

Peacebuilding Commission – Working Group on Lessons Learned
Comparative Experiences in Developing National Capacities after Conflict

Monday, 15 December 2008
UN Trusteeship Council Chamber

Chair's Summary

Introduction

1. On 15 December 2008, the Peacebuilding Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) convened a panel discussion on "Comparative Experiences in Developing National Capacities after Conflict".
2. The WGLL invited the Permanent Representatives of Guatemala (Ambassador Gert Rosenthal) and Mozambique (Ambassador Filipe Chidumo) to present their countries'

It is essential to differentiate between structural / pre-existing weaknesses in national capacities and those directly resulting from the conflict.

The importance of a holistic approach to capacity development combined with the identification of critical priorities. It is established that the main challenges in post-conflict situations change over time and, therefore, priorities for national human and institutional capacities development are likely to change. Flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances by all national and international stakeholders is required in order to sustain the peace process.

Key areas requiring immediate attention and capacity-development include:

- electoral process management;
- management of the economy;
- strengthening of the judiciary;
- De-mining;
- local governance;
- media and civil society participation;
- strengthening of the private sector's contribution to national development.

Inclusiveness of capacity development: The involvement and participation of all stakeholders such as civil society organizations, economic associations, the private sector and local communities, is crucial for successful capacity development transition from humanitarian and emergency assistance to recovery and development.

The assessment and identification of existing national capacities, potential leaders and partners must not be confined to the Capitals and should encompass all national territories.

Strengthening national capacities should prioritize the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations (e.g. indigenous people in Guatemala; populations of rural areas in Mozambique).

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