

“Evaluating peacebuilding: Measuring Peace Consolidation in the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Focus Countries”

4 December 2008

Geneva Centre for Security Policy
2nd floor, WMO/OMM Building

9:00-17:00

“I believe it would be valuable if there were regular, independent evaluation of peacebuilding activities. Several bilateral donors and international financial institutions have instituted regular, rigorous evaluation practices. Within the UN system, the humanitarian community has gone farthest in regularly subjecting its operations to rigorous external evaluation. I believe this practice could usefully be adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission.”

Explanatory Note of the Secretary General on the Peacebuilding Commission, *United Nations*, April 17, 2005.

The UN Peacebuilding Commission was created in December 2005 to address the coordination gap affecting the successful implementation of peacebuilding programmes in countries recovering from war. The Commission's mandate is to foster integrated peacebuilding strategies in collaboration with political, security, humanitarian and development actors in specific focus countries.

The PBC has been working for two years in Sierra Leone and Burundi. One of the outcomes of the involvement of the PBC in these countries was the adoption of a “Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding” in Burundi and a “Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework” in Sierra Leone. The PBC is now engaging in Guinea Bissau and Central African Republic, where it will further develop its coordination role.

The development of new coordination practices requires simultaneous thinking on new evaluation mechanisms. Two major initiatives aimed at consolidating expertise and providing guidance for the specific challenge of monitoring peace consolidation and evaluating peacebuilding activities are currently under way. The OCDE DAC has developed a *Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities*¹ and is now field-testing this new tool in a number of specific countries. The Peacebuilding Support Office in New York has recently engaged in a process aimed at developing a UN Practitioners Handbook for Peace Consolidation.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, as a newly-established hub within International Geneva for the fostering of dialogue on peacebuilding-related issues, will devote its 2008 Annual Forum to the challenge of evaluating peacebuilding integrated strategies in the PBC focus countries. The forum will not focus on the technical and methodological aspects of evaluation in the field of peacebuilding. Rather the forum's primary objective will be to offer a preliminary reality-check on the current approaches to peacebuilding

¹http://www.oecd.org/secure/pdfDocument/0,2834,en_21571361_34047972_39774574_1_1_1_1,00.pdf

evaluation by sounding experienced actors on their views of what measuring success in peacebuilding means according to their personal experience.

The GPP Annual Forum is conceived as a unique opportunity to bring together practitioners from the Geneva and New York peacebuilding communities, from field-based organisations and missions as well as representatives from civil society and from academia to discuss pressing issues of specific relevance to peacebuilding practitioners. The format of the event is a genuine dialogue forum, gathering a panel of varied and experienced actors and a focused audience to discuss openly and constructively actual challenges to the peacebuilding community.

Key Questions

The forum will seek to provide insight into the following:

- What are the characteristics and requirements of “consolidated peace” in a post-conflict country? How can peace consolidation be measured? What are the most helpful tools in seeking to evaluate achievements in peace consolidation?
- What have been the experiences, i.e. opportunities and challenges, with evaluating “success” and failure in the implementation of post-conflict settlement in the PBC focus countries? According to these early evaluation, what has been the experience of “peace consolidation” in Burundi/Sierra Leone in the two short years of the PBC? What has worked, what has not worked? What does this teach us in terms of evaluation mechanisms?
- To what extent can the PBC strategic frameworks serve to evaluate peace consolidation in the countries under consideration? What should be the role of the PBC in monitoring and evaluating peace consolidation?
- How should accountability as well as national and local ownership be taken into account in the evaluation process? How could internal processes among local stakeholders be taken into account? How is it possible to measure processes of change among local actors themselves?

Agenda

9.00 Registration and coffee/tea

9.30 Opening. **Fred Tanner**, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

9.40 Introduction by the moderator. **Keith Krause**, Director, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding

9.50 Questions to the panel:

Vincent Kayijuka, Strategic Planning Specialist, United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), Burundi

Charles Ndayiziga, Director, Centre d'Alerte et de Prévention des Conflits, CENAP Burundi

Antoine Baza, Senior Political and Foreign Affairs Advisor/First Vice-Presidency, Co-Chair of the Joint Steering Committee for Peacebuilding, Burundi

- Richard Konteh**, Deputy Minister of Development, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Sierra Leone
- Sao Kpato Max-Kyne**, Project Coordinator, Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Sierra Leone
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.50 Discussion with the audience
- 12.00 **Lunch + Public Address: Sally Fegan-Wyles**, Senior Project Director, UN Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Early Recovery, UN Peacebuilding Support Office,
- "Strengthening the International Peacebuilding Response in Countries Emerging from War, with Reference to the UN Secretary General's Report on Peacebuilding and Early Recovery"
- With an introduction by **Jennifer Worrell**, Director of the Early Recovery Unit, UNDP/BCPR
- 14.30 Introduction by the moderator: **Thania Paffenholz**, Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding
- 14.45 Questions to the panel:
- Janet Murdock**, Peace and Governance Adviser in the UN Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)
- Richard Ponzio**, Senior Policy Analyst, UN Peacebuilding Support Office
- Robert Picciotto**, King's College, former Director-General of Operations Evaluation for the World Bank Group
- Jonathan Sandy**, Senior Security Sector Reform Advisor, DCAF/ISSAT, former Chief of Staff, Office of National Security, Sierra Leone
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 15.50 Discussion with the audience
- 17.00 Conclusions

Background Documents (Available upon request)

- *Special Research Report*, No. 5, Peacebuilding Commission, Security Council Report, 17 October 2008, http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SRR5_2008_PBC.pdf
- *Measuring Peace Consolidation and Supporting Transition*, March 2008, A Briefing Paper prepared by PBSO in close consultation with DGO, DPA, DPKO, OCHA, and UNDP.
- *UN Practitioners Handbook for Peace Consolidation. Background paper (State-of-the-Art)*, November 2008.
- *Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi*, Burundi configuration, Second session, PBC/2/BDI/4

- *FAFO Paper on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities*, 10TH Meeting of the DAC Network on Conflict Peace and Development Co-operation, World Bank Headquarters, Paris, 17-18 October 2006.
- *Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities*, OECD - Development Assistance Committee (DAC), 2008, http://www.oecd.org/secure/pdfDocument/0,2834,en_21571361_34047972_39774_574_1_1_1_1,00.pdf
- Call, Charles T. (2008) 'Knowing Peace When You See It: Setting Standards for Peacebuilding Success', *Civil Wars*, 10:2, 173 — 194.
- Çuhadar Gürkaynak, E./ Bruce Dayton/ Thania Paffenholz (2008), "Evaluation in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding", in: Sandole, Dennis et al. : *Conflict Resolution : Multidisciplinary Approach*, Routledge Taylor and Francis, London.
- Paffenholz, Thania/Reychler, Luc (2007), *Aid for Peace. A Guide to Planning and Evaluation for Conflict Zones*, Nomos Baden Baden.