

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee
2 November 2015

On 2 November 2015, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal meeting at the Ambassadorial-level, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. The meeting, organized as a follow-up to the 2015 Annual Session of the PBC which focused on Predictable Funding for Peacebuilding, provided an opportunity to discuss a country-specific example of the challenges the donor community and its implementing partners face in the development of financing instruments that deliver efficiently in complex post-conflict settings.

1. In his introductory remarks, the Chair welcomed the opportunity to utilize the PBC as a platform in a more flexible way. Following-up on the outcome of the PBC Annual Session, he highlighted the inherent danger and limitations that a fragmented funding system represents and the catastrophic impact it has on peacebuilding activities on the ground, such as duplication, unhealthy competition, chronic underfunding of crucial peacebuilding priorities, and an overburdening of the host governments. In this connection, he welcomed the recommendations contained in the Report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the peacebuilding architecture review which stress the need for more predictable financing. A linked-up and joint financing mechanism should thus include enlarged funding platforms between the UN and the World Bank Group, bilateral donors and regional actors to pool resources and mitigate risks, as well as aim at driving integration of UN programming around

implementation and reporting through the SDRF structures. He stated the innovative character of the UN MPTF in Somalia as: 1) it shares the same governance structures as the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) funds under the leadership of the Somali Government; 2) it has a national window where funds go directly to the national entities with safeguards only if and when necessary; and 3) it is equipped with a comprehensive risk management strategy. He stressed the MPTF's function as a vehicle for state- and peacebuilding and noted that financing for peacebuilding was not only a technical process but also a political instrument, for which a risk management strategy was indispensable. The DSRSG welcomed the constructive collaboration between the UN and the World Bank, as well as the Somali Government and highlighted the unique role of the PBF. He stressed the need for more predictable funding and encouraged investments for Youth related programs, livelihood, and IDP engagement. He mentioned the security, programmatic, reputational, and fiduciary risks of delivering in such a context, but welcomed the structured dialogue and the discussions on solutions.

4. Ms. Preeti Arora (World Bank Country Program Coordinator for Somalia) welcomed the establishment and the unique and flexible design drawn from lessons learned of the MPTF and the SDRF to overcome the fragmented delivery of aid and highlighted the importance of the SDRF Steering Committee in coordinating future steps. She noted that more needs to be done in the areas of national resource allocation, communication and outreach to the population of the activities, and constant improvement while moving forwards, and

and reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to support Somalia. Delegations focused their interventions on the following issues:

Pooled funding through the UN MPTF in cooperation with the World Bank and the AfDB represents an important model to ensure coordination, reduce fragmentation and lead to sustainable peace.

National ownership and a coordinated engagement with the Somali Government are key. For this kind of funding instruments to be effective, a more predictable source of financing is required.

A strong leadership on the ground is essential to ensure synergies between Missions and UNCTs.

Lessons learned from how donors and implementing partners work in Somalia should be applied to other situations, as appropriate.

Strengthening local capacities is fundamental to ensure a self-sufficient local economy drawing from local resources, as well as support for national development plans.

Some delegations highlighted the importance of a timely delivery of financial pledges, the need for stronger actions in the field of national reconciliation and the stabilization of areas clear of Al-Shabaab, and the preparation of the upcoming electoral process.

8. Responding to questions raised by delegations, the briefers highlighted the advantages of the SDRF structures, which ensured an inclusive dialogue with the Government, the importance of the committed and effective translation of financial instruments on the ground, and the unique catalytic role of the PBF in financial and progressive terms.
9. The Chair adjourned the meeting by highlighting the importance of taking advantage of the momentum in Somalia and learning from this successful example of how to overcome fragmentation.
