

**Peacebuilding Commission
Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**Informal /Informal expert-level preparatory meeting on
“The Transition and Exit of UN Missions”
3 April 2014**

Chair’s Summary

I. Introduction

On 3 April 2014, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) of the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal expert-level meeting to discuss the transition and exit of UN Missions. The first of a series of upcoming discussions organized by the WGLL for 2014, the objective of this specific meeting was to share the experiences of PBC Country Configurations and explore

implementation. On sub-regional dimension, he informed that success in Sierra Leone alone will not be easily sustained if Liberia and Guinea remain behind in fragility, as events in one of them can have effect on the others. He therefore urged that Liberia and Guinea be given attention and support to address present and emerging challenges. Lastly, he informed that the President had stressed the importance of developing the energy sector could be a catalyst for achieving progress in other sectors such as health, revenue collection, addressing empowerment and employment of youths, increase in private sector investment, and delivery of services by Government. Sustainable energy, he continued, would enable the country to automate revenue collection which will address lapses in the present manual system, thus leading to the collection of more revenue that could support-national programmes as well.

Mr. Bonser highlighted that the PBC transition in Sierra Leone, in the context of UNIPSIL's complete drawdown and transfer of residual tasks to a UNCT setting, sets a precedent and is the first of its kind. He said that the PBC founding resolutions provide limited guidance yet vast opportunities to break new ground for the PBC. Mr. Bonser highlighted three main challenges that need to be addressed through joint planning, human resources and effective communication:

1. Maintaining political support, attention and advocacy, especially on the constitutional review process;
2. Ensuring UNIPSIL's drawdown does not create gaps; and
3. Supporting a seamless transfer of responsibilities from UNIPSIL to a UNCT.

In responding to these challenges, he said that there are three main principles that will guide the PBC transition process in Sierra Leone: (1) Do no harm. The Commission should avoid duplication of work. (2) Focus on its comparative advantage of raising international attention and attention by providing political support. (3) Seek to provide specific responses to developments on the ground through targeted resource mobilization for transition needs.

informed on its continuous efforts to address the root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone and provided recommendations on the way forward for the PBC transition in Sierra Leone.

In concluding, he reflected on two main lessons learned from the engagement of the PBC in Sierra Leone:

1. The Commission must focus its activities around its added value and do what an inter-governmental body does best; and
2. Be realistic about the limitations of the PBC. In Sierra Leone the PBC worked well. It supported the national government. It did not interfere with the UN transition planning processes. There was a need to liaise with the UN system, especially UNDP and DPA to provide the needed political support.

Mr. Nicola said that the challenges Burundi will encounter during its transition phase are in line with the three identified by Mr. Bonser. In addition, Burundi faces a fourth challenge linked to the fact that the decision to drawdown BNUB (scheduled for December 2014) was not entirely based on a shared understanding of challenges on the ground.

He highlighted the role of the PBC in Burundi. He noted that the Configuration will need to remain flexible throughout the transition and adapt to emerging needs. He stressed that there should be no duplication of efforts (UNCT, BNUB, etc.). The PBC should act in a supportive and complementary manner. As such, the Configuration will have a continued important role to play in political accompaniment and in advocacy, bringing together regional organizations, IFIs and the UN system (UNDP in particular). He particularly stressed the importance of an increased focus on the regional dimension during the transition process stating that the buy-in from regional organizations and neighboring States would be crucial to ensure sustainable peace in Burundi. He also referred to SCR 2137, whereby a Transitional Steering Group, of which the Configuration was a member, was to be established to provide strategic guidance to the transition process.

He emphasized the priorities as statedess the aasize

supporting the creation of this kind of mutual arrangement.

Mr. Patten thanked Japan for convening the meeting, and also thanked Ambassador Tillander for the many contributions he continues to make in support of post conflict reconstruction interventions in Liberia. He said Amb. Tallinder has made several visits to Liberia since assuming leadership of the Liberian configuration and held discussions with local authorities on moving the post conflict reconstruction processes forward. He said further that the transition program in Liberia was progressing smoothly and that Liberian authorities were assuming responsibilities in areas where UNMIL presence has been reduced. He said tremendous achievements have been recorded in increasing the numerical strength of security institutions in the country but that more needed to be done. He informed the meeting the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) was now engaged in local training of recruits. He highlighted the challenges faced by Liberia in terms of capacity and resources. He thanked the PBC and PBSO for their continuous support and assistance provided in these areas.

Ambassador Tillander reiterated the importance of being realistic about the role of the PBC. He emphasized that there is no operational role for the PBC in the countries on its agenda. It is to support SRSGs and heads of mission at the country level and work closely with all partners to marshal resources. He said that the Commission plays a supportive role for the Security Council, UNMIL, DPKO, Government and the UNCT, as well as the UN.

As UNMIL was requested to downsize by September 2014, a few challenges were highlighted to the Security Council a few months ago: building the capacity of national institutions during the transition and reporting on the comparative advantage as well as the role of the UNCT. The Council advised to focus on justice, reconciliation and security sector.

Ambassador Tillander stressed that the overall tasks for the PBC were to be used as a platform for ongoing dialogue, alert Member States and key stakeholders on the developments of the country concerned and link the field with New York. He states that the key challenges was focusing on the root causes of conflict, including reconciliation, justice, security and rule of law, which the PBF helped in these targeted areas. He also mentioned the supportive role played by UNOWA, particularly on cross-border and regional issues.

He stated that the Configuration was supporting coherence in the UN and the UNCT by ensuring sustained political dialogue and improved coordination. He also mentioned the possible useful role of a common dialogue mechanism, based on the drafting of a New Deal Compact for Liberia. He stressed the need to support coordination efforts in the long-term to strengthen the areas of justice and reconciliation. Finally, the UNCT should step up efforts, focus attention on key conflict and peacebuilding related issues, work integrated with UNMIL and play an active role when UNMIL draws down. He saw a need for the PBC to have a close dialogue with UNMIL to see how best to support UN integration during the transition process.

including the PBC agenda countries. The discussions on transitions and how this involves a broad range of actors in the UN on peacebuilding challenges also make it evident that the 2015 peacebuilding review must take a broad UN system wide approach.
