

Ambassadorial-level Meeting of the  
Peacebuilding Commission Sierra Leone Configuration  
07 December 2015

Chairperson's Summary

**Background**

On 7 December 2015, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Sierra Leone Configuration held an ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss the political, security, reparations for the upcoming elections and socio-economic developments in Sierra Leone (the meeting) as held on the one-month anniversary of Sierra Leone having been declared officially free of Ebola and the world Health Organization (WHO) (the meeting also discussed the priorities for PBC engagement, and the nature of that engagement) and, taking into account the PBC's role and comparative advantage

(the Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, Mr. Bai Bureh, the Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, Mr. Saidu Conton Sesay, the Minister of Health and Sanitation, Mr. Dr. Mubarratu Sheriff, and Mr. Madu Soroma, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone briefed the Configuration on the Ebola recovery efforts and the country's main peacebuilding priorities) Mr. Gabriel Ugalema, 674 Resident Coordinator in Sierra Leone, Dr. Sero, '9' Baldeh, Country Representative for the African Development Bank (ADB) and 67DP Country Director, Mr. Sudipto Mukherjee gave an update on the political, security and socio-economic situation, as well as on the reparations for the upcoming elections and Mr. Sanullah Baloch, 67DP Constitutional

Prosperity' Mr. Soroma emphasized that the country's experience with the PBC is one of a valued partnership that places Sierra Leone on the trajectory towards peace, security, development and good governance' (his partnership pays great attention to the needs and priorities of national development' Mr. Soroma also noted that the PBC was instrumental in terms of its advocacy and convening role to bring to the attention of the international community the devastating nature of the Ebola Virus Disease' Regarding the future nature of engagement with the PBC, he voiced ongoing support for the Canadian High Commission in Sierra Leone to play an active role in bringing stakeholders together, which would in effect bring the PBC Configuration Chair more closely to the country'

@' Finance Minister Sarah briefed the Configuration on the economic situation of the country' (the Sierra Leone economy has suffered from the effect of three shocks: the Ebola crisis, the collapse of the iron ore market (a major source of government revenue), and the flooding that took place in September 2015 in Freetown and neighbouring areas' (he

importance of the PBC and the PB2 in supporting the coordination and attention of the donor community while providing international visibility of the country during the Ebola recovery period (the PBC can assist in resource mobilization and targeting specific areas of intervention to allocate resources, such as the support provided to war veterans and amputees)

G' Professor updates on the latest developments in the country, Mr. Augustine A. A. stated the political and security situation in Sierra Leone remains stable (the country is embarking on preparations for the upcoming elections) (the political scene in Sierra Leone continues to be dominated by a mixture of ideologies and rumors that the President might be seeking for another term of office), he informed that the submission for the first draft constitution, which was consulted widely, to the Cabinet in March 2011 Mr. Baloch 67DP later added that the constitutional review process required a 2011 budget Mr. Augustine continued to point out that there is a possibility that political dynamics might override the process after the submission. Concerning the security situation, he stated that porous borders and the high level of unemployment and youth pose threats to the country's safety and security. Furthermore, he informed that Sierra Leone had made enormous progress in regard to the rule of law and human rights, according to the Ibrahim Index. Concerning the preparations for the 2011 elections, he stated that the census was scheduled for Dec 2011, which had to be postponed to 2015 because of the Ebola outbreak (the National Electoral Commission (NEC) embarked on the process of organizing public consultations and outreach to discuss the proposed timeline. Changes might have implications on critical electoral processes (boundary, referendum, updating voting registers) (the census started on 12 December and the results are due in Dec 2011) Mr. Augustine highlighted the main peacebuilding priorities moving forward, including good governance and the rule of law, economic growth and stronger regional collaboration, leveraging resources at regional (146 and CO+ S) level, sound disaster risk reduction strategies and effective decentralization. In regard to the role of the PBC, he emphasized the importance of strong advocacy to draw the attention of the international community on Sierra Leone, resource mobilization, as well as the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned among the PBC members.

7' Dr. Baldeh congratulated the Government of Sierra Leone for its leadership during the crisis and its commitment to consolidate gains, he stated that despite Ebola, the Government is able to sustain and remain committed to major political and economic issues (constitutional review, census) and the 7e Deal, which shows its commitment to consolidate gains. Mr. Augustine stated that the world rose to the occasion when Sierra Leone was hit with a deadly disease. Non-traditional donors made pledges. It was important that the international community and the 67 were able to help Sierra Leone mobilize and secure those resources, making reference to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (IP(2) office and Sierra Leone Ebola Recovery Fund), he further emphasized that the PBC could reach out to non-traditional donors, help ensure funds are secured as soon as possible. Addressing the need for reliable funding and support from the international community, he argued that there was a risk of slippage, if resources are not secured.

1' Health Minister briefed on the health components of the Ebola Recovery Plan, he echoed the importance of decentralization while outlining the main priorities: resilient health services and restoration of essential health services, he stated that women and children have suffered the most from the health crisis.

H' Mr. Dinadou informed that since the drafting of 67EPSE, the health maintained interaction with the 67 Resident Coordinator's Office in Sierra Leone, he



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- 4eiterated the need to su%%ort holistic coordination and resource mobili-ation C ensure that commitments that ha\$e been met, )hich is a role !or PBC to !ollo ) u%'

17' (he Chair highlighted the ne.t ste%\$ to be underta/en b& the PBC !ollo )ing the discussions o! the meetingA

a' Pre%are Chair0s summar& !or PBC circulationF

b' Circulate a dra!t PBC Statement to 1 embers !or a%%ro\$al, congratulating the 5o\$ernment on being declared !ree o! \*bola and reiterating its commitment to su%%ort %eacebuilding e!!orts in Sierra eoneF and

c' Conduct P " 1 !ollo )ed b& a Chair0s \$isit in earl& 201G'

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