

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee**  
**19 December 2012**

**Chairperson's Summary of the Discussion**

**Background**

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On 19 December 2012, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an informal meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Chair of the PBC, and addressed the following agenda items: (1) Informal adoption of the PBC report on its sixth session; (2) PBC working methods: Follow-up to the informal working-level discussions of 3 December and next steps; (3) other matters.

**Informal adoption of the PBC report on its sixth session**

1. The Chairperson opened the meeting by recalling the working-level meeting of the Committee, which took place in early November, regarding the rationale for changing the structure of the PBC annual report into a more analytical exercise. He noted that building on the positive reaction of Member States and in light of recommendations emanating from the 2010 Review, the present draft of the PBC annual report is more analytical of lessons learned, challenges and prospects for the PBC. The Chair further underlined that the new approach has streamlined the reporting on progress and challenges throughout the report by developing a structure which followed the topics identified in the Roadmap of actions in 2012 and by analyzing the issues which affect the ability of the PBC to fulfil its functions. At the same time, the report has now become a vehicle of setting out the key priorities for the PBC for the following-year. The roadmap of actions for 2013 has now been incorporated in the section on "conclusions and forward agenda" in this report and there will be no need for a separate document. The Chair also noted that this new approach should lead to a report that becomes the single most authoritative tool to: 1) Report on and measure results; 2) Set out course correction, if need be; and 3) Mobilize contribution of ideas, as well seek engagement and commitment from a wider segment of PBC membership.

The Committee informally adopted the report with a view to a formal adoption on 28 January 2013.

**PBC working methods: Follow-up to the informal working-level discussions of 3 December and next steps**

2. The Chair recalled that the PBC working methods is a topic identified as a priority area requiring the Commission's attention in 2012, also drawing on the 2010 Review recommendations. In this regard, he noted that the Commission has taken a step forward on 29 November in clarifying the modality of electing its Chair and Vice Chairs on the basis of geographic rotation and, on 3 December, it convened a working-level consultation in which it was briefed by PBSO on: 1) the current role and functions of PBF-related Joint

Steering Committees at the country-level, and (2) elements for a PBC communications strategy. At the same time, in support of the Commission's efforts to sustain its institutional continuity, PBSO has drafted a compendium of working methods which was circulated to Member States. The Chair informed that he has also shared with the Committee a suggested framework for taking forward the discussion on working methods in 2013. The framework highlights the areas of the working methods which could be discussed during the first quarter of 2013 in view of a further refinement of the compendium on PBC working methods.

3. Members of the Committee welcomed the initiative of the Chair to further discuss the working methods of the Commission and expressed appreciation for PBSO's efforts in drafting the working methods compendium and for the briefing on elements of the communications strategy and functions of the PBF-related Joint Steering Committees in the field. Their remarks included the following elements:

- The importance of prioritizing PBC working methods in 2013. In this regard, members generally agreed with the approach presented in the suggested framework for discussions in 2013 on working methods, and emphasized the need for its detailed consideration and subsequent adoption. A number of delegations called for streamlining suggested discussion sessions around related topics in order to ensure appropriate focus and outcome.
- The discussion on the options for the Commission's engagement in the countries on its agenda was found to be of particular importance. The Chair of the WGLL, supported by other delegates, proposed that the Committee could consider addressing this element in the framework of the WGLL in 2013.
- A more systematized programme of work of the Commission would allow extended lead time before each meeting and, subsequently, could ensure a better engagement from capitals. In this regard, delegates underlined the importance of the discussions on the topic related to "Effective conduct of PBC meetings".
- Engaging senior representatives from capitals in policy-making for and orientation of the Commission, as well as engaging a broad range of key stakeholders are becoming imperative to enhance the stature of and support for the PBC beyond New York. In this regard, one delegate suggested the convening of an annual session of the Organizational Committee over a few days. The delegate confirmed that this annual session should not be confused with attempts by individual chairs to convene high-level events on peacebuilding.
- The Commission should improve its visibility in Africa. One delegate suggested that the PBC strengthen its collaboration with the African Union by co-organizing country-specific peacebuilding-related discussions in the margins of African Union Summits.

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