

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

PBSO

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your information, a background note from Mr. Otobo for the Security Council meeting on Wednesday, 22 July regarding the SG's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

It is not clear what the purpose of this summary is.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'N. Haysom'.

Nicholas Haysom
17 July 2009

cc: KWS

Handwritten initials 'BN' in dark ink.

29-07410



ACTION NH ✓
COPY VN
KWS
Y/C

Note to Mr Nambiar



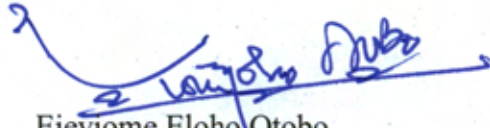
Background note for Security Council meeting on Wednesday, 22 July 2009
Report of the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the
immediate aftermath of conflict A/83/881-S/2009/304

Highlights of the PBC discussion:

The Secretary-General is formally presenting the report to the Security Council on 22 July. He presented the report to the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on 13 July. The PBC welcomed the report and the Secretary-General's personal involvement. Key points included: support for the report's agenda for action; the need for speedy implementation of the recommendations; and that national ownership is the cornerstone of peacebuilding. The only slightly contentious issue was the PBC's future role and its relationship with the Security Council, given that peacebuilding starts at the same time as peacekeeping. This discussion will continue into the review of the PBC in 2010. The PBC chair, Ambassador Heraldo Munoz (CHILE), will present a summary of the PBC discussion at the Security Council meeting.

1. **Genesis of the report:** In its Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2008/16) of 20 May 2008, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide advice within 12 months on how the UN system might support national efforts in post-conflict countries to establish the foundations for sustainable peace more rapidly and effectively.
2. **Consultation process:** PBSO was designated to draft the report. There was a highly inclusive consultation process, including Member States, the UN system and others. Consultations included informal meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission; interviews with senior UN leaders in the field and at headquarters; and informal meetings in Montreux, Geneva, Princeton & Cairo.
3. **Desired outcomes:** The report calls on Member States to:
 - Support the report's coherent approach to peacebuilding in all the inter-governmental fora at which peacebuilding issues are discussed.
 - Align their political, financial and technical support behind a country's agreed common strategy.
 - Support the UN in its efforts to implement the report's recommendations.
4. **Key messages in the report:** The scope of the report is the 12-24 months after the end of significant conflict. The report does not recommend establishing new mechanisms, rather strengthening existing ones.
 - **Context of peacebuilding:** The report recognizes the very difficult context of peacebuilding. Peacebuilding is extremely political, involving tough choices and priority-setting. While people expect an immediate peace dividend, insecurity often persists, so peacebuilding happens in an unpredictable, insecure environment.

- **Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping** should start together. The 'old' thinking about peacebuilding starting when peacekeeping ends has been replaced with the realization that the two need to be planned together in a coherent and coordinated manner.
- **National ownership and capacity building**: Peacebuilding is primarily a national challenge and responsibility. International actors must help to build the capacities of institutions and individuals from the very start: an entry, not exit, strategy.
- **Common strategy**: After conflict, when there are so many challenges and very limited resources, a limited set of priorities and a common strategy to address them should be agreed by national leaders and supported by the international community, as the framework for a national-international partnership for peacebuilding. While the plan is developed, an interim action plan should be prepared as the basis for initial assistance.
- **UN leadership**: The UN requires leadership that is flexible, creative and can set clear priorities. UN leaders must be identified and placed in a timely manner. Focus should be on leadership teams rather than individuals.
- **Predictable capacity**: The UN must be ready with predictable capacity to support countries emerging from conflict. This entails developing further clarity on lead roles and responsibilities and ensuring that the UN has minimum standing capacity in frequently identified peacebuilding priority areas.
- **Financing**: Funding should be faster, more flexible and more risk tolerant. Enhanced UN/World Bank partnership is critical. The revised Terms of Reference of the Peacebuilding Fund should include an early release of funds for critical 'start-up' peacebuilding needs, and a second release once a national plan has been developed.
- **Regional organizations**: Regional organizations play an important role in supporting peacebuilding. The UN should strengthen partnerships and synergies with them.
- **Role of PBC**: The Peacebuilding Commission has a critical role to play in championing this agenda and ensuring its timely implementation. It should further enhance its role in peacebuilding as envisaged in the founding resolutions to "marshal resources....focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts", and "provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors." Peacebuilding starts at the same time as peacekeeping, hence the need for more effective partnership between the Security Council and the PBC.
- **Implementation**: The Policy Committee meeting of 12 May 2009 endorsed the approach and recommendations outlined above, as well as a draft implementation plan for UN system action, supported by PBSO. The PC will oversee the implementation plan and monitor its progress.


Ejeviome Eloho Ootobo
16 July 2009