

**Summary of the PBC Liberia Configuration Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 30 October 2013 (9:00-10.30 a.m., New York)**

I. Update from UNMIL on reconciliation and other developments in Liberia

1. The implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation was launched by the President of Liberia in June 2013 following the 2012 conference on the Roadmap in Gbarnga. The Roadmap aims to promote coherence among different actors and to articulate clear goals for reconciliation.
2. The following projects under reconciliation were underway:
 - 1) The Liberia National History Project is underway. The project attempts to rewrite the history of Liberia in a

Projects under the PBF

4. Seven projects were approved under the PBF. Those under ‘reconciliation’ include Conflict Prevention and Mediation, Womens’ Economic Empowerment, Youth Recovery and Empowerment and Social Cohesion. Progress has been made in the past few months.

Coordination for reconciliation

5. The Ministry of Internal Affairs provides overall coordination supported by the Peacebuilding Office and also holds consultations with key institutions such as the Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INHRC), the Governance Commission and the Ministry of Gender and Development. Capacities among these institutions vary. The Governance Commission has made some progress, while the INHRC is struggling at the leadership level. The INHRC, however, will organize a forum in mid-November. There is also a call for a national peacebuilding and reconciliation steering committee which will include various stakeholders.
6. With regard to the UN, UNMIL is providing technical support through the pillars used to consolidate democratic governance, and within this [framework], UNMIL has a reconciliation and peace consolidation section. The UNCT provides technical and managerial support. UNDP will recruit a senior-level reconciliation and development specialist.
7. The UN would create a working group similar to the one on constitution-making to ensure coherence in the UN’s engagement and to increase the pace of implementation of the Roadmap. The UN also encourages south-south cooperation, taking the example of Rwanda: This was an idea by ASG Judy Cheng-Hopkins. UNMIL also pointed out that there is a plan to visit to Mozambique. *[Mr. Bautista Logioco (PBSO) later clarified that the idea was presented by the President of Liberia in a meeting with the ASG, and that there were no plans for a visit to Mozambique at this initial stage. He added that there was a discussion about a possible event on reconciliation experiences in Rwanda and Mozambique to be held in New York and/or Monrovia.]*
8. UNMIL has an outreach strategy extended to civil society and religious leaders. The Liberian Council of Churches will host a workshop on reconciliation and work with committees engaged in reconciliation. They should be advised to work on existing structures rather than building new ones.
9. There is a delay in the Palava Hut process, but overall, there has been good progress in reconciliation efforts. The Government needs to be encouraged to step up their pace and move forward. UNMIL later pointed out that it was important to find a balance between quantity and quality. It was the “actual talks” entity -1e Pse(tioopm)8(ent)C 0.0008 4Tc 0.0007(ual01(e

the configuration's support. On the role of civil society, UNMIL referred to their ongoing engagement with civil society organizations and NGOs to see how they could support the process. On leadership how they could support the process.

that it was comprehensive programme; there is much political will but there was a need for resource mobilization.

19. Japan noted that on 11 December 2013, they would host a conference on reconciliation and gender related issues focusing on Yemen, Sierra Leone and Kyrgyzstan. Japan hoped to draw out examples that would be useful for Liberia. UNMIL noted that UN agencies were working on fine tuning their strategies on gender. They have also discussed how to mainstream human rights, particularly on gender, into the Palava Hut process.
