

Peacebuilding Commission Organizational Committee
Joint Meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council

Informal (Open) Meeting
8 July 2010

Participants:

- Ambassador Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Organizational Committee
- Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- Ambassador Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium, Chair of the Central African Republic of the PBC
- Ambassador Maria Luiza-Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau of the PBC
- Ambassador John McNee, Permanent Representative of Canada, Chair of the Sierra Leone of the PBC
- Representative on behalf of Ambassador Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Chair of the Burundi of the PBC
- Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support (PBSO)
- Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Organizational Committee:


The Chair extends his thanks to all Member States for convening in New York for this joint meeting.

The Chair welcomes all Member States present and members of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) to the joint consultative meeting of the PBC.

The PBC regards building a relationship with the African Union (AU) as a high priority. This meeting is a testament to this commitment, and further deepens the partnership of the AU and the UN, which was formed with the shared vision of peace and security in Africa. This undertaking is especially relevant this year, as 2010 is the year of peace and security in Africa. The UN pledges its unwavering commitment to ensuring sustainable peace in Africa, exemplified by the UN's engagement in Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau. Similarly, the AU has stepped forward with an historic decision to establish and adopt the framework on post conflict reconstruction and development to illustrate how security and development are interlinked and mutually reinforcing

The PBC is committed to fostering national ownership with the support of regional partnerships. The PBC's four country configurations have demonstrated their ability to address complex security challenges in post conflict countries.

The Chair hopes that this meeting will achieve three objectives:

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1. To lay the foundations to further develop channels of communication between the PBC and the AUSPC, and separately, between the PBO and the AU Commission. The PBC should work to reach the full potential in these partnerships.
 2. To exchange perspectives on how the PBC and the AUSPC can utilize their relationship by optimizing their respective comparative advantages.
 - To explore the possible ways forward and the mechanisms needed at headquarters and in the Agenda countries to transport this partnership to the next level in terms of political support and mobilization.
 3. To focus on the practical elements needed to set our partnerships on the right track, as well as to celebrate the symbolic importance of this joint meeting.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission:

It is an honor to attend this meeting on behalf of the AU Commission.


At this time, Africa needs peace more than ever before. The AU has declared 2010 as the year of peace and security and hopes to create a resolution to bring peace to Africa using an existing relationship between two existing parties: the AU and the PBC.

This is not the first time the AUPSC has met with the PBC. On 9 November 2009, the AU had the opportunity to exchange views with the PBC. The AU welcomes the efforts deployed by the PBC with regard to post conflict countries (Central African Republic, Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau).

In March 2008, the Assistant Secretary General, Caroline Kensey provided information regarding a new peacekeeping and peacebuilding architecture. On 19 April 2010, the AUPSC helped to facilitate the review of the PBC by providing issue recommendations to allow the PBC to meet its duties and fulfill its mandate. The AUPSC underscores the recommendations issued to further consolidate local and national ownership, and the need for local actors and authorities to build capacity within these countries and to develop a more realistic representation of the situation on the ground, based on the framework underpinning peace and security in post conflict.

The AUPSC has advocated for the need for involvement of local actors, including civil society on the ground. In addition, the Peace and Security Council has provided detailed recommendations concerning the best ways and means to enhance cooperation between the PBC and regional organizations, and to develop an effective partnership. To this effect, the AUPSC has proposed a resolution for the PBC architecture asking the PBC to strengthen its partnerships in its efforts for post conflict peacebuilding, carried out with the participation of sub-regional organizations. The founding principles of the PBC outlines that its work should be carried out in close cooperation with intergovernmental organizations. The idea of an effective partnership between the UN and regional organizations is also in line with the constitutive act of the AU, which created the strategic council.

Peacebuilding is a process, and the AU has learned many lessons from its experiences in this regard.. The AU has reached important results and all of these achievements must be consolidated and transformed into long-term processes. However, the AU cannot work alone – the Union’s instruments for post conflict reconstruction and development highlight the importance of building partnerships and mobilizing stakeholders at the regional, national, and international levels. Effective partnerships will provide the necessary added value to achieve concrete results. These principles of complementarily and comparative advantage should guide the AU and the PBC’s actions, and the implementation of activities should tackle the underlying causes of conflict.



The fundamental principles of post-conflict peacebuilding, according to the AU, are: African leadership, local ownership, inclusiveness, non discrimination and equality, cooperation and cohesion, and building capacity in order to ensure that positive impact is long term. The need to establish long-lasting peace, justice, renewal, and participatory governments are the important elements on which the relationship between the AU and PBC should be based.

Chair of the Central African Republic (CAR) configuration:

The Ambassador welcomes Member States to the first joint meeting of the AUSPC and the UNPBC.

Aside from the substance of this first joint meeting, its symbolic value should be considered in terms of strengthening key partnerships for peacebuilding. It is important for the PBC to be linked to organizations on the African continent.


Since the Peacebuilding Commission put the Central African Republic on its agenda 2 years ago, the peacebuilding process has seen important progress due to the PBC's involvement. The inclusive political dialogue, held by CAR with the help of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), has been a decisive turning point in the peacebuilding process in the country. Now is the moment for all social, political and economic actors to agree on a roadmap for the future of CAR.

The Central African government, as well as civil society established a Strategic Framework for peacebuilding in cooperation with the PBC. This Framework is the cornerstone for our work, which outlines three specific peacebuilding areas. Recently, the CAR configuration has only addressed two of these agenda items, including Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) for former combatants and Presidential and parliamentary elections planned for later this year.

In spite of significant delays, progress has been noted in the DDR process. Currently, the CAR configuration is preparing a list of former combatants and the formal DDR process is ready to begin. On 13 July, it will start in one part of the country. It is important that the DDR process remains separate from the electoral process. The Security Council's press statement on CAR made on 28 June 2010, called on the government and all CAR movements to ensure that the DDR is carried out successfully, quickly and transparently.

The CAR configuration's second urgent priority is the 2010 general election, which have been delayed twice for technical reasons based on the reports of the Independent Electoral Committee. The elections will now be held during the October, November, and December 2010. The Security Council's press statement on CAR (SC/9963-AMR/2003) calls on the country's government and other national stakeholders, to make rapid progress in organizing elections that are free, organized, and transparent. As the Chair of the configuration, Ambassador Jan Grauls has done his best to mobilize resources to fill the gaps in the elections budget. The budget gap is marked at 7.5 million US dollars and Belgium has provided significant funding. During the Ambassador's last visit, it was also decided that a map-making exercise should be carried out corresponding to the various activities and/or projects in this area, with the aim of avoiding duplication and overlap of efforts and identifying gaps that need to be filled.

The PBC is making progress in carrying out its role as coordinator of national and international actors within CAR. Potential partnerships have been identified and have been fruitful in aiding development of ideas to support efforts of the PBC country-specific configuration for CAR. During each one of Ambassador Jan Grauls' visits, he met with representatives of women's organizations. In turn, the Chair of



the CAR configuration would like to emphasize the importance of including gender equality in the agendas of all international and national actors, and of including women in discussions of peacebuilding. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad's (MINURCAT) departure could serve as a threat to the success of the PBC, but the Chair welcomes the next report of the Secretary General, scheduled to come out in the middle of July to address potential solutions to this issue.

Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration:

The Chair welcomes the chair of the AUSPC. Cooperation can be achieved through different avenues and the Chair hopes to find these avenues today. This is a long awaited meeting and he hopes it is the first of many.


The Chair and the Guinea-Bissau configuration have launched conversations with local stakeholders and regional governments to address main priorities of the peacebuilding process including security sector reform (SSR), drug trafficking, revitalization of economy, and social dimensions of peacebuilding including youth employment. A Strategic Framework was approved in 2008. This Framework serves as a compact for mutual accountability between the government of Guinea-Bissau and the PBC. At the same time as the launch of the Strategic Framework, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) began channeling funds to projects financing the national elections and promoting youth employment. An open and significantly inclusive discussion on PBC priorities serves as a platform for coordinating the actions of the international community on the ground. The PBC has succeeded in raising awareness of Guinea-Bissau's problems and in increasing partners, as well as mobilizing resources for the country's elections. The parliamentary elections were held in 2008 and the presidential in 2009 (following the assassinations of the country's president).

The April 1st appointment of General Antonio Indjai as the new Chief of the Armed Forces, a mutinous military leader connected to drug-trafficking, remains a topic of large concern. In response to this appointment, the Chair has exchanged letters with the government, which in turn, reinforced its commitment to achieving security sector reform (SSR). The configuration plans on monitoring the situation closely. The PBC is ready to support Guinea-Bissau, and to contribute to the rule of law and democratic institutions within the country. The imperative priority remains SSR. In every phase of work with Guinea-Bissau, the Chair of the configuration has witnessed the importance of coordinating with regional and sub-regional organizations within the peace consolidation process (specifically with the AU and ECOWAS). Important and credible partners are an excellent resource for the configuration; joint field missions have also been helpful.

Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration:

Thank you very much to the co-chairs for providing an update. The Ambassador welcomes the AUPSC to New York. Closer cooperation between the two institutions holds great potential.

Sierra Leone has made progress within its multilateral peace process. Sierra Leone is a good example of a nation making the transition from a fragile post conflict state to a developing country. Since it became part of the PBC's agenda in 2007, the PBC has aligned its engagement with Sierra Leone's 'Agenda for Change', the priorities of which are good governance and rule of law, youth unemployment, and efforts to counter drug trafficking. The PBC has agreed to promote greater sub-regional cooperation, which will remain a priority in the coming year. Human rights and gender equality are important items on the country's agenda, and later this fall the PBC's Sierra Leone configuration expects to examine the outstanding challenges of trafficking and crime. Permanent Representatives from each of the UN's regional



groups are convening in Freetown later this year to take stock of the PBC's progress and consider the PBC's future support.

The configuration has worked on marshalling resources for the Agenda for Change within Sierra Leone, which advocates for funds from the World Bank, creates a police force and coastguard, and works to eliminate transnational crime and drug trafficking. Thirty-seven million US dollars have been allocated by the PBF for the Agenda for Change, but additional resources are needed.

The PBC is working with national and international partners to develop an annual report on the Agenda for Change, which will be useful for tracking process, establishing mutual accountability, and mobilizing resources. The presentation of this report this September (2010) will be an important opportunity.

Representative on behalf of Chair of the Burundi configuration:

Burundi is going through a crucial stage in its peace process. Switzerland supports the partnership between these two bodies (the AU and the PBC).

The Chair of the configuration recently traveled to Burundi to update the configuration's knowledge of the country's current political status, as well as to make contact with various actors within the peace process. During his visit, the Chair endeavored to convey three core messages:

- He encouraged a democratic process (as the only viable action) in Burundi, emphasized the importance of ensuring an inclusive, fair, free, peaceful electoral process.
- He called all parties to refrain from any use of violence. The country's government and every Burundian has a responsibility in this regard.
- Finally, the Chair encouraged political parties to use dialogue and legal means to address electoral disputes.

A meeting will take place in the coming weeks to brief Member States on the Chair's trip to Burundi.


Two elections have been held within Burundi, but dialogue has not been easy to maintain. 23 and 28 July are the scheduled dates of the legislative and senatorial elections, respectively. The elections will determine the political future of Burundi, so it is imperative that they are inclusive and peaceful. To this end, the elections should be held in a peaceful, open, equitable manner, and a parliament should be elected that is representative of all members of society. With such a result, Burundi can present itself as a model of peace. The PBC configuration on Burundi has been guiding and supporting Burundi through this crucial phase in its transition to democracy.

The AU has been helpful in sustaining the peace process in countries under the agenda of the PBC, including Burundi, and was very helpful to the Chair during his visit to the country.

The most important lesson the Chair of the Burundi configuration has learned after one year is to listen to the Africans. It was African leadership that brought about Arusha Peace Agreements, and it is the African Council that helps stakeholders navigate the challenges of the electoral season. It will be and has to be African ingenuity that will help Burundi find its economic place within the region.

Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support (PBSO):

The ASG for the PBSO welcomes the Commissioner and President of the AUPSC to the meeting. Ms. Cheng-Hopkins will focus on two issues during her presentation: an update on the PBF and the international review of the PBC.



In terms of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), its priorities in terms of programming are very much within Africa. The fifth country, Liberia, becoming part of the PBC's agenda means that it will be adopted within the PBF's funding as well. The PBF consists of 340 million US dollars and is comprised of a broad base of donors, with 91% of funding going to Africa. The thematic areas covered by the PBC, envelop the whole spectrum of peacebuilding, from DDR to rule of law to political dialogue to youth employment. The PBC should work more closely with international organizations including ECOWAS. The PBSO is in the process of forging an identity for the Fund, so it is not just one of many multi-donor trust funds.

The PBF's emerging identity is that of a strategic gap-filler. For example, in Guinea, the funding came from donors to hold elections; however there were no provisions made for the security side of the elections. Within three days, the PBF was able to step in and provide that funding. The PBF has proven that it can fund those areas which the traditional Official Development Assistance does not fund, for example, refurbishing of military barracks in Burundi, CAR, and in Sierra Leone. The PBF tends to catalyze funds.

A slight tension between the security parts of the PBF's work and the development side (including youth unemployment) exists. This tension stems from an unbalanced agenda, which depends on the relative emphasis of the time (either overly focused on security or on youth employment). National ownership is a major element of the PBC. It is the ultimate transitional element (or fund) because it is so deeply engrained in national processes. The government is accustomed to helping decide how funds are spent within the country, creating a link between UN leadership and the government. The funding is not limited to humanitarian efforts, security or development in particular; it is neutral and dependent on the needs on the ground.


The Civilian Capacity Review (CCR) questions if, in recent times, the peacekeeping process relies too heavily on the military, instead of focusing on building the capacity of civilians. In its work, the CCR focuses on capacity development, specifically the use of UN missions. Given proper, rational analysis of its work and the supply and demand of civilian capacities, as well as outstanding gaps, the PBC could better understand the changes that would be required within the UN to fill these gaps and could better establish linkages with the AU.

Currently, the CCR is rapping up its first phase of efforts. The emphasis of the review has been focused on how to utilize this untapped capacity. Fortunately however, within the UN, over 60% of currently deployed civilians are from the South and 13 of the top 20 contributing countries are from the global South. A report will be released in June 2011. The PBSO plans to work even closer with the AU and the PBC's Member States. A regional round table in Africa has been scheduled for this fall (2010), with the help of the AU. The PBC plans to look for funding in order to more effectively use the global South.

Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union:

The Commissioner hopes to enlighten the Member States at this meeting on the potential areas in which the AU could work with the PBC and on the challenges that face both institutions.

The establishment of the AU under the joint founding of the Security Council and the PBC, and the fact that the African Strategic Framework created in 2006 shortly followed this body, signifies the determination of both the AU and the UN in achieving peace and security in Africa. Both entities need to harness their energies in order to ensure that peacebuilding, a concept that did not previously lie at the heart of the traditional concept of peacekeeping. Such efforts would ensure that peacebuilding receives the attention it requires.



Both entities' common needs must be met upon shared guiding principles: SSR, the launching of development projects including youth employment, as well as electoral timetables. An integrated approach, which seeks to reconcile the full spectrum of peace and security from prevention to development, has been underscored.

Prevention carries particular weight in terms of tackling the underlying causes of conflict: governmental, economic-social development, quality of life. An integrated approach serves to homogenize existing institutions. There is also a necessity for dovetailing between regional input (social and economic committees, government) and efforts deployed continent-wide through solidarity conferences in order to further advance post-conflict development from the peace and security perspective, as well as with an economic and social perspective.

The fifth country to be added to the PBC's agenda, Liberia, is a country where the AU has been present since the deployment of African troops who took over for UN troops stationed there. It is important that the PBC works together with the AUSPC to meet the needs that are determined within the AU so that peacebuilding and reconstruction activities are regarded as necessary components for buttressing peace. Any deployment must support a rapid transition towards peacebuilding. Any mandate of force must provide for the proper allocation of resources and deployment of resources in order to support reconstruction activities – and national authorities will draw upon international resources to do so. A number of UN peacekeeping missions have encountered difficulties in some countries. Local populations do not always welcome the presence of the UN and this causes such difficulties in peacekeeping. For future success, the UN must work to enhance its communication with local populations in order to rectify this unwelcoming mind-set.

This dialogue between the AU and the PBC is most welcome. In Aurelia there are lessons to be learned, experiences to be shared, and perspectives for shared work to be further encouraged. From this perspective, the actions planned by the PBC for youth employment are essential. It is important to ensure that the national sovereign institutions built within a country, are done so through an inclusive national approach founded on loyalty to the state, as well as the subordination of the military authorities to responsible elected authorities, pertaining to security and defense.

Despite modest resources, the AU has 10 liaison offices throughout Africa to establish priorities concerning post-conflict actions. Each of these offices, which previously may have had separate mandates before, now all include post-conflict, reconstruction, and development components in their mandates. This serves as the cornerstone of interaction with authority and allows the AU to further develop complementarily with the UN, as well as with other partners.

The Commissioner commends the configurations' co-chairs for their devotion and commitment. The AU's excellent relationships with each of them are a testament to the constant flow of communication and meaningful discussion allowing the two institutions to fine-tune analyses, and convey to concerned governments a message of solidarity, encouragement, and vigilance on behalf of the international community as a whole. The AU is able to demonstrate and foster a sense of unity among international actors in responding to the needs of the relevant PBC countries. In turn, the PBC countries are assured that efforts on their behalf are not wasted, and that the limited resources available are maximized.

The Commissioner will briefly touch on the situation in each of the four PBC countries:

Central African Republic (CAR)

The Commissioner commends the CAR configuration on its work and welcomes cooperation between the AU and the CAR configuration on the ground. It has been two years since the AUPSC traveled to New York for a meeting with the Security Council. The AU has concentrated on the idea of the gender perspective, and in turn, has appointed Mrs. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf to the post of Special Representative of the African Union in Central African Republic. The Union has also enhanced gender awareness and coordination on the ground through extraordinary cooperation with national women's organizations. The Commissioner agrees with the analysis made by the chair of the CAR configuration, and his emphasis on the two main areas of work: carrying out the DDR program and the implementation of the electoral timetable. The AUPSC notes that recent difficulties were due to lack of financial resources needed to implement the election timetables. Progress is on track from legal and political perspectives. However the AUPSC would like to see more development in the DDR process, though it is important not to subordinate the electoral process to DDR, a process that also has its own demands and limitations (and cannot be carried out with a fixed time table). The AUPSC is careful to work with regional organizations and the UN to avoid a security vacuum during the withdrawal of MINURCAT. It is important to maintain contact with regional organizations to ensure that deployment and employment coincide.

Guinea-Bissau


The AUPSC agrees with the chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration. It is important to fight against drug trafficking, which in Guinea-Bissau is not simply a grave threat to public health, peace and security of the population, but also a hazard that has entered the institutional fabric of the country. At present, drug trafficking is directly and constantly threatening the stability of institutions and achievements of democracy in the country. The affect that corruption has on the international community is also of concern. Guinea-Bissau is an example of the fact that political success and progress in democratization can fail or at least be threatened by drug trafficking, which has penetrated state structures including security and defense forces.

A social and economic environment favorable to carrying out the inevitable and essential elements of SSR is needed. A number of consequences followed the assassination of the President last April, when action by the Chief of Staff of the national Army led to the arrest of the elected Prime Minister and the detention of the legitimate Chief of Staff of Guinea-Bissau. The AU associated its voice with others who have considered this development as one particularly dangerous and reprehensible. However, despite the AU's and the international community's protests, the Chief of the Armed Forces was recently reinstated.. The AU regrets this development, which is seen as one that could establish a culture of impunity and hinder chances for security sector reform in the country.

The AU stresses the importance of commitment and warns against inaction. The international community should continue to be involved in Guinea-Bissau. A lack of commitment would allow for reprehensible behavior, which could then become the rule of the country. In other words, abandoning Guinea-Bissau to its fate could promote a phenomenon of contagion within region. The international community should make a commitment to remain involved, to encourage vigilance for good governance and respect for elected institutions, and to establish the fact that military institutions should not act as vehicles for impunity and insecurity in the country. In this sense, the international community should present a united front, as such involvement could influence course of events on the ground.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone was correctly presented as a success story.



The 'Agenda for Change' in the country needs to be carried out, specifically through to its next phase: successful (second) elections since the country emerged from crisis. Sierra Leone deserves to be assisted and supported by the AUPSC and the international community as a whole, which could lead to success on the ground of the new phase of development and reconstruction. Sierra Leone has demonstrated solidarity with the other countries of the river basin. Correspondingly, AUPSC is seeing increased support to Liberia and the Peace and Security Council welcomes the country's introduction to the PBC agenda. A successful electoral process in Guinea-Bissau should be contagious for neighboring countries, such as Guinea, which is holding its second presidential elections, which the AUPSC hopes will be transparent and multiparty. The AUPSC hopes that progress made in Sierra Leone will be so successful that it will extend to Liberia and Guinea. Any anti-constitutional change of the government will mean sanctions immediately applied by the Security Council. In such a situation, sanctions would not be economic, but political and diplomatic, marked by suspension of participation in the governing bodies of the AU. Several of the AU's partners have suggested that sanctions be economic, yet the AU takes the position that economic support should continue so that the populations of country will not be unjustly punished.

Burundi

Burundi is in the process of a marathon election process since emerging from crisis. Already, there have been two elections and two more are planned before September 2010. This means that the country will have new authorities up to highest level of state and the AU believes that this is a considerable political step forward for this country. The AU has sent a mission to Burundi and to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Union hopes to launch economic recovery for this country as well, which is so essential to enable the country to establish resources for economic development for the entire population.

As for the elections in Burundi, the lack of competition is regrettable, but it is a phenomenon that has been seen a trend among many electoral processes of developing nations. In many cases, there is a tendency to see perishing agreements before election results are even fully known. In these situations it could be essential to take this path to avoid serious threats to security. Burundi could become a success story within its regional context because peace and development is so difficult in the great lakes region, but the international community must keep in mind sensitivity of the situation in Burundi. Any partners working in Burundi must remain sensitive to the situation, consolidate achievements, and need to be open for work in cooperation with Africa and the rest of the international community. These achievements must become irreversible. There exists a good relationship and dialogue between all of us.

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Organizational Committee:

The presentations made today provide a good basis to work towards our first two of three objectives for this meeting: developing channels of communication between the AU and the PBC, and optimizing the comparative advantages of our peacebuilding efforts.

Mechanisms need to be established within the countries concerned in order to move forward with the peace process. To this effect, mobilization of support is needed in order to sustain international attention to countries' critical political security and socio-economic needs. In addition, peace dividends must be delivered early for peace to be durable, and national stakeholders need to recognize the benefit of staying the course with the peace process. Finally, critical gaps requiring immediate and sustained funding should be addressed – for which timely support is required.

Collaboration between the PBC and the AU would maximize impact and support. How do the PBC and the AU ensure that they have the right practical mechanisms in place at the headquarters and in the field to identify outstanding needs, and to measure when this partnership is most needed?



Rwanda:

Rwanda welcomes the holding of this joint meeting. It is an important forum to determine how to create a synergy between the PBC and the AU, with the end goal of finding appropriate solutions to peacebuilding situations.

Two aspects of peacebuilding are very important to Rwanda: first, to finance peacebuilding actions and how the AU and the PBC can work together to find necessary funding, and secondly, the process to build capacity. In terms of the financial aspect, it is important to consider how to finance peacebuilding actions and how the PBC and the AU can work together to find necessary funding. The Assistant Secretary General talked about building capacity, particularly at the civilian level, to rebuild the country. When a country emerges from conflict it has an urgent need for financing, and often this funding is lacking. How can the AU and the PBC work together to find this funding?

It is also important to attract donors; the PBC has created mechanisms to attract donors, but Rwanda would like to see the launch of a joint mechanism. If possible, coordination between the PBC and the AUPSC for conferences to mobilize resources and raise funds for peacebuilding is an important first step. A coordinated effort to reach out to non-traditional donors is also crucial. In terms of capacity building, it is imperative to swiftly create a joint team of the AU and the PBC to identify the needs for the various countries. Separately, the AU and the UN do not have the capacity to define these needs, however joint action of the two institutions could quite quickly design a program to help peacebuilding and rebuild national civilian capacity within the country concerned.

Burundi:

Burundi thanks the chairmen of the country specific configurations and encourages them in their efforts, especially Switzerland for chairing the country specific configuration for Burundi.


The countries on the PBC's agenda are in a very fragile situation of relative peace. They require your support throughout the peacebuilding process. Importantly, this support must be well conceived and should build upon existing national efforts. This is a multidisciplinary mission, which can be further used and exploited in order to target needs in Burundi. Sub-regional economic communities are best placed to understand the situations within countries. It is essential to coordinate contributions so that the PBC does not waste energy defining a framework for action if it already exists.

The remaining factor is financing. Burundi welcomes this initiative to listen to the views of African countries. There is a need to listen to African solutions to African problems, as only they know what is useful to Africans better than any other.

If concerted solutions to outstanding problems are used, results are superior. For example, in Burundi, there was a need for constant dialogue, so a forum of the political parties was established by the PBC. Unfortunately this forum, which was intended to provide a permanent framework for dialogue, has not been functioning. In light of this failure, Burundi underscores the need for fresh impetus and corresponding financing for this political party forum.

The Russian Federation:

African states continue to face long-standing threats to peace and security. It is the view of the Russian Federation that the only possible way to overcome these perils, should be on the basis of collective action.



In this respect, Russia understands the need to set up joint actions, and supports further development of the partnership between the PBC and the AUPSC through joint complimentary and coordinated efforts to tackle these threats.

The AUPSC has better objective knowledge of the situations within African countries than the PBC. Therefore, the Commission could rely more on the AUPSC to find ways to resolve issues on the continent. An important instrument of the cooperation between the PBC and the AUPSC are the joint missions recently implemented throughout Africa to learn about the situation on the ground. The information gathered by these missions allows the PBC to more clearly establish priorities, and to better understand the effectiveness of its efforts on the ground. Learning about the situation in the field allows organizations to identify narrow areas where improvements are feasible.

The Russian Federation is in favor of continuing regular constructive dialogue between the two bodies, by which the country hopes that it will be possible to promote joint actions. On the whole, it is Russia's view with regard to all of external assistance in Africa, that the key to solve issues on the continent is found in the hands of the Africans themselves.

There is a need for more careful attention to the work and procedure of the PBC. Russia is not fully convinced that the format of today's meeting (of a body subordinate to Security Council and the General Assembly) is provided for in the framework. This requires separate procedural consideration.

Mali:

This is an important meeting; it marks a turning point in the relationship between the PBC and the AU.


It is important to understand how to maximize the comparative advantages of each body, and to identify ways and means to move forward in terms of cooperation and effective communication. (A rapid and effective communication system is truly essential).

A swift exchange of views from those with a presence in the field is essential to understanding the situation on the ground. Often actions are one-sided and "one hand does not know what the other hand is doing;" both partners must jointly develop a communication system. In this regard, the international community should formalize its actions to make true progress.

Actions on the ground, specifically in reconstruction, demobilization must also be coordinated. Many organizations are involved in such efforts, but each have their own program and vision, and quite often they act on their own without considering others. Given these problems, the field level needs to see enhanced coordination of actions and actors on the ground. In addition, efforts by these parties tend to be isolated. However, it must be considered that actors on the ground are dealing with urgent situations, and if the wait is too long, everything that has been accomplished to date could be jeopardized. The AU and the PBC should find significant ways and means to ensure the coordination of protagonists in the field.

There is also a need for capacity building in each of the countries. All necessary institutions have been demolished in these countries, and it is difficult for these institutions to be rebuilt because there no longer exists a clear sense of who is responsible for what. Relevant and specific recommendations should be made and financing should become available in order to find solutions to financing problems.

South Africa:



The success of the relationship between the PBC and the AU depends on coordination between national and international actors. Coherence is needed at the local and national levels, and between actors on both of these levels. The UN's various partners and NGOs are all well meaning, but they sometimes operate on differing issues. More partnerships and coordinated efforts are needed for sustained success. However, such efforts require substantial capital and it is difficult to mobilize resources on the African continent. The resources that are available need to be optimized.

Issues should not be confined to the security sector, but should also be looked at in terms of state capacity..

South Africa also suggests including more countries from the African continent to the PBC agenda. The PBC itself also needs to be built up as an institution in order to continue its good work. The AU provides coordination, and deliberate and planned actions at the sub-regional level.

Libya:

Representatives in Africa work diligently and there needs to be coordination among them and the four representatives of the PBC to produce more beneficial and positive results. In Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, harmony, exchange and continuous communication between communities is essential.

Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union:

The Commissioner highlights this encounter between the PBC and the AUPSC as truly necessary. "It has been the most edifying morning." The Commissioner has learned a great deal and it was a great chance to meet his colleagues. This meeting provided him with a great deal of information. The AUPSC is very interested in these types of encounters and this involvement on the ground. The AUPSC is also greatly interested in ensuring that the UN Secretary General is able to draw on regional organizations to reach the peacekeeping mandate.

The Commissioner extends his thanks to the PBC and the Chair of the Organizational Committee. Thank you to the Assistant Secretary General for participating and sharing her important communication.

Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Organizational Committee:

The Chair extends his thanks to all Member States and visitors for joining this debate and for their thoughtful ideas and comments. The Chair plans to consult with the chair of the AUSPC and to create a joint summary including working new suggestions and practical terms of this meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.

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This brief was compiled by Together for a Better Peace, a World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy Project on the UN Peacebuilding Commission. For more visit www.betterpeace.org