

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee**  
**8 October 2010**

**Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion**

**Background**

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On 8 October 2010, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The PBC Chairperson presided over the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included the following items: (1) Briefing by the ASG for Peacebuilding Support on the *Progress report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* (A/64/866-S/2010/386); (2) Briefing by the Chair of the Senior Advisory Group to the Secretary-General on the review of the international civilian capacity; and (3) Other matters.

**1. Briefing by the ASG for Peacebuilding Support on the *Progress report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict***

The Chairperson informed member states of the debate of the Security Council scheduled for 13 October 2010, which will address the *Progress report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* and recalled the two previous occasions at which the PBC was briefed by the PBSO during the drafting of that report, on 28 April and 23 June 2010. The Chairperson also informed the participants that the forthcoming meeting of the Security Council will also take into consideration the Report of the Secretary-General on Women's participation in peacebuilding, which had been issued only the evening before the meeting.

The ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, briefed on key areas of the progress report, namely (1) Leadership and accountability: the recommendations on strengthening the senior leadership and accountability in the field made considerable progress and the introduction of compacts for the senior leadership was an important step in the direction of enhancing accountability; (2) Capacity development: the report's call for a strengthened focus on developing national capacities has materialized in a number of contexts but more would need to be done; (3) Predictability of response – Roles and Responsibility: the Secretary-General's Policy Committee is overseeing reviews of roles and responsibilities in six key areas, and that progress has been made in the two areas of mine action and mediation. Early findings show that agreement at HQ level would need to match capacity to deliver on the ground; (4) Predictable international support: strengthening civilian capacities: the international review of civilian capacities is underway and member states' support is crucial, both in formulating the review's recommendations and in working with the UN to implement them; (5) Engagement with the World Bank: collaboration with the World Bank had shown limited progress but was finally gaining traction through a staff exchange between the Bank and the UN and emerging collaboration

in the field in four pilot countries. However, more would need to be done to implement the UN-World Bank partnership framework; (6) Financing for peacebuilding: progress has been made towards the goal set out in the 2009 report of more flexible, risk-tolerant financing for peacebuilding. The process for PBF approval through the Immediate Response Facility (3 weeks) and an increased envelope from this Facility for up to \$10M represent positive steps forward.

ASG Cheng-Hopkins also briefed on the Report of the Secretary-General on Women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466). She informed that the report is focused on strengthening the implementation of SC Resolution 1325 by proposing concrete action points: (1) methods of ensuring women's participation in conflict-resolution and post-conflict planning processes; goals for increased financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in countries emerging from conflict; (2) ensuring the availability of gender-responsive civilian capacities; increasing women's role as decision makers in post-conflict governance; (3) designing rule of law responses to address women's particular needs with respect to security and justice; and (4) facilitating women's contribution to economic recovery. In view of the late issuance of the report in the evening prior to the meeting, members could not reflect in great detail on the key findings of the report.

Member states welcomed the briefing and expressed their hope that positive developments at Headquarters would be soon reflected in the field. In the subsequent discussion, they highlighted the following priorities:

- National capacity and national ownership: several members stressed the importance of strengthening national capacities in order to lay solid foundation for sustainable peacebuilding.
- UN-World Bank relationship: Members welcomed the ongoing initiatives to strengthen the relationship between the UN and the World Bank and expressed their wish to see similar initiatives at field level.
- Roles and responsibilities: a number of members underlined the need to make progress in bringing clarity on the roles that different actors in the UN system play in key areas such as DDR, SSR and Rule of Law.
- Financing: a number of member states called for faster, better coordinated and more predictable financial support to peacebuilding initiatives. One member suggested undertaking a study of the cost-effectiveness of peacebuilding.

In her follow-up remarks, ASG Cheng-Hopkins reminded of two areas that would need to be further explored by the PBC: 1) Criteria for the exit from the PBC agenda; and 2) Role of the PBC in providing advice to Security-Council in the crucial phases of respectively launching and drawing down a peacekeeping mission. She also welcomed the proposal to conduct a study on the cost-effectiveness of peacebuilding.

## **2. Briefing by the Chair of the Senior Advisory Group to the Secretary-General on the review of the international civilian capacity**

Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Senior Advisory Group to the Secretary-General on the review of the international civilian capacity, briefed on the status of the ongoing review of the international civilian capacity. He focused on three crucial areas: (1) Assessment and planning: importance of moving from a supply-driven approach to a needs-driven approach based on the real needs of national actors; (2) Personnel: need for a more rapid and more efficient deployment; (3) Resources: need to perform better within the resources available. Mr. Guéhenno also informed that the report shall be ready by the end of 2010 and that Member States shall play a pivotal role in ensuring that the recommendations are translated into real changes within and beyond the UN System.

Members noted the importance of and expressed high expectations from this review. They also acknowledged their role in supporting the implementation of the Review's recommendations. Moreover, members welcomed the approach of moving from a supply-driven to placing host country needs at the center of assessment and planning processes. They stressed the importance of using local/national experts and capacities and confirmed that the Review should be inclusive and its recommendations address the entire UN System.

Members emphasized the linkage between national ownership and national capacity development as an overarching principle guiding the Review. They also welcomed the Review's focus on strengthening capacity in the Global South, including in civil society and regional organizations. Members also invited the Review to propose frameworks for enabling the UN to make better use of existing civilian capacities in the countries and regional organizations concerned.

Members agreed that financial resources available to support countries emerging from conflict were fragmented and inflexible. For a number of members, assessment and planning was at risk of becoming irrelevant if not combined with addressing the lack of funding.

Many members noted that the Peacebuilding Commission should be the platform to address and actively champion the core elements under review.

## **3. Other matters**

One member state, supported by several others, proposed to convene a meeting of the Organizational Committee to discuss the report of the Co-facilitators on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. The Chairperson promised to consult with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security-Council and to revert shortly.

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