

The Advisory Role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to the Security Council (SC)

Working-level meeting of
members of the PBC that are members of the Security Council, countries on the PBC
agenda, and members of the PBC Chairs' Group

20 November 2015

Coordinator's summary

Background

1. At its formal meeting of 11 March 2015, the Organizational Committee elected Malaysia to succeed Rwanda as coordinator of the periodic stock-taking exercise of the Commission's advisory function to and modality of interaction with the Security Council. On 20 November, Malaysia convened an informal meeting to follow-up to the informal interactive dialogue of 25 June between members of the SC, countries on the PBC's agenda, the Chairs of the PBC country configurations and the Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned. The meeting aimed at taking stock of how the PBC exercises its advisory function to the Council in connection to the situations in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Burundi. Furthermore, members were invited to reflect on how the SC integrated the broader peacebuilding objectives in its consideration of the respective situations.

Main points from the discussion

2. The coordinator invited the CSC Chairs, the countries on the agenda, and the members of the Council who are members of the PBC to share their perspectives in respect to the following issues:
 - The extent to which the PBC's role evolved during the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau and how this role would be further adapted to the post-crisis needs and challenges of the country;
 - The contribution that the PBC can make in resolving ongoing political impasse in Burundi;
 - The extent to which the resolutions on UMNIL adopted in 2015 reflected the longer term peacebuilding priorities in Liberia and how the PBC's engagement can be adapted to the post-security transition priorities of the country;
 - The ability of the PBC to keep "peacebuilding" in CAR at the center of the Council's attention and management of the fluid security and political risks, as well as the added value of the PBC's continued engagement with the country in the current crisis situation;

- Lessons that can be drawn from the PBC and the SC interaction in situations of acute crisis and of UN missions' transitions in light of the recommendations from the AGE report on the peacebuilding review.

General conclusions

3. Representatives noted the need to further recognise the importance of the PBC and its added value in providing advice to the SC in regard to peacebuilding priorities during the design of missions' mandates and the drawdown phases. In this connection, a need for an intensified cooperation with the SC was identified.
4. Participants highlighted that, in view of the long-term nature of peacebuilding, the PBC could play a critical role in flagging to the SC in a timely manner the risk of lapse and relapse into conflict.
5. Some representatives also noted that the Commission has an important role to play in prevention, by bringing to the attention of the SC key peacebuilding-related priorities and providing an inclusive platform to de-escalate possible crises.
6. A number of participants referred to possibility for the Commission to complement the work of the Council by focusing on issues not on its the agenda.

Country-specific interaction

7. In **Guinea-Bissau**, the PBC proved that early intervention to crisis is key. The way the PBC engaged in a timely manner and worked together with regional organizations as well as other key stakeholders in order to explore possible options for the dissolution of tensions proved to be a good practice with significant results.
8. In the case of **Burundi**, participants welcome the constructive engagement of the Commission, which, by providing an inclusive platform for dialogue, submitted useful inputs to the deliberations of the SC. It was noted that the PBC could scale up efforts to draw attention to the SC's resolution 2248 (2015), promote an inclusive national dialogue and highlight the importance of socio-economic development.
9. In the case of **Liberia**, it was noted that the Commission has been working in partnership with the Government and the UN leadership on the ground in the crucial phase of UNMIL's drawdown. Particular emphasis was placed on the process of updating the Statement of Mutual Commitment in order to adapt to the country's long-term peacebuilding needs.
10. In **CAR**, some speakers said that the PBC managed to work together with other lead departments to add a specific peacebuilding perspective to the discussion on the

country.

Next steps

11. Participants agreed on the importance of strengthening the relations between the Commission and the Council. In this connection, some representatives underscored the importance of reinforcing an informal dialogue at various levels in order to reinforce the advisory role of the Commission: firstly, with “pen holders”, in view of the helpful role they can play in allowing the Commission to brief the Council. Secondly, with the Council’s Presidency on the planning of forward activities, including field visits. Such dialogue proved to be crucial in ensuring that the Commission could provide its advice at the appropriate time. Finally, with political coordinators and experts ahead of Council’s considerations in order to ensure that the Council integrates important peacebuilding objectives in its deliberations. Participants also noted that the Commission’s diverse membership and flexible outreach to regional and sub-regional organizations could play an important role in complementing the work of the Council in country-specific contexts.
