

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**“Youth Employment in Peacebuilding”, 14 July 2010**

Chairperson’s Summary

**I. Introduction**

1. The Peacebuilding Commission’s (PBC) Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) held a meeting on the topic of “Youth Employment in Peacebuilding” on 14 July 2010 in New York. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, Chairperson of the WGLL and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations. The panel was composed of three speakers:
  - Mr. Alfredo Lazarte Hoyle, Director of the International Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction at the International Labour Organization (ILO) who presented the ILO/UNDP “UN Policy and Operational Guidance on Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration in Post-Conflict Settings”.
  - Mr. Jules Ramazani, Coordinator of the Youth Employment Summit Network for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Founder and President of APEC-NGO (Action for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship in Congo) who emphasised the importance of youth entrepreneurship in our support to actors on the ground.
  - Mr. Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima, a youth development researcher, advocate

sustainable peace and development. Youth employment has also been highlighted as an important issue by the chairs of CSM, wider membership of the UN as well as IFIs and MDBs.

3. ILO's expertise both in post-conflict settings and in the sector of youth employment is based on its experience in a number of countries across the world. ILO's experience also draws on the lessons learned from the implementation of the UN Policy and Operational Guidance on Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration in Post

- less cumbersome administrative procedures to develop new businesses and be able to access formal sector business opportunities. In the case of the DRC, only 5 to 10% of the total number of school graduates has found wage employment. This argues for more effort in small business development programmes for and by youth.
9. The lack of real macroeconomic growth policies generating wealth and employment and the lack of youth development and employment policies both at the local and national level is common in most post-conflict countries. Forums could help create a policy environment to promote self-employment and youth entrepreneurship which could in turn feed into defining youth development and employment policies.
  10. The gap between the educational system curricula and labour market highlights a need to integrate entrepreneurship in technical and vocational programs and incorporate it in the educational curricula. The next step will involve linking entrepreneurship to youth employment and address challenges pertaining to the institutionalisation of entrepreneurship.
  11. In the DRC, for instance, the youth sector is allocated less than 1% of the annual total national budget and it is not a priority of donors' investment. The lack of financial support both for the continued implementation of entrepreneurship programs and to provide start-up capital and credit for youth to consolidate and develop their business activities is a serious obstacle. Moreover the lack of funding prevents businesses from moving from the survivalist stage to growth-oriented enterprises which have greater potential of being integrated into the formal sector. Many of the youth-run businesses are small survivalist enterprises, often single-person enterprises which are operating solely to enable the economic growth of the young entrepreneur, but are not likely to lead to significant changes in economic or class positions. The creation of a national youth fund and public-private partnerships could promote, support and sustain youth entrepreneurship.
  12. There is a need to sensitize and mentor youth to overcome negative attitudes towards entrepreneurship and self-employment, through training and apprenticeship programmes. Sensitization should also reach alternative sectors of employment such as the security sector reform and agriculture. Post-conflict countries are usually characterised by a marked deterioration of agricultural activities in rural areas (where 70% of youth live) and in urban suburbs. Youth agricultural cooperative programs can be adapted to the needs of the reintegration of youth from vulnerable groups such as internally displaced or refugees.
  13. The examples of skills acquisition in the Niger Delta in Nigeria and African Union Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in Liberia highlighted the importance of taking into account what skills, resources and opportunities exist within communities. It is equally important to link education to market and reconstruction efforts as well as to take socio-economic setting

considerations into account. For instance, globalisation

become part of the country's solution rather than being viewed as part of the problem.

19. The annex to this report distils suggested steps in developing a strategy on youth employment. It draws on the presentations of the panellists.

**ANNEXE<sup>1</sup>: Sugge.-7y (( ) TJ ET Q q BT /F2 12 Tf 0 0 0 rg 0.9981 0 0 12117.68 610.08 Tm [**

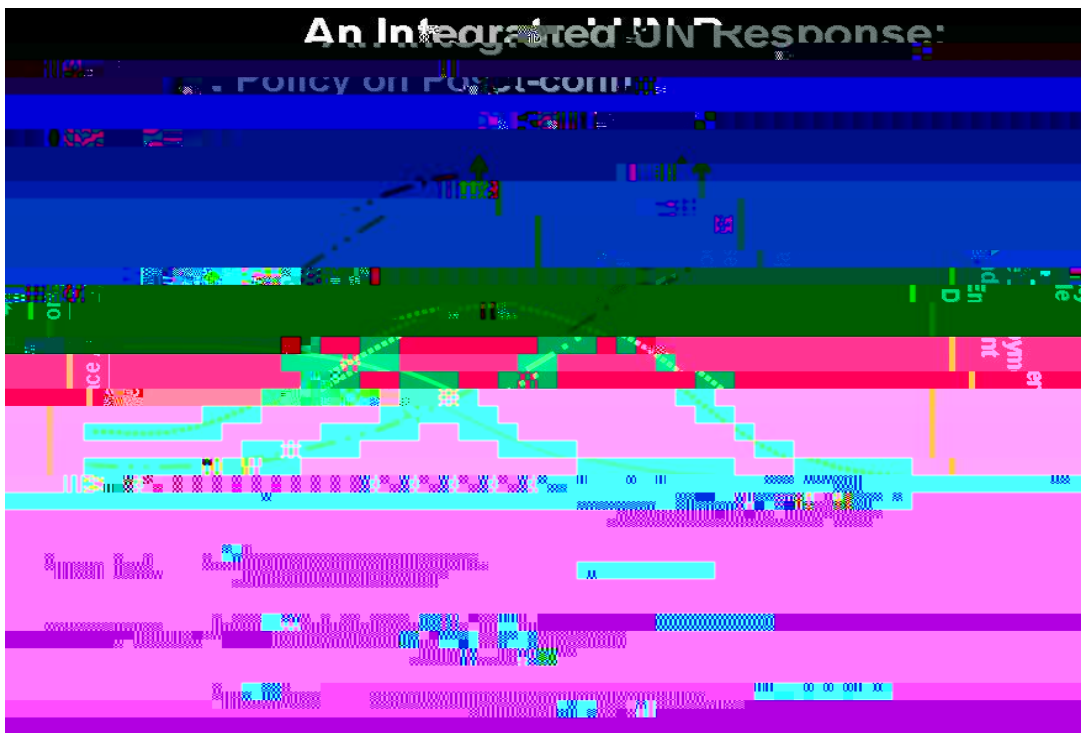
**Step 5: Start up grants and credits to create enterprises:** Who provides grants? Government / International organisations / Foreign governments / Local organisations / Banks and Financial Institutions / Cooperatives should equally be encouraged and supported to provide credits on a concessional and easy access basis.

**Step 6: Public-Private partnership:** What types of partnerships are feasible? How could Governments encourage the business sector to engage in long term partnerships?

**Step 7: Monitoring and Evaluation of Youth Enterprise** trainings, skill development programmes and their effective implementation.

**Step 8 : Sustained Support for Programs in terms of Resources and Capacity Building**

Development partners and international financial institutions need to support national efforts on a long term basis to ensure effective and continuous delivery on the ground.



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<sup>2</sup> Alfredo Lazarte of ILO (2010): promoting Youth Employment in Peacebuilding Environments; learning from the experience of the International Labour Organisation.