

Working Group on Lessons Learned
Security Sector Reform and Rule of Law for Peacebuilding

26 October 2011, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM,

NLB Conference Room 6

Concept Note

Background

Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Rule of Law (RoL) have been identified as peacebuilding priorities by a number of countries on the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) agenda. Security sector reform and rule of law have been increasingly viewed as mutually reinforcing and, therefore, the linkages between the two priorities need to be further explored and key lessons identified on how the PBC can strengthen its efforts to support national security sector reform and rule of law efforts.

A previous Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) meeting on *Comparative Lessons from the United Nations Rule of Law Assistance*

The World Development Report 2011 further notes that, if security forces are to be used in the national interest and prevent abuses, civilian oversight of the security forces is important at the early stages. It involves links between political and security strategy and public finances. The report suggests that three key elements in successful civilian oversight are: encourage political and military leaders to discuss the mission of the security forces in supporting national objectives; use public finance systems to reinforce civilian control; commit the military to improvements in accountability and human rights.

In the second global meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding held in Monrovia, Liberia, on 15-16 June, 2011, the members of the g7+ Group and their international partners adopted the “Monrovia Declaration”³ which consists of five objectives on peacebuilding and statebuilding, including the need

aims to discuss examples and lessons learned from countries' experience to facilitate the development of a common approach, division of labour and management of expectations among various actors on SSR and RoL planning, programming and implementation.

PBC's experience

area, in particular in countries on the PBC agenda. One important lesson is that PBF interventions in the areas of SSR and/or RoL may not lead directly to immediate peace, and sustainable efforts are needed to make the intervention successful. For example, in Guinea-Bissau, to foster the SSR, the PBF financed the refurbishment of four prisons and the rehabilitation of many military barracks in various localities. A feasibility study to design dedicated training courses for the police and the military was also conducted, based on the human rights based-approach and including a special focus on women.

Key issues for consideration

Going forward, the PBC aims to advocate for better communication and cooperation among different actors in SSR and RoL to improve linkages between rule of law and security sector reform. Most recently, the PBC's four west-African country configurations held a meeting to examine ways to support the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) on combating narco-trafficking. That meeting demonstrated the PBC's potential to promote a sub-regional approach to addressing cross-border peacebuilding challenges on the basis of supporting cross-border cooperation and promoting practical linkages between SSR and RoL. The PBC also aims to serve as a platform for information sharing on strategies and mechanisms that have proved useful in fostering civilian oversight in the aftermath of conflict. It could also play a role in mobilizing resources needed to establish structures, facilities and ensure targeted capacity development for the countries on its agenda.

To better guide the PBC's future engagement in the aforementioned three areas, namely the linkages between SSR and RoL, civilian oversight and capacity building, this meeting of the WGLL will aim at addressing obstacles faced by the actors in the field in carrying-out their supporting in this regard. It will explore how best the PBC could engage in identifying the gaps in policy development, implementation and resources in the field and how it can help efforts in the field in order to overcome challenges in mobilizing funding and expertise and/or ensure linkage and coordination between different sectors and actors.

In fulfilling the aforementioned objective, the WGLL meeting will provide an opportunity to draw on the experience of experts from within and outside the UN system, by addressing the following questions:

What experiences can countries undergoing peacebuilding draw upon in improving linkages between security sector reform and rule of law and in ensuring nationally-led policy dialogues and sectoral coordination among key actors?

What have been successful strategies and mechanisms for promoting and developing civilian oversight of security institutions in the aftermath of violent conflict and political crisis?

What are sustainable approaches to national capacity development in rule of law? What issues must be addressed in rebuilding a country's legal education system so to have a

sustainable impact? How can cooperation at the regional or sub-regional levels contribute to rule of law capacity development?

Format and Structure

This open meeting will be held as a panel discussion.

Location: New York, North Lawn Building conference Room 6

Date: 26 October 2011, 10 AM – 1 PM

Chair: H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Panelists:

1. Col. Aloysius Kagoro, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Uganda People’s Defence Force
2. Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Head of the Security Sector Reform Unit, Department for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations
3. Mr. Kevin O. George, Country Director, American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative
4. Ms. Camino Kavanagh, Senior Program Coordinator and Fellow, Center on International Cooperation

Follow-up

The outcome of the meeting will be consolidated by the Chair of the WGLL in the form of Chair’s Summary, as well as Initial Findings on recommended actions for the PBC. The documents will be shared with the Organizational Committee and Country Specific Configurations for further reflection.
