



## *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

### **Post-conflict peacebuilding**

#### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings in connection with the item entitled “Post-conflict peacebuilding”, adopting one resolution<sup>1</sup> and three presidential statements. The meetings can be grouped into three broad categories: (i) debates on post-conflict peacebuilding; (ii) reports of the Secretary-General on thematic issues concerning post-conflict peacebuilding; and (iii) annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission.

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of this item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

#### **Debates on post-conflict peacebuilding**

On 16 April 2010, the Council held an open debate under the item entitled “Post-conflict peacebuilding”. In his opening statement, the President (Japan) highlighted three points in the cooperation between a post-conflict country and the international community in creating sustainable peace: a) implementation of a framework for assisting post-conflict countries in an integrated manner; b) the impact of the assistance and involvement of the international community on the ownership efforts of post-conflict countries; and c) making the best possible use of available short-term funds, securing

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<sup>1</sup> [Resolution 1947 \(2010\)](#) by which the Council, inter alia, welcomed the report entitled “Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture” ([S/2010/393](#)) and requested all relevant United Nations actors to take forward, within their mandates and as appropriate, the recommendations of the report with the aim of further improving the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission.

medium- and long-term resources, as well as the necessary expertise to serve the diverse requirements of peacebuilding activities.<sup>2</sup> In his statement, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of delivering concrete peace dividends for the population, strengthening State institutions in post-conflict countries and taking a comprehensive approach that addressed security, political, economic and social dimensions and engaged national, bilateral, regional and international actors.<sup>3</sup> The representative of the World Bank stressed the importance of the country context of strengthening partnerships, not only with post-conflict countries, but also among international actors, and seeking appropriate and mutual accountability.<sup>4</sup> The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) suggested that the Council should consider ways to maximize the use of the advisory role of the PBC, specifically by utilizing its advice on early peacebuilding activities carried out by peacekeepers, and to clarify and monitor progress in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates.<sup>5</sup>

The representatives of Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste provided their perspectives as post-conflict countries, emphasizing respectively, inter alia, the importance of disarmament and reintegration,<sup>6</sup> security sector reform,<sup>7</sup> and developing justice and the rule of law.<sup>8</sup>

In the debate that followed, speakers recognized that post-conflict peacebuilding required a collective and multi-dimensional effort, and agreed upon the need to further strengthen cooperation and coordination between PBC and other international actors in this area. Speakers also stressed the importance of respecting and supporting national ownership of peacebuilding efforts.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement which, inter alia, recognized that sustainable peacebuilding required an integrated approach and reaffirmed the importance of national ownership and the development of national capacity.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [S/PV.6299](#), pp. 3-4.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 14-16.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 33.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7 (Afghanistan).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9 (Sierra Leone).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13 (Timor-Leste).

<sup>9</sup> [S/PRST/2010/7](#).

On 21 January 2011, with the assistance of a concept paper circulated by Bosnia and Herzegovina on the importance of institution-building as part of a comprehensive approach to post-conflict peacebuilding,<sup>10</sup> the Council held an open debate.<sup>11</sup> In his statement, the Secretary-General recognized the important role of institutions in sustaining peace and reducing the risk of relapse into violence. He stressed the need to reinforce national ownership and leadership, not only of national governments and State institutions, but also of local governments and bodies, communities, the private sector, women's groups and civil society. He added that the international community needed to avoid approaching institution-building by seeking one-size-fits-all solutions or viewing it as a technical exercise; rather it should be viewed and pursued within the broader context of a country's political processes, development and social change.<sup>12</sup> The Chair of PBC stressed that supporting national ownership and developing capacity for building, transforming and managing viable institutions at the earliest stage should remain at the heart of collective efforts. He suggested that the role of PBC could be further evolved to encourage the identification of crucial institutions and mechanisms needed to make post-conflict societies more resilient and capable of addressing tensions and challenges.<sup>13</sup> Belgium, speaking on behalf of all five chairs of the country-specific configurations of PBC<sup>14</sup>, requested closer cooperation between the Council and the country configurations.<sup>15</sup>

Speakers agreed that institution-building constituted an important element of post-conflict peacebuilding. The Russian Federation, echoed by Colombia, Portugal and Turkey, stressed the principle of national responsibility for defining peacebuilding priorities and the approaches to implementation.<sup>16</sup> Other speakers emphasized the importance of securing timely, sustainable and predictable financing in order to sustain institution-building efforts.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [S/2011/16](#).

<sup>11</sup> [S/PV.6472](#).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>14</sup> Belgium (Central African Republic), Brazil (Guinea-Bissau), Canada (Sierra Leone), Jordan (Liberia) and Switzerland (Burundi).

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 27.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12 (Russian Federation); p. 13 (Colombia); and p. 21 (Portugal).

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12 (South Africa); p. 16 (Nigeria); and p. 24 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement which, *inter alia*, stressed the importance of institution-building as a critical component of peacebuilding, emphasized that the United Nations and the international community had to be more effective and co-ordinated in assessing needs and planning for effective institution-building, and underscored the Council's willingness to make greater use of the advisory role of PBC.<sup>18</sup>

### **Reports of the Secretary-General on thematic issues concerning post-conflict peacebuilding**

On 13 October 2010, the Council held an open debate to consider the Secretary-General's progress reports on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict<sup>19</sup> and on women's participation in peacebuilding.<sup>20</sup> In his statement, the Secretary-General reported that since the publication of his initial report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict,<sup>21</sup> progress had been made in several post-conflict countries and real gains had been made in carrying out the specific recommendations put forward, which were aimed at the delivery of more rapid and effective United Nations peacebuilding efforts. However, four areas still required attention: a) deploying special representatives with properly trained support teams to crisis situations; b) securing predictable financing; c) building greater cooperation and joint approaches as the foundation for more effective partnerships; and d) enhancing the role of women in peacebuilding.<sup>22</sup> The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission reported that the body had considered the two reports now before the Council, and several points had emerged from the discussion, including the importance of strengthening national ownership and capacity, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different actors in the United Nations system, securing more predictable financing, and developing a more gender-responsive peacebuilding agenda.<sup>23</sup>

In the debate that followed, speakers welcomed the progress made since the publication of the initial report. While noting several successes in countries such as Sierra

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<sup>18</sup> [S/PRST/2011/2](#).

<sup>19</sup> [S/2010/386](#).

<sup>20</sup> [S/2010/466](#).

<sup>21</sup> [S/2009/304](#).

<sup>22</sup> [S/PV.6396](#), pp. 2-4.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

Leone, the Central African Republic and Burundi, speakers emphasized that further efforts were necessary in several areas, including the strengthening of national capacity and ownership, enhancing the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in coordinating various United Nations efforts, and ensuring the further participation of women in all elements of peacebuilding. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement<sup>24</sup> that, *inter alia*, welcomed and encouraged more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts, and stressed the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in peacebuilding.

On 12 May 2011, the Council met to consider the report of the independent review on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict.<sup>25</sup> In his briefing to the Council, the Chair of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities recommended several ways to strengthen national ownership and capacities, broaden global civilian partnerships, including between conflict-affected and other developing countries, and make expertise and support more appropriate, timely and effective. In context of the latter, he noted that clearly defined roles and responsibilities would help to strengthen responsibility and accountability, and also fill capacity gaps. Finally, he underscored that “nimbleness” was important, by allowing the Secretary-General's representatives more flexibility and authority to adapt their mandate implementation plans. This could be realized by allowing them to undertake certain programmatic activities in the initial stage, as shown, for example, with the community violence reduction programme carried out by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.<sup>26</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support also reiterated the importance of civilian capacity and expertise in all of the missions authorized by the Council and outlined the efforts being made towards a holistic, system-wide approach in the implementation of the report's recommendations.<sup>27</sup> The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission emphasized that the priority-setting exercise for capacity needs in post-conflict countries needed to be owned nationally, with better identification and classification of existing national and local capacities.<sup>28</sup> In the deliberations that followed,

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<sup>24</sup> [S/PRST/2010/20](#).

<sup>25</sup> [S/2011/85](#).

<sup>26</sup> [S/PV.6533](#), pp. 2-4.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

Council members generally welcomed the findings of the report and agreed upon the importance of several of the issues contained therein, such as national ownership and partnerships, but views differed on other aspects of the report. In connection with the proposal to enhance the “nimbleness” of field operations, several Council members stressed that further details were needed regarding the proposals that touched upon the question of financing.<sup>29</sup> Other Council members stated that while the development and deployment of civilian capacity were important, effort was needed to clarify roles and responsibilities with regard to who should lead such initiatives.<sup>30</sup>

On 31 October 2011, the Council met to hear briefings by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission country configuration for Guinea. The Assistant Secretary-General reported that substantial progress had been made in the two years since the first report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict had been issued, in areas such as selecting more cohesive leadership teams to lead immediate post-conflict peacebuilding efforts as well as improving civilian expertise. Efforts were continuing in areas such as clarification of roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system for core peacebuilding functions, and in developing partnerships with institutions such as the World Bank. Progress had also been made on the issue of women’s participation in peacebuilding, with more systematic recourse to gender expertise in areas such as conflict resolution and mediation. She stressed that further accelerated change was needed in comprehensively engaging with and further enhancing the role of women in post-conflict peacebuilding.<sup>31</sup> The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission country configuration for Guinea reported that since the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission had adopted an action-oriented road map designed to reinforce the body’s impact in the field. Examples of its initiatives included joint meetings of the country-specific configurations for Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, focusing on organized crime and drugs in Africa. The Peacebuilding Commission was also developing a body of experience with regard to United Nations engagement,

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (United Kingdom); and p. 14 (Russian Federation).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (United Kingdom); and p. 19 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

<sup>31</sup> [S/PV.6643](#), pp. 2-4.

encompassing a variety of field presences, from resident-coordinator-led field presences, integrated peacebuilding offices to peacekeeping operations.<sup>32</sup> In the deliberations that followed, Council members generally welcomed the progress made on the peacebuilding agenda since the previous progress report. Several Council members reiterated the importance of national ownership.<sup>33</sup> Other Council members stressed that the Council needed to issue clear mandates for peacekeeping missions, which would allow for the groundwork of the peacebuilding phase to be laid.<sup>34</sup> On the question of women's participation in peacebuilding, some Council members called for further integration of such efforts.<sup>35</sup>

### **Peacebuilding Commission: progress and challenges**

On 23 March 2011, the Council met under the same agenda item to consider the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission. The former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (Germany), presenting the report to the Council, stated that progress had been made in addressing the recommendations from the 2010 review, in particular in connection with the creation of a new country-specific configuration for Liberia. During the period covered by the report, the Commission had also focused on building and strengthening partnerships, in particular with the international financial institutions, as well as with the other principal organs of the United Nations, such as the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, while the Commission had been able to link its work to that of peacekeeping, development and political actors in the field, it faced a challenge in ensuring that it received a higher level of political commitment from Member States and the senior leadership of the United Nations.<sup>36</sup> The current Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission reflected on the increased number of Council meetings convened to consider the question of post-conflict peacebuilding as testifying to the growing sense of commitment by the Council to the issue. He suggested that the Commission could help the Council in that regard by providing advisory functions: in the area of early

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-7.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 11 (Columbia); p. 12 (Portugal); p. 15 (India); p. 16 (France); p. 19 (United Kingdom); and p. 21 (Nigeria).

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 12 (Portugal); and p. 17 (France).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 19 (United Kingdom); and p. 21 (Nigeria).

<sup>36</sup> [S/PV.6503](#), pp. 2-3.

peacebuilding; as an inclusive and flexible platform to forge partnerships with key actors; and through supporting the post-conflict countries on its agenda and monitoring the progression from stabilization to consolidation of peace.<sup>37</sup> In the debate that followed, Council members recognized the increasingly important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in the post-conflict peacebuilding process, and commended its efforts in establishing country configurations for Liberia and Guinea. Council members also identified several challenges facing the Commission, including how it could coordinate more effectively between the various actors.

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 4.



### Meetings: post-conflict peacebuilding

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6299 16 April 2010	Letter dated 1 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2010/167</a> )		29 countries <sup>a</sup>	Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Managing Director of the World Bank, acting head of the delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the African Union	Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees	<a href="#">S/PRST/2010/7</a>
6396 13 October 2010	Progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict ( <a href="#">S/2010/386</a> )		16 countries <sup>b</sup>	Chair of the PBC, head of the delegation of the European Union	Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees	<a href="#">S/PRST/2010/20</a>
6414 29 October 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding ( <a href="#">S/2010/466</a> ) Progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict ( <a href="#">S/2010/386</a> )	Draft resolution ( <a href="#">S/2010/557</a> )		Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office		<a href="#">Resolution 1947 (2010)</a> 15-0-0
6472 21 January 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding ( <a href="#">S/2010/466</a> ) Letter dated 10 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2011/16</a> )		27 countries <sup>c</sup>	Secretary-General, Chair of PBC, deputy head of the delegation of the European Union, chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Observer of the African Union	All Council members and all invitees	<a href="#">S/PRST/2011/2</a>
6503 23 March 2011	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fourth session ( <a href="#">S/2011/41</a> )			Chair of PBC	All Council members and all	

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6533 12 May 2011	Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2011/85</a> )			Chair of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Chair of PBC	invitees All Council members and all invitees	
6643 31 October 2011				Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau country-configuration of PBC	All Council members and all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> Afghanistan (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone (Minister of Defence), Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste (Minister for Justice) and Uruguay.

<sup>b</sup> Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, South Africa and Thailand.

<sup>c</sup> Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium (on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Jordan and Switzerland in their capacities as, respectively, Chairs of the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission for the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Burundi), Botswana, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia, Timor-Leste (Deputy Prime Minister), Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and United Republic of Tanzania.