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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

28 March 2013

Dear Ms. Eckey,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 22 March 2013 inviting the Deputy Secretary-General to Speak at the upcoming panel discussion on the Peacebuilding Commission, entitled "The Peacebuilding Commission: How to bridge the gap between New York and the field?" event, which will take place on Wednesday, 17 April 2013 at the International Peace Institute.

The Deputy Secretary-General is honoured by your invitation, however, regrets that he will not be able to attend due to other prior commitments.

We appreciate your understanding and take this opportunity to send our best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Akwumi".

Paul Akwumi
Chief of Staff

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Ms. Susan Eckey
Chargé d' Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Norway
825 Third Avenue
New York

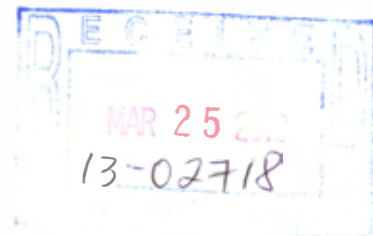
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SCH/28/003



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson
Deputy Secretary-General
Room NL-03007
United Nations Headquarters
New York

DSG
(w. enclosure)

Your ref.:

Our ref.:

Date: 22 March 2013

Dear Ambassador Eliasson,

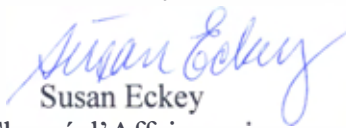
It is my pleasure to invite you as Speaker at the upcoming panel discussion on the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), entitled "The Peacebuilding Commission: How to bridge the gap between New York and the field?" The event will take place at the International Peace Institute on Wednesday 17 April from 8:00 – 10:00 am.

We are looking forward to a constructive dialogue on the PBCs coordination efforts with the field and its relationship to the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and hope that you, with your key role within the PBC, have the opportunity to participate as part of this timely discussion.

✓ Please find the attached a concept note for the event, including information on the invited panelists. Norway's Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide has already confirmed participation.

Please, Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,


Susan Eckey
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

SCH/08/003

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The Peacebuilding Commission: How to bridge the gap between New York and the field?

*Organized by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN
and the International Peace Institute
in collaboration with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office*

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 8:00am- 10:00am

**International Peace Institute
Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development
777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor
(Corner of 44th Street & 1st Avenue)
New York**

A panel discussion at IPI

Revised draft Concept Note

Context

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace consolidation efforts in countries emerging from conflict. A key task of the work of the PBC is to improve coordination among international partners and the alignment of international engagement behind national peacebuilding priorities. The PBC in New York can undertake such task through its advisory role to the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as through advocacy with policy-makers in international organizations and among key partners.

The PBC's added value, however, can best be appreciated if it is able to bring assets complementary to those of the UN and other international actors on the ground. Such efforts resonate with, compliment and reinforce the work of field-based actors so as to generate focus on and commitment to addressing critical peacebuilding priorities. Therefore, there is a well-recognized need to strengthen and institutionalize the working relations between the PBC in New York and national and international actors on the ground. PBC also need to be cognizant of the need to reduce the 'transaction cost' in fragile and post-conflict countries. Modalities of engagement with the field should remain as light as possible and draw primarily on existing national tools and mechanisms.

In particular, the relationship with the most senior representative of the Secretary-General is essential to the functioning of the PBC in the field. The most senior representative of the Secretary-General in the field, (Executive and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (E/SRSGs) or Resident Coordinators (RCs), is in many places leading coordination efforts at country level. There have been several good examples of cooperation between SRSGs and Country configurations, but these have been subject to individual initiatives.

There is an urgent need to look at these complementarity issues in a more systematic manner. In this regard, the informal dialogue between the PBC Chairs' Group and the E/SRSGs in the countries on the PBC agenda which was initiated in May 2012 and was followed through most recently in March 2013 represent a first step forward. The dialogue should generate understanding on mutual expectations. In addition, there will be a need to systematize the

relationship in relation to the flow of information, analysis and responsibilities for taking forward the mutual commitments agreed between the PBC and the countries on the agenda.

In addition to the relations with the E/SRSGs, the PBC could consider to establish an interface mechanism with field based actors, which draws upon existing coordination mechanisms between the Government, the UN and the key bilateral and institutional partners. The interface mechanism could act as a field-based platform for aligning PBC's engagement with those of key operational actors in the field. Joint-Steering Committees (JSCs), which have been established to oversee the engagement of the PBF on the ground, or a field-based mechanism with similar composition, could be an appropriate mechanism.

It is in this connection and on the occasion of the visit by H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, that the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, in collaboration with the International Peace Institute (IPI), is organizing a panel discussion on 17 April, 2013, from 8:00 – 10:00 AM at IPI. The panel discussion will aim to address the following questions:

1. How can PBC's modalities of work be adapted so as to encourage stronger buy-in from and give additional weight to the role of actors on the ground in support of national peacebuilding objectives? Would a standing field-based interface mechanism help?
2. Experience suggests that the bulk of the coordination efforts must be made in the field. How concretely can the PBC support these efforts and forge coherence among all relevant actors? How could the PBC's outreach to policy makers in capitals and Headquarters of key international and regional organizations become more effective?
3. As a chief coordinator of UN integrated efforts on the ground, the E/SRSG/RC has the leading role. How can the PBC leverage its political asset, including through its advisory role to the Security Council, to support this role?

Panelists:

- H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Foreign Minister of Norway
- H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Ranko Vilić, Permanent Representative of Croatia, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (TBC)
- H.E. Ms. Marjon Kamara, Permanent Representative of Liberia (TBC)
- Mr. Parfait Onanga Anyanga, ERSB BNUB

Moderator:

- Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, President of the International Peace Institute