



Supporting Countries in Transition from War to Sustainable Peace and Development

The United Nations has made significant advances in peace-making, in peacekeeping and in addressing the development needs of fragile states; however, the persistent risk of conflict has proven that it is not one single actor which holds the key, but how all of the relevant actors work together at the crucial time that counts.

The United Nations peacebuilding architecture – the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund, and the Peacebuilding Support Office – is designed to address this challenge, and to ensure more effective support to countries in their transition from war to lasting peace.

Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict in countries emerging from conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels, address key causes of conflict and lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development. These measures include, for example, security sector reform, elections and human rights monitoring and institutional capacity development.

On 20 December 2005, in response to a decision by Heads of State/Government at the 2005 World Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), a Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and a Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Security Council and the General Assembly simultaneously adopted resolutions A/RES/60/180 and 1645 (2005) respectively.

I. THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION (PBC)

“By establishing the Commission, Member States of the United Nations have created an important new structure to support fragile societies recovering from the devastation of the war.”

*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
New York, 27 June 2007*

The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body that brings together all relevant actors (including, inter alia, international donors, the international financial institutions, national governments from focus countries, troop contributor countries, UN actors and civil society representatives) to promote a common approach to helping a country emerge from conflict. PBC is mandated to:

- ◆ Propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- ◆ Marshal resources to help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained financial investment over the medium to long-term;
- ◆ Extend the period of attention provided by the international community to post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;

MATTERS OF FACT:

The United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture:

1. **The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC):** A 31 Member State subsidiary advisory body of both the General Assembly and Security Council;
2. **The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF):** A multi-year standing trust fund for post-conflict peacebuilding; and
3. **The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO):** Part of the UN Secretariat that services the PBC, manages the PBF, and supports UN system peacebuilding efforts.

- ◆ Develop best practices on issues that require extensive collaboration among political, security, humanitarian and development actors.

Membership and Structure: The PBC Organizational Committee is made-up of 31 members selected or elected as follows (as of 8 August 2008):

- ◆ *7 members of the Security Council*, including permanent members: Belgium, China, France, The Russian Federation, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and the United States of America;
- ◆ *7 Members elected by the Economic and Social Council:* Angola, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Luxembourg, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.
- ◆ *5 top providers of assessed and voluntary contributions to UN budgets:* Canada, Germany, Japan (Chair), the Netherlands, and Sweden.
- ◆ *5 top troop contributing countries:* Bangladesh, Ghana (Vice Chair), India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.
- ◆ *Seven members elected by the General Assembly:* Burundi, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador (Vice Chair), Fiji, Georgia, and Jamaica.

In addition to the Organizational Committee members, in the PBC's Country Specific Meetings (which look at issues particular to the individual focus countries), representatives from neighbouring countries, regional organizations, financial institutions, and representatives of civil society are invited to participate in deliberations. The PBC also has a Working Group on Lessons Learned to distil lessons from previous national and international experiences in post-conflict engagements.

Focus Countries: Countries may be placed on the agenda of the PBC through one of four channels: (a) requests from the Security Council, (b) requests from ECOSOC and GA, (c) requests from member states not on the agenda of the SC, and (d) requests from the Secretary-General. Currently, the PBC is providing advice on Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

In **Burundi**, the PBC and the Government of Burundi agreed on four critical peacebuilding areas to form the basis of a strategic framework: promoting good governance; strengthening the rule of law; reform of the security sector; and ensuring community recovery, with a special focus on youth. The PBC is now engaged in defining benchmarks and indicators to assess progress in consolidating peace in Burundi.

“The Peacebuilding Commission embodies all aspects of the UN’s work: peace, development and human rights.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

In the **Central African Republic**, the PBC is engaging with national authorities, civil society partners and UN officials on the ground, since the country joined the PBC’s agenda in June 2008. The UN Secretary-General approved an initial allotment of \$10 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to support projects in the fields of security sector reform, the promotion of good governance and the rule of law and the revitalization of communities affected by conflict.

In **Guinea-Bissau** PBC members have taken several missions to the country since it joined the agenda in December 2007, to work with the Government and peacebuilding partners to identify the country’s peacebuilding priorities, and to finalize the country’s Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding. The UN Secretary-General approved an initial allotment of US\$ 6 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to support projects in the fields of rule of law and security sector reform, youth employment, and elections. A second tranche of assistance will be allotted after the adoption of the strategic framework.

In **Sierra Leone**, the PBC and national partners identified reform of the justice and security sectors, youth employment and empowerment, and capacity-building in governance institutions as key priorities. Effective partnership between national and international actors helped ensure that elections in Sierra Leone were conducted in a peaceful, orderly and genuinely contested manner. Starting 1 October 2008, the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) will replace the existing UN political office in the country. UNIPSIL will work closely with the PBC to monitor and promote human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, including efforts to counter transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

One of the main purposes of the PBC is “to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.” The PBC’s Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy (IPBS) is designed to provide an agreed political framework to guide the engagement of the PBC with a country on its agenda, based on the principles of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained engagement.

As an advisory body, the PBC does not enforce its recommendations. Rather, its advice carries weight thanks to the diversity, stature and relevance of its membership, and recognition of national ownership over the peacebuilding process.

As the PBC embarks on a third year of work, the critical challenge ahead will be to ensure continued support to Burundi,

Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone, while continuing to implement its mandate to ensure sustained attention and predictable financing for countries emerging from conflict. It is expected that other countries will be referred for the Commission’s consideration in the future.

“The Peacebuilding Fund responds to the reality that all too often, peacebuilding has been hindered by a scarcity of resources, especially financing.”

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro

II. THE PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)

The 2005 World Summit also established a multi-year fund for post conflict peacebuilding.

The Peacebuilding Fund provides catalytic support to countries emerging from conflict, thus serving as a crucial bridge between conflict and recovery when other funding mechanisms may not yet be available. The PBF is a Multi Donor Trust Fund that has attracted more than \$US 268,000,000 in commitments from 44 donors.

On the basis of agreed priorities, the PBF can support a variety of measures to strengthen national capacities in sustaining peace and will therefore help to reduce the risk of a country relapsing into violence. The PBF assists countries before the PBC, but can also help others in similar circumstances, as designated by the Secretary-General.

Peacebuilding Fund Overview (As of 27 October 2008)		
Facility	Countries	Amount (USD)
Window 1 (Countries on the PBC agenda)	Burundi	35 million
	Sierra-Leone	35 million
	Guinea-Bissau	6 million to date
	CAR	10 million to date
Window 2 (Countries recommended by the Secretary-General)	Liberia	15 million
	Nepal	10 million
	Côte d’Ivoire	5 million
	Guinea	TBD
	Comoros	TBD
Window 3 (Emergency Funding)	Côte d’Ivoire	1 million
	CAR	801,975
	Guinea	963,284
	Liberia	790,000
	Burundi	1 million
	Kenya	1 million
	Haiti	800,000

The PBF supports initiatives such as: the implementation of peace agreements; efforts by post-conflict countries to build and strengthen local capacities, thereby promoting coexistence and the peaceful resolution of conflict; the establishment or re-establishment of essential administrative services together with the development of related human and technical capacities; and critical interventions designed to respond to imminent threats to the peacebuilding process.

The PBF is not designed to address all peacebuilding needs but to act as a catalyst to launch critical peacebuilding activities which are then carried forward by national or international actors.

The General Assembly guides the operations of the Fund and may offer overall policy guidance. An independent advisory group has been appointed by the Secretary-General to provide advice and oversight of the speed and appropriateness of fund allocations and to examine performance and financial reports.

Assistance to Date: Since its official launching in October 2006, the PBF has supported countries through three distinct Windows:

Window I: funding is available only to countries before the PBC, currently Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. Priorities for PBF funding are set at country-level in a consultative process between the National Government, the Office of the UN and other key partners in the country. Project areas have included governance initiatives, security sector reform, justice and human rights, youth employment and land ownership.

Window II: provides funding to non-PBC countries upon an eligibility determination by the Secretary-General in response to exceptional circumstances and in instances where the PBF can extend support to countries at more advanced stages of the peacebuilding process. To date, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nepal have received assistance through the second window in support of national reconciliation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, revitalization of communities affected by conflict.

Window III: is the demand driven, emergency facility of the PBF that allocates urgent funding to projects in response to unforeseen and imminent threats to a peace process or risks lapsing or relapsing into conflict. To date, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, and Liberia have used this facility to support the implementation of peace agreements, facilitate direct dialogue between Government actors and opposition groups, reintegrate refugees, fund the repair of critical infrastructure, and support the restoration of essential public services.

III. THE PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT OFFICE (PBSO)

"The PBSO is well situated, as a neutral party under the direct supervision of my office, to serve as a hinge between the Commission and the operational players carrying out peacebuilding activities."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is the third pillar in the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Part of the UN Secretariat, the PBSO provides support to the work of the PBC in all its deliberations, and manages the Peacebuilding Fund.

The PBSO assists the UN Secretary-General to catalyze the wide range of United Nations capacity, and to partner with external actors, to develop peacebuilding strategies, marshal resources and enhance international coordination. This support is firmly based on PBSO's function as a knowledge centre for lessons learned and good practices on peacebuilding.

Headed by Assistant Secretary-General, Jane Holl Lute, the PBSO has been recently restructured to comprise a PBC Support Branch, a Financing for Peacebuilding Branch, and a Policy Planning Branch.

The PBC Support Branch brings together secretariat assistance, desk officer support, and intergovernmental liaison to service the PBC Organizational Committee, Country Specific Meeting configurations (Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone), and the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

The Financing for Peacebuilding Branch is responsible for the programmatic and financial management of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), including monitoring, evaluating and reporting. The Financing for Peacebuilding Branch also mobilizes new resources for peacebuilding, manages donor relations, and analyzes and tracks funding gaps.

The Policy Planning Branch undertakes analysis and knowledge management for peacebuilding and participates in Integrated Mission Planning Processes (IMPP), strategic assessments and other activities to assess the peacebuilding effectiveness of United Nations engagements.

In addition, a small team has been established in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General to help prepare the forthcoming Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Early Recovery, which will provide a set of practical recommendations for action to enhance United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

Peacebuilding Community of Practice

The PBSO facilitates a Peacebuilding Community of Practice that brings together 500 peacebuilding practitioners from over 60 countries, and representing over 20 United Nations funds and programmes, agencies and departments. Through an online network, members of the Peacebuilding Community of Practice have the opportunity to launch queries on peacebuilding challenges to learn from the experiences of their counterparts around the world and across the UN system; participate in thematic e-discussions on innovations in peacebuilding with leading experts; benefit from a monthly newsletter with featured stories from field-based practitioners; and contribute to the development of knowledge products on peacebuilding.

UN staff members may join the PBCoP by sending their name, UN department/agency, duty station, title and UN email to pb-cop@groups.un-network.org with "subscribe" in the subject line of the email.