



The Peacebuilding Commission and National Strategic Frameworks: New Directions and Emerging Lessons

*Workshop organized by the International Peace Institute in collaboration with the UN
Peacebuilding Support Office and the Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*

April 19, 2011, 8:45-1:00

**International Peace Institute
Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development
777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor**

One of the key findings of the 2010 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture was that there are “clear advantages to a single overarching planning document... around which national authorities and the international community can coalesce.” The review noted that such a document “should contain well-defined peacebuilding elements worked out with the full involvement of all stakeholders.”

The Review’s finding confirmed a growing sentiment among governments, practitioners, and independent observers in favour of rationalizing frameworks. It also reflected a strategic shift within the PBC’s approach, evident in the June 2009 decision of the PBC’s Sierra Leone configuration to endorse the Sierra Leonean government’s “Agenda for Change” as the framework upon which it would henceforth base its engagement. In Liberia, the Statement of Mutual Commitments adopted in November 2010 builds upon Liberia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) and is meant to contribute to the foundations for its prospective successor, “Vision 2030: Liberia Rising.” Burundi and Central African Republic are both now developing national plans that will succeed their current PRSPs and could also form the basis of their engagement with the PBC.

The challenge facing the PBC and its partners – first and foremost, the national governments themselves – is ensuring that these overarching strategic policy and planning frameworks are responsive to specific peacebuilding needs and can provide a platform for identifying and delivering upon mutual commitments.

This seminar will bring together 30-40 senior-level experts for an informal discussion under the Chatham House Rule, with the following aims:

- To reflect upon the new directions in the design of the PBC’s instruments of engagement, and the lessons that are emerging as efforts are made to build upon and contribute to existing nationally-owned strategic frameworks in ways that support peacebuilding;
- To identify under what circumstances and how the PBC and its partners can best leverage their alignment around a national strategic framework to ensure peacebuilding priorities are addressed, including with respect to meeting commitments and reviewing progress as well as strengthening government ownership; and
- To draw emerging lessons and map key priorities for further strengthening the PBC’s approach.

Agenda

8:45 Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, IPI*

Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, *Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support*

9:30 – 11:00 Session 1: Strategic frameworks for peacebuilding: design and process

- How does context affect and shape the PBC's instruments of engagement (e.g. different entry points, the presence or absence of a national framework that is conflict-sensitive and addresses peacebuilding priorities, different stages in a peace consolidation process, and nature of UN engagement)?
- How can the PBC, as a New York-based advisory body, most effectively contribute to in-country processes leading to the development of PRSPs or other national strategic frameworks that support peacebuilding?
- How are the roles of different partners in developing national strategic frameworks presently being identified and coordinated, and how can government leadership in this regard be strengthened? How can the contribution of civil society to this process be strengthened?
- How does alignment with national strategic frameworks impact the PBC's review processes? How can PBC country-specific recommendations help to inform PRSP progress reports, and vice versa?
- How can PBC instruments of engagement and PBF priority plans be more closely aligned?

Chair: **Mr. João Honwana**, *Director, Africa 1 Division, UN Department of Political Affairs*

Speakers: **H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini**, *Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN*

Ambassador Shola Omoregie, *Former Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau*

Mr. Brian Williams, *Chief, Financing for Peacebuilding Branch, PBSO*

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:45: Session 2: Content, substance, and implementation

- How have PRSPs evolved to become more conflict sensitive and what are some of the outstanding challenges in this regard (e.g., achieving a common analysis of the conflict; ensuring attention to sectors outside ODA guidelines; ensuring capacity and willingness to 'mainstream' conflict sensitivity across sectors)? What requirements should PRSPs meet in order to serve as peacebuilding frameworks for PBC purposes?
- What capacity support do PBC countries require in order to better articulate peacebuilding priorities and meet commitments (e.g. capacities to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report)? Are there examples of nationally sustainable models that can be shared/considered? How can the PBC support capacity-building efforts in agenda countries?
- How can the PBC achieve complementarities between its own resource mobilization efforts, in support of commitments made in the instrument of engagement, and existing resource mobilization mechanisms, such as Consultative Group meetings?

Chair: **Mr. Andrew Tomlinson**, *Director and Representative, Quaker UN Office*

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Paul Seger**, *Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN*
Mr. Stephen Ndegwa, *Adviser, Fragile & Conflict Affected Countries Group, The World Bank*
Mr. Chetan Kumar, *Senior Conflict Prevention Adviser, UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery*

12:45 – 13:00 **Wrap-up and next steps**

Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman, *Chief, Policy, Planning and Application Branch, PBSO*
Mr. Olivier Nduhungirehe, *First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the UN*