



In view of the envisaged drawdown of Security Council mandated missions in three countries on the Commission's agenda, namely Burundi, Liberia and Sierra Leone; there is an increased need for clarity on the scope of the PBC's advisory role to the Security Council with a view to ensuring sustained attention and engagement of the United Nations and the international community to critical peacebuilding priorities beyond the life span of these missions.

## **Evolving UN Lessons and Policy on Transitions in the Context of Mission Drawdown or Withdrawal**

UN transitions triggered by the drawdown or withdrawal of a UN peacekeeping or special political mission are inevitable as Security Council mandates and United Nations presences adapt to national transitions and peacebuilding processes. The issue of UN transitions is not new. However, the issue has regained prominence in UN and Member State discussions since 2010 as a number of UN peacekeeping missions are now undergoing or planning drawdowns, including in Liberia and Timor Leste; mission reconfigurations, including in Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti. Furthermore, a body of lessons continues to be developed from previous and evolving UN transitions from peacekeeping to special political missions (SPMs) and to the exclusive presence of the UN Country Teams (UNCTs), including in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia and Eritrea and Sierra Leone.

In response to increased demand from the field, headquarters and Member States for improved planning and management of UN transitions, the United Nations Integration Steering Group (ISG) tasked its focal points to develop a system-wide policy on Transitions in the context of mission drawdown and withdrawal. The Policy is expected to be agreed upon in November 2012 and will outline key principles and roles and responsibilities that should apply to the UN system at headquarters and in the field across all transitions.

Transition decisions and timelines are heavily influenced by conditions in the host country and by the views of host governments, and consequently mission transitions are diverse and specific to context. Transitions must be carefully managed, both so as to avoid destabilizing a country during the UN's reconfiguration, and so as to achieve a sustainable impact on strengthening national actors' longer-term peacebuilding strategies and plans. Therefore, five key principles can be applied to all UN transitions.

- 3 First, **transition planning must start early**, with national and international actors, aligned to national plans, and remain flexible throughout.
- 3 Second, **UN integration** is essential in order to build national peacebuilding capacities and for the preparedness of the reconfigured UN presence to support national actors in key peacebuilding objectives for the longer-term.
- 3 Third, **national ownership** is crucial for a successful transition process, and national leaders must be involved in decision-making throughout.
- 3 Fourth, **national capacity development** is vital, for the success of the mission and to ensure effective handover of peacebuilding tasks to national actors.
- 3 Fifth, **communication** is critical to managing expectations and anxieties of national stakeholders, UN staff and Member States.

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Furthermore, continuity of peacebuilding efforts throughout and beyond the lifespan of UN

political, economic and administrative governance and tackling corruption, with a view to setting up strong drivers for sustained and equitable social and economic growth, (OP 6) Understandes the im

transition of complete security responsibility to the Liberian National Police (LNP) by strengthening the LNP's capabilities to manage existing personnel, improve training programs to expedite their readiness to assume security responsibilities, and



strengthening capacity building of national political, security, human rights and rule of law institutions, promoting good governance and accountability, promoting gender and social equality, strengthening human rights protection, supporting efforts to improve youth unemployment and strengthening efforts to tackle transnational organized crime including illicit activities such as money-laundering and drug trafficking,

(OP 12) Requests UNIPSIL, in conjunction with the UNCT and bilateral and international partners, to continue engaging constructively with the Sierra Leone national authorities in