

Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned

The PBC's role in resource mobilization: Support of the organization of donor/partner conferences

Chairperson's Summary

I. Introduction

1. On 3 April 2013, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) of the Peacebuilding Commission convened a meeting to discuss the role of the Commission in support of the organization of donor/partner conferences.

2. The main topics discussed in the meeting were: 1) Key lessons learned from previous PBC engagement in support of donor/partner conferences for CAR and Burundi; 2) Defining "success" and measuring the results of donor/partner conferences; and 3) Defining the role and contribution of the Commission in supporting the organization and conduct of these conferences.

3. In his opening remarks, the Chair highlighted three main points to frame the discussion: 1) donor/partner conferences undertaken in the development context, in which the PBC has an important role in linking peacebuilding priorities to the development sector; 2) the crucial importance of national ownership throughout the preparatory process of the conference and the role which the Commission should play in support of the national authorities of the country concerned; 3) donor/partner conference must be seen as a process, in which the follow up is just as important as the preparation.

4. The Chair invited the following panelists to reflect on the subject:

- H.E. Mr. Paul Seger, Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations.
- Ms. Clare Lockhart, Co-founder and Director, Institute for State Effectiveness.
- Ms. Mary Morrison, World Bank Partnership Advisor, Peacebuilding Support Office (currently seconded from the World Bank).

II. Presentations by Panelists

5. Ambassador Seger opened his presentation by stressing the importance of national ownership, especially during the preparatory phases of donor/partner conferences. In these phases, it is crucial to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the government of the country concerned and of the PBC. He noted that in the case of the Burundi Partners Conference of 2012, the Commission opted for a supporting role rather than that of a co-Chair in order to underline that the conference was a nationally-led process. He agreed with the Chair that donor conferences should not be considered a one-time event and that the follow-up phase is of crucial importance.

6. Ambassador Seger underscored key elements that should be prioritized when planning a conference:

- § identifying the purpose;
- § determining the location and attention to logistics. For example, the Burundi conference was held in Geneva instead of Bujumbura mainly to facilitate travel of key partners;
- § drawing the attention of the international community through intensive advocacy and communications efforts;
- § seeking partnerships with traditional and non-traditional donors – IFIs, regional organizations and private sector and aligning messages of these partners to the

capacity for planning, programming and project formulation. Another representative underscored the role of the PBC in ensuring that national peacebuilding priorities