



Quaker UN Office



New York Office

Workshop for Working-level Diplomats of UN Member States of the UN Peacebuilding Commission

29 January 2009

09:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN
Auditorium, 2nd Floor

Organized by the
Quaker UN Office and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York
In partnership with the
UN Peacebuilding Support Office

Objectives and Outcome:

In January 2009 the Organizational Committee of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) underwent its first significant change in membership as about one third of the 31 members were replaced. It is therefore necessary to facilitate transfer of the experiences gained in the first two years of the PBC from the outgoing to the incoming members and to the newly composed body as a whole. Towards this end, the Quaker UN Office (QUNO) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) New York, in collaboration with the PBSO, have organized a day-long workshop for the working-level delegates of the PBC.

The workshop has the dual objective of serving as an induction workshop for the incoming members in order to take stock of PBC's activities to date as well as a brainstorming exercise on some current and emerging issues. Rather than revisiting academic discussions on peacebuilding or purely UN-focused deliberations about working methods, the workshop sets out to balance practical experiences and issues with more strategic and systemic observations and recommendations. The workshop will highlight functional and strategic challenges that this new UN body has encountered over the first two years of its working existence, focusing on the issues that are most likely to influence the workings of the newly composed PBC.

Target Group and Format:

This induction seminar is intended for the working-level diplomats of incoming, incumbent and outgoing PBC members, the UN Secretariat, other multilateral bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and peacebuilding experts from academia. The workshop will have four sessions dedicated to specific thematic clusters. Each session will begin with concise presentations by selected speakers (10 minutes) followed by an interactive discussion between all participants.

Topics for Discussion and Agenda:

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Session 1: Taking Stock of the PBC's First Two Years of Operation

Moderator:

Andrew Tomlinson, QUNO

Speakers:

Bartjan Wegter, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN

Jenna Slotin, International Peace Institute

Michele Brandt, Interpeace

Despite its slow start, the PBC has already produced initial results with regards to advising countries on their integrated peacebuilding strategies. This first session will be an up-to-date critical appraisal, addressing questions such as:

- How do the results recorded in Sierra Leone, Burundi and Guinea-Bissau so far compare to the original objectives of the PBC?
- What lessons from formulating and executing integrated peacebuilding strategies for these three cases have been learned and how could they be applied in the case of the Central African Republic?
- To what extent have the Organizational Committee and the Working Group on Lessons Learned contributed to the conceptual and institutional evolution of the PBC?

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session 2: Operational Themes and Challenges

Moderator:

Volker Lehmann, FES

Speakers:

Carl Skau, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN

Mia Seppo, UNDP/RBA

Vina Nadjibulla, PBSO

Kaz Kuroda, World Bank

This session provides an opportunity to discuss operational issues that have emerged during the two first years of the PBC and that are likely to dominate its work in the future, addressing questions such as:

- What has been learnt about: (i) structuring/designing a peacebuilding strategy and (ii) monitoring progress against that strategy, and what work on this remains to be done?
- To what extent have the entry modalities (A/RES/60/180, S/RES/1645 (2005) paragraph 12 a – d) shaped the work of the Commission? What different forms of PBC engagement might be helpful?
- How and for which objectives should the PBC better engage actors from outside the UN system (IFIs, NGOs, regional organizations)?
- How can member states and others ensure that commitments made in support of peacebuilding strategies are fully internalized into all their bilateral and multi-lateral actions with respect to a country?

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Session 3: Review of Working Methods

Moderator:

Francesca Riddy-O’Dowd, QUNO

Speakers:

Naoki Ishikawa, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN

Alexandre Nina, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN

This session will reflect on the evolution of the working methods of the PBC architecture, including the Organizational Committee (OC), the Country-Specific Meetings (CSMs) and the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL), addressing questions such as:

- Given the small number of countries the PBC is seized with to date, how can the PBC take on a larger number of countries? Thinking outside the box: Is the PBC working at maximum capacity? Is there a one-size fits all approach emerging or are there different modalities/options?
- What lessons have been learned about working methods with respect to the roles, responsibilities of and messages emanating from the Headquarters and in-country representations?
- What are the implications for an existing UN in-country mission/presence when a country is referred to the PBC? How and to what extent can the experiences of the PBC (in particular through the country configurations and the WGLL) be processed and applied to other countries?
- How can PBC ensure that peacebuilding in countries on its agenda is being mainstreamed throughout the UN system?

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Session 4: Some Strategic Issues

Moderator:

Werner Puschra, FES

Speakers:

Jorge Tagle, Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN

Susanne Frueh, PBSO

Rob Jenkins, City University of New York

The final session will address some of the strategic, political challenges that the PBC will face when moving ahead, such as:

- How can the PBC strengthen its approach to key outstanding “constitutional/mandate” issues? (e.g. mobilization of resources; improving coordination with/coherence among all actors; synergy between peacekeeping and peacebuilding; reconstruction and institution-building/state-building)
- How might the role of the PBC in the emerging global peacebuilding architecture develop over time? To what extent can, or should, the PBC become a forum for a broader discussion on peacebuilding, a center for the development of professional peacebuilding policy/practice?
- What should be the PBC’s key goals for 2009 and how can the work of all configurations lead towards achieving these?
- What lessons will emanate from the SG’s report on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery, and from the review of the Peacebuilding Fund’s Terms of Reference?
- How would the role of PBC evolve after its review in 2010?

Closing Remarks: Werner Puschra, FES, and Andrew Tomlinson, QUNO