

Peacebuilding Commission

Working Group on Lessons Learned

“Economic Revitalization and Youth Employment for Peacebuilding – with a focus on Youth Employment and Natural Resource Management”,

8 July 2011

Chairperson’s Summary

I. Introduction

1. On 8 July 2011, the Peacebuilding Commission’s (PBC) Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) held a meeting on the topic of “Economic revitalization and youth employment for peacebuilding – with a focus on youth employment and natural resource management.” The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Chair of the WGLL.

The panel was composed of four speakers:

- Dr. Stephen Ndegwa, Adviser in the Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries Group (OPCFC) of the World Bank.
- Mr. Ichiro Tambo, Director – General of the African Department of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA.
- Mr. Oli Brown, Environmental Affairs Officer for the United Nations in Sierra Leone.
- Mr. Owen Shumba, Team Leader, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Group of UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

2. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Nishida firstly introduced the theme of the meeting: *Economic revitalization and youth employment for peacebuilding – with a focus on youth employment and natural resources management* which is a follow-up to a series of meetings on the subject. He mentioned the need to match the increasing awareness in the international community with practical solutions to address the fragmentation in the approach to economic revitalization and youth employment in post-conflict settings. He added that economic revitalization requires a wide spectrum of policies. Among the various measures, the WGLL decided to focus on youth employment and the management of natural resources and to explore ways to make the response of the international community more coherent, timely and adequate. The Chair noted that economic revitalization and natural resource management can be conducive to peacebuilding if complemented by adequate guidelines, policies and regulatory frameworks.

II. Presentations by Panelists:

3. Dr. Stephen Ndegwa reported lessons learned from the work of OPCFC at the World Bank. He noted that in order to generate employment, three measures are important, namely a) create an attractive environment for private sector investment and to not overly depend on labour focused interventions, b) promote and develop the agricultural sector through technological interventions, which also creates related jobs in the value chain, and c) early interventions by the public sector to provide jobs sometimes are necessary to induce private sector entry. He highlighted the importance of incentives for the private sector, human resource skills, such as in agriculture, and fostering marketplace confidence through predictable governance of market exchanges and having more information available. He also underlined the need for strengthening the collaboration between UN agencies and the African Development Bank. In suggesting roles for the PBC, Dr. Ndegwa noted that the PBC could raise the issue of developed countries' agricultural subsidies that affect economic recovery in post-conflict states.

4. Mr. Ichiro Tambo's presentation focused on lessons learned from JICA's experience in skills and vocational training and community development in Africa. Mr. Tambo highlighted the importance of monitoring for changes in labour market demand and carrying out pilot trainings. In addition, he stressed that training should not be just about skills, but improving discipline and self-confidence which is critical in changing by P.II adil(32 eyin ure, thePch iand vocational trba eaffectivecuse ofad countyA' ioneffective governance in three arats:b irfit by 6shaoring(the dintrbuation oebaximiztd the umbder of jobs creatnd oeproduceforavoide

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problems and environmental damage.¹ Some of the lessons learned from UNEP's work in Sierra Leone include: a) the first 5-10 years after a conflict are very significant since concessions signed during this period will have an impact for decades; b) countries need to know the value of their resources to be able to manage them well; c) often natural resources are used to generate youth employment 'activity' opposed to sustainable employment and; d) natural resource management is politically challenging which includes high expectations for dividends from the population that need to be managed.

6. Mr. Owen Shumba's presentation focused on the creation of employment in fragile environments and the difficulties faced in this context. Mr. Shumba reviewed several new approaches to employment creation and emphasized the importance of disaster/conflict sensitivity in employment programming. Lessons learned from the UNDP's work in various countries include: a) the need to link temporary and emergency employment measures in crisis and post-crisis situations to the overall local economic development strategy; b) ensure livelihoods/economic recovery initiatives are market driven; c) ensure peacebuilding strategies involve a link with livelihoods; d) strengthen women's economic empowerment; e) improve

