' Group could also hold a dialogue before the end of the year with the SPG on a specific area of mutual interest. This activity should complement ongoing efforts to improve the relationship between the Chairs' Group and S/ERSGs.

15. The consultations on the next Secretary-General report on peacebuilding will present the Committee with an opportunity to address the most appropriate ways for the UN system to benefit from the Commission's engagement with the countries on the agenda.

Working methods

Rules of Procedure

16. The Committee is yet to consider suggestions for revisiting the Rules of procedure or for selection of the Chairperson and for possible designation of vice-Chairs for the configuration.

Communications

17. The Committee has discussed a number of suggestions to improve communications and visibility of the PBC. PBSO is expected to share elements of a comprehensive strategy shortly.

Others: Meetings

18. The first six months of 2012 witnessed additional streamlining of the agenda of the Committee. Meetings were organized only around topics of direct relevance to the implementation of the Roadmap of Actions. Moreover, meetings at the working-level have been re-introduced with a view to deepen the engagement of member states and to allow for in-depth and detailed consideration of issues ahead of the Committee's meetings. It is important to further consolidate progress made with respect to the agenda and the preparations for Ambassadorial-level meetings.

19. The Committee discussed proposals aimed at enhancing attention of capitals to and engagement with the PBC, including through an upcoming High-Level event in the margins of the High-Level segment of the 67th session of the General Assembly and or through an annual session of the Committee through which capital-based senior-level officials could engage in setting the Commission's policies and priorities.

II. Burundi configuration

Overview

20. In the first six months of the year, the Burundi configuration focused its attention on mobilising support for the second poverty reduction strategy paper, PRSP-II, completed by the Government of Burundi in cooperation with its partners. Thanks to the engagement of the PBC, the PRSP-II has a strong focus on peacebuilding issues. A Development Partners meeting is scheduled on 29-30 October 2012 in Geneva to mobilise financial and political support for the implementation of the PRSP-II. In keeping up with his regular country visits to Burundi the Chair travelled to Burundi from 18 to 25 April 2012 and met with a variety of stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. The focus of the visit was on the preparation of the upcoming partner's conference for Burundi, but political and institutional issues such as human rights, rule of law and political inclusiveness and openness were also discussed with the highest national authorities. The configuration also continued its discussions with the Government of Burundi on their future engagement, through the review of the "Outcome Document" that was adopted in April 2011. The review of the "Outcome Document" will be concluded at a formal meeting of the Configuration scheduled on 18 July 2012. Overall, compared to 2011, the Government of Burundi is more actively engaged with the PBC and the second Vice President together with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs are much more aware of the potential contribution of the PBC in mobilising support for the PRSP-II.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

21. Following the advocacy initiatives undertaken by the Chair, in cooperation with the Permanent Representative of Burundi, including the meeting of the PBC with the second Vice

President on 12 April and a number of outreach initiatives targeting potential new donors, the overall reaction of the international community in Bujumbura to the PRSP-II and to the partners meeting planned in October can be considered generally positive.. Most traditional donors have assured the Chair that they would continue to support Burundi within existing financial commitments. Some non-traditional donors have signalled interest in participating at the meeting and openness to consider financing on a project-by-project basis.

22. But there still seems to be a gap between the expectations of the government of Burundi and its international partners. The Chair has warned Burundian interlocutors that it may be hard to generate additional funding in the current context of the budgetary difficulties being experienced by major donors. He has therefore urged the Government to redefine the priorities, both in substance and in time, in order to identify the most pressing and important needs which have to be addressed first. In addition, the Chair is working with the Government of Burundi to reach out to more philanthropic organisations and private sectors actors.

23. The Chair has also established a regular contact with the World Bank and hopes that there is a basis for a good coordination between the main partners of the Conference, including the World Bank, the AfDB, and UNDP.

24. Thus far, the engagement of the PBC in support of resource mobilization in Burundi has been focused on advising the Government on how it could maximize the benefit from the completion of PRSP-II while remaining mindful of the constraints imposed on developed and some emerging countries alike by the current global economic and financial environment. In these circumstances when expectations of the Government are high, the PBC faces a serious challenge. A more pro-active engagement and participation of its wider membership in the upcoming roundtable will assure the Burundian government of the attention which its peacebuilding priorities receive. The Configuration also needs to explore other practical channels for advocacy, including with non-traditional actors. The contribution of the membership in facilitating outreach to foundations and private investors will be highly valuable.

Relationships within the United Nations

Relationships with principal organs

25. The Chair has maintained regular contacts with the SRSG and he has coordinated his visit of April with BNUB, the SRSG, the DSRSG and the Chief of Staff of BNUB.

26. While the Chair has been open to advice by the senior leadership of BNUB, he has expressed his frustration with the lack of consultation around the work BNUB undertook on benchmarks. The Chair believes that such work is also relevant to the PBC and therefore it could have benefited from an involvement of the Configuration with a view to ensuring that peacebuilding priorities are fully incorporated. Besides, the Chair would have preferred to be duly informed by the Secretary-General's offices about the transfer of SRSG Karin Landgren to Liberia and the nomination of her successor Parfait Onanga instead of learning of these changes by press releases. This will be now the third change of the SRSG within a period of two years (Petrie/Landgren/Onanga) which is not ideal under the aspect of continuity.

27. With regards to relations with the Security Council, the Chair has been invited to a briefing on the situation in Burundi, on 5 July where the Chair made statement complementing the report provided by the SRSG. Following his visit of April 2012, the Chair wrote a formal letter to the President of the Security Council, sharing with him the main outcomes of the mission. The letter is detailed and as this practice gets institutionalised, the Security Council will be much more aware of the work of the PBC and hopefully be able to draw more proactively on the advisory function of the Commission. Still, the Chair would be interested in a more substantive and interactive exchange with the Security Council.

Working methods

28. Since the Government of Burundi wishes to keep the Configuration visits as “light” as possible, the Chair continues to travel to Bujumbura alone, only accompanied by a representative of PBSO, which has the additional benefit of being more cost-effective. Besides, the Burundi Configuration has further pursued its efforts to reduce the transaction costs by using the Steering Group and limiting the meetings of the full Configuration to a strict minimum. During the first semester of 2012, only one meeting of the Configuration took place, and a number of meetings of the Steering Group were organised around a much more focused agenda. Even though the Chair tries to convene meetings only when necessary he finds it at times difficult to generate sufficient attendance and one Steering Group

Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI). Participation to these coordination meetings was occasionally broadened to include other key, non-UN partners at country level, such as the World Bank (WB), France and the European Union. While the weekly meetings provided an opportunity to exchange views on latest developments in key peacebuilding areas in CAR, identify potential challenges or blockages, and jointly decide on a way forward they also occasionally exposed in plain sight the divergence of opinions or lack of communication between New York and the field, as well as New York and member states' capitals.

35. In addition, the Chair maintained regular contacts with senior UN officials at country level, including the Special Representative of the Secretary General in CAR and members of the UN country team, as well as in New York, with the heads of concerned departments, funds and programmes. Regular contacts and exchanges were also maintained with the Secretary-General's Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflicts, and for Sexual Violence in Conflict. Representatives of relevant entities of the UN system were systematically invited to participate in the meetings of the configuration, in person when present in New York, or with the use of video conference equipment for representatives in the field. This proved particularly useful for thematic discussions, on issues such as DDR or elections, where technical expertise resides elsewhere in the UN system.

Working methods

36. As indicated above, the CAR configuration Chair convenes weekly meetings of a small number of key UN and non-UN stakeholders in the three priorities for peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. These informal meetings, which included DPA, DPKO-OROLSI, UNDP, and occasionally the WB, EU, and France, were useful in maintaining the system's attention on CAR, beyond the less frequent PBC meetings, and to devise, when applicable, common and coordinated approaches to challenges arising in the field. While this mechanism is not institutionalised among all PBC configurations, its informal and more compact nature, as opposed to the full configuration meetings, provided for much more targeted discussions resulting in more specific steps on the way forward.

IV. Guinea Configuration

Overview

37. The Statement of Mutual Commitments for Peacebuilding in Guinea, concluded between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission on 23 September 2011, focuses on three peacebuilding priorities, namely:

- i) Promotion of national reconciliation and unity;
- ii) Security and defence sector reform;
- iii) Youth and women's employment policy.

38. The work of the Peacebuilding Commission in these three areas is complemented by the activities programmed by the 2nd Peacebuilding Priority Plan, financed by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

39. In the first six months of the year 2012, the Guinea configuration completed the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments and adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations at a Formal meeting of the Configuration on 6 June 2012.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

40. Building on the information gathered in the context of the first periodic review, the Chair of the Guinea Configuration has been working with the Chair of the PBC WGLL, together with the Guinean authorities, to conduct a mapping exercise to identify relevant actors and programmes, identify overlaps and gaps in funding and capacities and examine the coordination mechanisms in support of peacebuilding efforts in Guinea.

41. The first phase of the mapping exercise was concluded by a joint meeting of the WGLL and the Guinea Configuration on 3 July 2012. All Members are however encouraged to continue providing information on their peacebuilding activities to the Chair and PBSO, this being by

45. This interaction leaves however room for improvement, particularly in regard to flow and access of information about developments on the ground and on-going planning and programming at the level of the UN system.

Working methods

46. Chair/CSC-Guinea: the Chair is exploring how to better use the existing coordination mechanisms in Conakry, including the Group of Friends and the Joint Steering Committee for the PBF.

47. Chair-Member States: While at the moment, the work of the Configuration is undertaken either through the Chair or the entire Configuration and no formal Steering Group mechanism [similar to those for the Liberia or Burundi Configuration] is currently foreseen, the Chair endeavours to work increasingly in smaller groups, conceivably with “variable geometry”, according to the interests and potential contributions of Members to any of the peacebuilding priorities or other areas of work of the Configuration.

48. In order to foster participation and interaction in formal meetings of the Configuration at an adequate level of representation, more “technical” discussions could also increasingly be

52. Since the coup d'état, the Chair has been striving to facilitate the coordination among the main stakeholders, in particular the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). Coordination meetings took place on 26 April and on 7 May.

53. Moreover, on 11 May, the Chair convened a meeting of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration to identify ways in which the Configuration could best support Guinea-Bissau at this critical juncture and in addressing medium and long-term priorities. The discussion focused on key political, security, and economic developments and outstanding peacebuilding challenges in Guinea-Bissau, such as security sector reform, economic revitalization and transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking.

54. In order to enhance coordination among international partners, the Chair hosted a working luncheon on 21 May to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau with the participation of the main partners of Guinea-Bissau. The meeting was very helpful and emphasized the need for an increased coordination among all actors. Participants agreed with the idea that the international community needs to act in unison and stressed the importance of elaborating an agreed and common strategy. They supported the idea of revitalizing the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau (ICG-GB).

55. Upon request of the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations, on 5 June, the Chair convened an informal meeting of the Configuration to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau and to listen to a briefing by Prime-Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior. During the meeting a number of participants expressed great concern with the situation in Guinea-Bissau and with the current arrangement for the transition in the country. Some noted that the current scenario in Guinea-Bissau does not meet the requirements of legitimacy, does not comply with the principle of zero tolerance concerning forcible seizure of power and is not conducive to stability as it excludes the main political force in Guinea-Bissau. At the meeting, Prime-Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior proposed the holding of a high-level International Conference on Guinea-Bissau, to be convened by the Secretary-General under the auspices of the United Nations.

56. In the remaining months of 2012, the CSC will follow the political situation in Guinea-Bissau in order to help national and international stakeholders find an inclusive and sustainable solution to the current crisis. Coordination and coherence of objectives and strategies will have to be enhanced. To this end, the Configuration should support the holding of a high-level meeting on Guinea-Bissau in New York, to be convened by the Secretary-General under the auspices of the United Nations.

57. Once an acceptable political arrangement is widely agreed, key donors should immediately reengage with Guinea-Bissau. Crucial programs previously designed, such as those related to SSR, will have to be resumed. It will be crucial that their goals also encompass socio-economic aspects. Failure to solve the current crisis will result in the persistence of instability in the country, which would have serious consequences not only to Guinea-Bissau but also to the region as a whole.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

58. The succession of Late President Sanhá and the 12 April military coup d'Etat have hampered CSC's ongoing efforts to marshal the full amount necessary to the operationalization of the Special Pension Fund (SPF) for the Armed Forces and security forces of Guinea-Bissau, as specified by the joint ECOWAS-CPLP Roadmap of 2010.

59. On 24 January, GoGB requested UN support for the presidential elections, which the main political forces of the country, including the opposition, had decided to organize according to the Constitution, in spite of the daunting logistical and financial challenges that this choice would entail. In a letter dated 14 February, the Chair requested to the Governments of the members of the Configuration to consider the possibility of extending or increasing their support for the electoral process as a matter of urgency, so that the elections could take place as scheduled and in accordance with international standards. The CSC responded to this urgent appeal in a timely manner: between 14 February and 30 March, a number of GB-CSC Member States contributed with approximately USD 8 million, an amount that exceeded the total cost of the elections, estimated at USD 5.4 million, and generated a surplus that would have been sufficient to support an eventual run-off. The coup d'état has neutralized this effort and has undermined donor confidence. Key donors that are also members of the CSC, notably the EU, IMF and World Bank, have suspended their financial support.

Relationships within the United Nations

Enhancing coordination

60. In coordination with other UN bodies, especially the PBSO, DPA and UNIOGBIS, the CSC has been seeking convergence of perspectives among the international partners of Guinea-Bissau. The CSC has been working to implement a joint and comprehensive strategy tailored towards addressing in an inclusive manner the multi-dimensional peacebuilding challenges in Guinea-Bissau.

61. In addition, the CSC has developed a partnership with other UN bodies around concrete objectives, notably the operationalization of the SPF and the fundraising effort in support of the presidential elections. The CSC's partnership with the PBF has also been very important in the efforts to launch the SPF, at a time when other donors were risk-adverse. This joint effort would have most likely succeeded in meeting key peacebuilding needs, had the first months of 2012 been less troubled.

Relationships with principal organs

62. Besides her regular briefings to the Security Council and her participation in an informal interactive dialogue on Guinea-Bissau held by the Security Council on 5 June, the Chair addressed a letter dated 18 May to the President of the Security Council, in which she offered elements of analyses and concrete solutions regarding the current situation in Guinea-Bissau.

Working methods

63. During the first months of 2012, CSC's efforts have been driven by consecutive emergencies. The CSC capitalized on its inclusive membership and adopted a problem-solving approach. Its efforts have had both short-term and long-term dimensions. On the short-term, the CSC has been responding to emergencies faced by Guinea-Bissau through fund-raising and political support. On the long term, it has endeavoured to have more analytical insight on the current crisis and its root causes in order to be able to formulate and advise on sustainable solutions.

VI. Liberia Configuration

Overview

64. In the first quarter of 2012 there was a change in the leadership of the PBC Configuration. On 1 February 2012, H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein announced hesitation to relinquish the chairmanship of the Configuration effective 7 March 2012. On the 20 April 2012, H.E. Mr. Staffan Tillander was nominated as the new chair for the Liberia Configuration. While the gap in the transition led to a lull in the activity of the Configuration, it has nonetheless been active. The key outcome during this reporting period was the adoption of the Outcome Document, from the first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments (SMC). The Outcome Document reports on progress made by both the Government of Liberia and the PBC as per their commitments in the SMC. Below per the issues identified by the PBC Organizational Committee, are updates on activities of the Configuration.

Resource mobilization, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

65. Through the linkages of key strategic documents, the Liberia Configurations' plans for resource mobilization are well aligned with Government priorities in the three agreed upon peacebuilding sectors – Security Sector Reform (SSR), Rule of Law (RoL) and National Reconciliation. A draft "Resource Mobilization Strategy & Work Plan" for the Configuration is being finalized. As provided for in the SMC, this Strategy draws on the Liberian Peacebuilding Programme (LPP) to identify funding priorities. Both the LPP and subsequent related documentation namely the Justice and Security Joint Programme (JSJP), were prepared under the leadership of the Government of Liberia in partnership with the UN, CSOs and bi-lateral partners as part of the PBC and PBF engagement in Liberia.

66. Existing structures in Liberia provide mechanisms through which the Liberia Configuration can contribute to coherence and coordination of resources. For SSR and RoL projects, a Justice and Security Trust Fund is overseen by the Justice and Security Board. This Board is co-chaired by the Government and the UN. Its work is guided by the JSJP from which yearly work plans are prepared. The work plan includes budgetary information, clearly indicating available funding per donor as well as gaps. A similar board and trust fund is currently under consideration for national reconciliation efforts. For the second half of 2012, the

70. While there has been relatively good coherence between the UN and the Configuration, the positions of the members of the PBC has not yet been consistent with that of the PBC. Concerns have been raised that PBC members at the country level, rather than identify their positions with that of the PBC, take on individual state perspectives, particular from a donor angle.

Working Methods

71. The majority of the work of the Configuration has been pursued via a Steering Group, which comprises of around ten members which responded to a general call by the former chair to join and be prepared to assume certain tasks and responsibilities. The size of the meetings allows for more in-depth discussion amongst members who have shown direct interest and willingness to engage. This has been further assisted by links with the UN presence in Liberia via video conference. These meetings are of an informal nature thereby creating a more conducive environment for substantive debates on issues as well as brainstorming. In this reporting period, there have been six steering group meetings in addition to one formal and one informal configuration meeting, which indicates that the steering group has ease the burden on members of the configuration who are not particularly involved. The meetings have covered an array of issues from transition of a new chair, preparations for the chair's first mission, discussion with the Liberian Minister of Defense and deliberating on police training. On this last topic, the Steering Group setting has proven particularly productive in evaluating a request from the President of Liberia for a one country lead. Two meetings have been involving actors in Liberia both from UNMIL as well as two representatives of member states. For one of these meetings, UNMIL had prepared a discussion paper, thus linking the mission more organically with the work of the Commission in the field. These deliberations will contribute to a workshop on UNMIL's transition and the Chair will send a letter to the President informing her of the PBC's follow-up.

VII. Sierra Leone Configuration

Overview

72. Main objectives of the Sierra Leone configuration in 2012

Main objectives of the PBC Sierra Leone Configuration for 2012 are:

- Supporting progress on good governance, youth unemployment, and drug trafficking as outlined in Sierra Leone's Agenda for Change, including by using available opportunities to showcase progress and highlight existing challenges.
- Focusing attention on preparations for the 2012 elections by providing briefings, highlighting challenges and conveying to the Government and the political parties the expectations of the international community.

- Sierra Leone's impending transition from peace consolidation to development, including with respect to any changes in engagement from the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission
- Continuing to focus on drug-trafficking and organized crime in the region, particularly by establishing a stronger working relationship with ECOWAS and supporting implementation of WACI programme (along with Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia Configurations).

Resource mobilization, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

73. Sierra Leone enjoys strong support from international partners and rising foreign direct investment. Equally importantly, electoral preparations are fully funded. As a result, the Configuration has continued to advocate for Sierra Leone, including by offering a platform for highlighting achievements and consolidating the international credibility enjoyed by Sierra Leone.

74. The fact that the fast progress achieved by post-conflict Sierra Leone is understood and recognized not only by countries with interests in Sierra Leone but by the forty plus members of the PBC can be attributed to the work of the PBC. The PBC has also used all available opportunities to draw attention on emerging opportunities in Sierra Leone as well as on its financial needs. Whether the advocacy work of the PBC has translated into more development

76. Over the past six months the leadership of the PBC has changed unexpectedly. The Configuration and its Chair has in a number of occasions called on the Government of Sierra Leone to maintain its close relationship with the UN and on the UN to appoint a new head of mission expeditiously.

77. Under Canadian Chairmanship, the Configuration has made it as part of its modus operandi to fine tune its work with that of UNIPSIL and of the UNCT. The Chair and his advisors have kept direct contacts with the ERSG and also with UNIPSIL and the UNCT via PBSO. While relevant parts of the UN system in NY would be kept apprised of the work of the PBC in Sierra Leone, direct working relationship with the UN system in New York has been less than systematic.

78. UN System buy-in for the country-level work of the PBC needs to be strengthened both in the field and UN Headquarters in New York. Similarly, the PBC parent organs should become more engaged with the PBC's work in Sierra Leone. Conversely, the PBC should become more useful for these bodies. More clear and punctual guidance by the Security Council may help clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the UN in Sierra Leone and of the PBC in New York.

Working Methods

79. The Configuration has adapted continuously its working methods to achieve its objectives more effectively. The working methods have over time become lighter, more aligned with national plans and the national ownership of the process more evident.

80. To lighten its working methods and eliminate un-necessary bureaucratic burden the Configuration has, over the past three years, conducted most of its work at working level and met at principal level only when decisions were required and for important briefings. Over the past six months, the configuration has met four times at working level, two times at principal level and the Chair has hosted three informal gatherings bringing together representatives of countries and organizations with a presence in Sierra Leone.

81. Since 2009, the work of the PBC is fully aligned with the peacebuilding elements of the national peace consolidation and development strategy of Sierra Leone, the Agenda for Change. Through this decision, the PBC has led the way for the full alignment of Sierra Leone's development partners behind the country strategy. The periodic review process has also been modified: 1) the frequency extended from six months to at least one year; and 2) the Government of Sierra Leone with its development partners and civil society have started producing a progress report on implementation of the Agenda for Change. While the practice of producing a progress report was initiated to inform the PBC periodic review, the report has become a useful advocacy tool for the Government, the PBC and its development partners to show progress, draw attention on outstanding challenges and to highlight the support received by the international community.

82. The Sierra Leone Configuration has progressively strengthened the national ownership of its work. The Government of Sierra Leone is very closely involved with the day to day work of the Configuration. Over the past six months, the Chair has made it a practice to share the podium with the representative of Sierra Leone, both in meetings at working and principal level. This

close partnership between the Chair and the Government of Sierra Leone has allowed for a frank relationship between the two whereby the Chair feels comfortable to convey the demands of the international community and the Government is open about its demands and expectations on the PBC.

VIII. Working Group on Lessons Learned

Overview

83. The 2010 Review suggested further improvements for the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) “with a clear rationale for discussions and clear outcomes.” In order to ensure clarity of rationale and outcome, the WGLL has decided to focus its work in 2012 on topics identified as key priorities in the Roadmap of Actions, namely: resource mobilization and relations within the United Nations (in particular with the Security Council). Coupled with new working methods, 2012 should be a crucial year for the WGLL to prove its untapped potentials as the platform for extracting lessons and good practices that are relevant to the country-specific work of the PBC.

Resource mobilisation, partnerships and capacity-building

Resource mobilization and partnerships

84. Building on last year’s meeting on resource mobilization; the WGLL has initiated a process seeking to extrapolate lessons on efficient resource mobilization through mapping out resource flows and relevant actors. The mapping exercise seeks to identify gaps and/or overlap in funding, to explore how non-traditional actors could be approached as potential PBC partners, and to review existing Headquarters and field-based coordination mechanisms in order to examine potential room for improvement in reducing unnecessary overlap. In this regard, the WGLL is focusing on one of the possible and practical approaches which the PBC could take in fulfilling its role in resource mobilization.

85. In order for the mapping exercise to become as concrete, relevant and useful as possible, the WGLL has partnered with the Guinea Configuration in order to map out resource flows into the priority areas identified in the Statement of Mutual Commitments for Guinea (SMC). This exercise was also well-timed with the outcome of the first periodic review of the SMC, and therefore it seeks to enhance efforts to marshal resources for Guinea’s peacebuilding priorities by presenting prospective donors with a clear picture of existing aid flows and gaps identified by the Review. This increased clarity could also help ease the lack of reliable and predictable funding, which has challenged the ability of post-conflict governments to engage in long-term planning and programming that is necessary to build sustainable peace. The WGLL also hopes that the mapping exercise could facilitate the eventual development by the Government of Guinea of its own national aid management and coordination systems. Hence, the exercise could also have a capacity-building dimension.

86. In parallel, the WGLL organized an informal information session with a view to gaining better understanding of the characteristics and comparative advantage of philanthropy, NGOs

