

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP ON LESSONS LEARNED

Learning from a Regional DDR Approach in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

24 November 2008

Concept Note

Introduction

1. On 8 June 2007, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) held a session on regional approaches to peacebuilding which examined conflict dynamics in Africa and Central America and identified innovative approaches to addressing regional peacebuilding challenges. The session confirmed the importance of regional approaches as a valuable strategy in dealing with cross-border problems or interlocking conflicts within a region. Member states underscored the need to strengthen regional mechanisms to address sources of conflict that cannot be resolved exclusively at the country level. They recommended that the PBC give further consideration to regional approaches to peacebuilding in the countries on the PBC's agenda. The issue was also raised in the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, specifically in relation to the role of regional and sub-regional mechanisms, including the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

2. In reality, the international community's experience with regional approaches to peacebuilding is relatively limited in nature. Although the promise of regional approaches to peacebuilding is increasingly recognized, research also confirms their severe limitations. On the positive side, regional peacebuilding approaches can, among other things:

- serve as important confidence building measures;
- contribute to consensus building, cooperation and enhanced dialogue among neighbouring countries;
- promote pooling of resources to address common problems;
- contain the spill-in or spill-out effects of conflicts;
- encourage harmonization of responses and policies across countries;
- persuade donors to support long-term, multi-country programming;
- provide a forum for inform

Panelists

- Bernard Harborne, Lead Conflict Adviser and Acting Program Manager, MDRP, World Bank
- Mbaye Faye, Chief, SSR/SA, BINUB (Burundi)
- Representative of the Burundi national demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration programme (TBC)
- Ould Sidi Zahibi, Chief, DDR, ONUCI (Côte d'Ivoire)
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