

Peacebuilding Commission: Working Group on Lessons Learned
Meeting on Regional Approaches to Peacebuilding
June 8, 2007

Summary Note of the Chair

1. Burundi and Sierra Leone, the two countries under consideration by the PBC, have highlighted the need to underpin peacebuilding in their sub-regions as part of their integrated peacebuilding strategies. Recognizing the importance of regional approaches to peacebuilding, the third meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned focused on selected experiences from Africa and Central America in addressing the regional dimensions of conflict and regional strategies for peacebuilding. In specific, the meeting focused on several sub-regional initiatives in the Great Lakes region and West Africa as well as the Contadora-Esquipulas peace process and the International Conference on Refugees in Central America. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of El Salvador H.E. Carmen María Gallardo Hernández and brought together expert panelists, including a distinguished former Minister of Foreign Affairs from El Salvador, member states and civil society representatives. (See attached programme).

2. The two speakers who focused on Africa confirmed the regional dimensions of African conflicts but drew attention to the specificities of each sub-region. For example, West Africa is a more compact and integrated region with various sub-regional institutions. While conflicts in neighboring count

in turn culminated in the conclusion of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development

