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STATEMENT

By

H.R.H. Prince Zeid Raad Zeid Al Hussein
Chair of the Peace Building Commission's Country Specific Configuration for Liberia

Before

The Security Council

Agenda Item: The Situation in Liberia

13 September 2011

Mr. President,

It has been almost a year since I assumed my role as Chairman of the Liberia Configuration and, after three visits there, and countless discussions here, as well as in Washington and in Brussels, and numerous meetings attended via VTC with colleagues in Monrovia, I wish to share with you my

million. Once the Government has finalized the levels of expenditure on security and justice and, knowing how much we will expect from the Peace Building Fund (an initial contribution of close to \$21 million), we will expect to have to raise around \$30 \$50 million. Some part of this may be offset by donor allocations already approved to some of the very sectors covered by the LPP.

The early signs, from exploratory contacts with some member states, are not promising however, where the PBC slice is concerned. The remaining money for the hubs and indeed the LPP may indeed be hard to come by.

Yet, in the meantime, it was clear to all members of the PBC delegation visiting Liberia from 12 17 June – and here I am very grateful to the colleagues from the United States, the United Kingdom, Nigeria and the Ukraine for their commitment – the LNP, notwithstanding some very notable improvements in training and some infrastructure, will not be ready any time soon to cope with either a possible increase in the levels of organized crime, nor with any sudden spasms of widespread violence, unless it is more robustly supported. And, once again, we face this rather bizarre situation of having sufficient money to pay for our peacekeepers, but once our peacekeepers are withdrawn, not even a small percentage of what was previously spent on them, could we then redirect to the national police as they assume virtually all the security tasks hitherto carried out by the UN.

Or, to present this point perhaps more graphically, there is something remarkable happening to common sense, when we the PBC weave our way through the middle of Liberia, from one police station to another in a 13 vehicle UN convoy, carrying us, the delegation, senior Liberian officials, our colleagues from UNMIL and our security, only for us to discover time and again each police station visited had barely, if any, fuel sufficient to keep even one vehicle on the road.

The deficit separating what we, the UN, can accomplish in critical areas, like transportation, and what we, the UN, would hope the Liberian National Police will soon accomplish in all areas, including not only transportation but in stemming the growth of transnational organized crime, remains numbing. That we must therefore invest more in them, directly, and urgently, is all the more obvious to those who spend time in Liberia.

Naturally, not everything needed in the three areas falling within the PBC's portfolio: Rule of Law, Security Sector Reform and National Reconciliation, ought to come in the form of money. Liberia's judiciary, for

example, requires a court management system, with oversight to ensure the efficient conduct of trials, and the Liberians are attempting commendably to do this on their own, but here we, the member states, could do much to help them simply by providing some advice.

Similarly, while funding from the international community was used over the last two years to finance platforms for dialogue, falling the general rubric of national reconciliation, following the PBC's discussions in June with the senior leadership in Liberia, including with Her Excellency the President – and prompted by the acute observations of Ambassador Marjon Kamara – it was agreed this would end, for n