

Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned from National Dialogue  
In Post-Conflict Situations

Chair's Summary

4. The case studies (Burundi, Guatemala, Haiti and Niger) illustrated that national dialogues have varied remarkably in both scope and application. Some aim to resolve specific rifts or tensions and to redirect the public discourse in a more constructive direction. Others seek to build consensus around a new system of governance or to reach a consensual identification of national priorities to develop a “



collaborative action beyond the national dialogue itself. In the process that leads to the development of the specific products of the national dialogue, important “intangible” elements for collaboration are produced: transformed perceptions and attitudes, skills for dialogue and negotiation, channels and methods for communication are assets that can be recycled in further collaborative action. The development of these “process results” requires careful planning and follow-up. The best dia