

**Peacebuilding Commission
Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**Informal expert-level meeting on
“Extension of state authority”
19 May 2015**

Main findings

I. Introduction

1. On 19 May 2015, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal, expert-level meeting to discuss Institution-building: The challenges for the UN system. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from representatives of the UN system and from one country on the PBC agenda on the different challenges that post-conflict countries are facing in extending state authority.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chair (Japan), and benefited from presentations by PBSO, DPKO and UNDP, as well as by a representative of a post-conflict country (Liberia).
3. At the outset, the Chair noted that rebuilding core state institutions that provide security, justice, public administration, as well as basic social services, is fundamental for a successful transition from war to lasting peace and development. The UN and other peacebuilding actors have been paying more attention to the importance of consolidation and extension of state authority; however, numerous challenges exist, such as limited national capacities that undermine the locally-owned institution-building process, included in the field of security and justice. The Chair, thus, invited the briefers to share lessons and good practices for dealing with these issues.

II. Summary of Presentations by Panelists

4. In the opening remarks, PBSO highlighted that two defining characteristics of the state relate to the monopoly of violence and the monopoly of taxation. These form the basis of a social contract, where citizens pay taxes and are protected and therefore, receive services from the state in return. But a social contract cannot develop without trust. Peacebuilding is about the restoration of trust – trust between the state and society and among groups. The social contract and trust needs to be inclusive of all of

looked at Security Council mandates for seven countries going back to 1999. It was
op identified four inherent dilemmas: 1) center vs.

Restoration of state authority requires restoration of trust between state and society. Peacebuilding is aimed at restoring that trust.

It is important to do a conflict analysis right up-front and to monitor the country-capacities at early stages, even if costly.

Local governments should