

Mr. Chairperson of the Working Group,
Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to appear before the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission. You would agree with me that the question of peacekeeping and peacebuilding synergy has gained added momentum since the release of the 2009 Secretary- General's report on *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* and subsequent Security Council increased attention to post-conflict peacebuilding in the contexts of transition and exit strategies of peacekeeping missions, the link between security

The role of the PBC as a key interlocutor is two fold: 1) to encourage the Government to prioritize the measures to which it is committed in relation to the transition planning for the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL, and 2) to help the Government address its capacity constraints by mobilizing international support to national strategies and concrete projects which will ensure that it is able to assume the security and justice responsibility over its entire territory.

In this regard, the Regional Justice and Security Hub project, for which the Peacebuilding Fund provided catalytic funding, is an example of how we should draw on the collective effort and capacity of several actors and on their respective comparative advantage. For example, while the Government of Liberia owned the project by integrating the hubs into the wider national justice strategy, the PBC and PBF mobilize interest, and potentially resources, within the international community, UNMIL provides the capacity on the ground, UNDP helps to strengthen the long-term development context around the hubs, and DPKO provides the much needed expertise and technical advice to national counterparts to man and manage the hubs. This is where system-wide-coherence is in action.

With the successful completion of the 2011 Presidential elections, UNMIL has entered its final phase and the Security Council expects a report from the Secretary-General on plans for further drawdown and transition of the Mission and the progressive hand-over of responsibility to national authorities. I understand that a technical assessment mission is currently deployed to Liberia for this purpose. As the Secretariat entity supporting the PBC, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is represented on this technical assessment mission. This will certainly provide the Secretary-General and the PBC with a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and challenges for UNMIL's transition, including from the perspective of the outstanding peacebuilding tasks. In keeping with its advisory function, the PBC will also contribute to the Security Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's recommendations in light of the ongoing implementation of the Statement of Mutual Commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me now move to broader policy developments in the area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding nexus. In October last year, the PBC was briefed by DPKO on a strategy entitled: **Contribution of UN Peacekeeping to Early Peacebuilding**. I would like to bring to the attention of the Special Committee three key points which have been emphasized by the Members of the Commission during its interaction with DPKO on this topic:

- 1) The PBC placed particular emphasis on the need for peacekeeping missions to draw on the capacity and expertise of the UN country teams in the context of the integrated

I would like to add three critical issues from my personal experience where peacebuilding initiatives can focus its attention and they are:

1) **Security:**