

Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned

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

Initial Findings

Introduction

Paragraph 2 of the PBC's founding resolutions (A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645) underlines that one of the key mandates of the Commission is to "bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources". In responding to this mandate, the PBC has taken different approaches and has engaged in various activities to mobilize resources, including through helping to organize the Central African Republic Partners Roundtable (2011) and the Burundi Partners Conference (2012).

Drawing on these experiences, on 3 April 2013, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) of the PBC convened a meeting to discuss the role of the Commission in supporting the organization of donor/partner conferences. In view of the mixed results of these two conferences, the WGLL focused its discussion on three main elements:

- 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;
- 3) Defining the role and contribution of the Commission in supporting the organization and conduct of these conferences.

Lessons learned and definition of "success"

Main issues and findings:

- a) During the **planning** for donors /partners conferences the following elements need to be taken into consideration:
 - The purpose of the conference must be clearly identified, including by focusing on a limited number of priorities;
 - The timing of a conference must be carefully chosen in order to ensure that the outcome reinforce other ongoing processes (for example, keeping in mind electoral cycles);
 - Documentation must be concise and strategic in order to be easily used by donors to prepare for the conference.
 - Expectations of the national actors regarding the desired outcome of the conference must be well managed. The monetary outcome need not be considered the only goal of the conference and that increased attention and interest in the needs of the country, as well as the opportunity of re-branding

the country through the demonstration of firm commitment from the government are equally important outcomes to pursue;

- The preparatory process for the conference must be nationally owned as it represents an opportunity to deepen national ownership by fostering national consensus on priorities and on the overall orientation of the country.
- Clear and continuous communications, as well as alignment of messages among key actors should be ensured.
- The conference represents a good opportunity to broaden the partnerships with traditional and non-traditional donors – IFIs, regional organizations and private sector, and to align messages to these partners from and to the Government;
- It is important to help donors develop a comprehensive view of the situation in the country by developing a “balance sheet” which clarifies national assets, liabilities and limitations;

b) The donors/partners conferences should be viewed as part of an ongoing process of deepening partnerships and fostering internal cohesion, and the follow-up is just as important as the preparation. In the **follow-up**, the following elements need to be taken into consideration:

- The key to sustain the momentum generated by the conference is in the implementation of commitments made;
- The outcome of a conference should be realistic and can be measured after 1-2 years;
- A mutual accountability mechanism is crucial in order to monitor commitments. There is a need for developing sufficient capacity of the government to measure and monitor the disbursement and implementation of pledges, including through simple national donor coordination mechanisms.
- Mapping out key and potential stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, private sector and foundations; as well as potential new donors and partners, represent a key outcome of the conference which could help orient the follow-up communications and outreach strategy;

Supporting role of the PBC

The role of the international community in support of the preparation for and the follow-up to the donors/partners conference should be confined to providing technical support to a typically national process. Such support would enable the national actors to draw maximum possible benefit from the opportunity offered by the conference. Therefore, all preparations must be led and undertaken at the country-level. In this regard, **the scope of support that the PBC could provide** has been identified as follows:

- Support the country concerned in clearly articulating, focusing on, and, in some cases, sequencing its priorities, including by ensuring that sufficient attention is given to peacebuilding.

- Help foster partnerships with the international community in support of national plans and priorities, and ensure that such support is aligned to these plans and priorities;
- Support national actors in establishing an accountability system to monitor disbursement and implementation of pledges;
- Facilitate the monitoring and reporting on mutual accountability between the Government and its partners;
- Intensify advocacy efforts leveraging its broad membership structures and using its remote location in New York for global outreach to traditional and non-traditional partners.
