



Peacebuilding Commission

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Organizational Committee

Second session

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 June 2007, at 12.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola)

later: Mr. Oshima (Japan)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/2/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Opening of the second session of the Peacebuilding Commission

2. *The Chairperson declared open the second session of the Peacebuilding Commission.*

Election of the Chairperson

3. *Mr. Oshima (Japan) was elected Chairperson of the Organizational Committee by acclamation.*
4. *Mr. Oshima (Japan) took the Chair.*

Election of other officers

5. *Ms. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) was re-elected, and Mr. Christian (Ghana) elected, Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.*
6. **The Chairperson** said that Mr. Løvald (Norway) and Mr. Majoor (Netherlands) would continue in their functions as Chairpersons of the Burundi and Sierra Leone country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission during the second session.

Opening remarks by the Chairperson

7. **The Chairperson** said that, since it had begun its work in June 2006, the Commission had made major progress in developing the necessary institutional mechanisms. In addition, the country-specific configurations had been put in place and had begun the elaboration of integrated strategies that would provide the strategic framework for peacebuilding. In the Secretariat, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, a standing fund for post-conflict peacebuilding, had become operational with an initial disbursement of funds.
8. In spite of the initial encouraging progress, the Commission still faced daunting challenges. He saw several key issues and priorities for the second year of its work. First, the Commission should do its best to deliver tangible results to meet the requirements of the countries under consideration and their people. The country-specific approach, therefore, would remain the core of its activities. In order to streamline working methods, some type of standard operating modalities

should be formulated under the country-specific approach. Although every post-conflict situation was unique, such standard modalities would be advantageous.

9. Second, with regard to additional countries for consideration, he planned to initiate preliminary consultations with the members of the Committee and other bodies including the Security Council. Third, the Commission could play other roles in peacebuilding, for instance acting as a focal point for information on best practices and as a forum from which appropriate political messages could be dispatched to the international community. Fourth, it should also consider taking up cross-cutting issues relevant to post-conflict countries, for example, youth unemployment, the rule of law and security sector reform.

10. Fifth, he could not overstate the importance of engaging in close cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system. Since the Commission, as an advisory body, was mandated to provide advice in response to requests from the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, it must work to strengthen interaction with those key organs. In addition, he looked forward to closer communication and cooperation with the Secretariat to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of the Peacebuilding Fund.

Calendar of meetings of the Commission for the period July-December 2007

11. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the tentative calendar of meetings for the period July-December 2007, which had been circulated to members. While he did not wish to enter into a discussion of the draft calendar at the current meeting, he would welcome comments from members, which could be incorporated in a more detailed calendar of events and meetings to be adopted when the Commission reconvened in September. He drew particular attention to United Nations Peace Day, 21 September, and would welcome suggestions on how the Commission could best reflect its commitment to peace on that occasion.

Other matters

12. **The Chairperson** said that the Organizational Committee would meet for formal adoption of the report to the General Assembly once the translations into all official languages had been completed.

13. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) said that it should be made clear that discussion on the substance of the report, which had already been adopted by consensus in the English version, would not be reopened.

14. **Mr. Elbakly** (Egypt) said that he looked forward to the Chairperson's advocacy role and for projects funded through the Peacebuilding Fund to have an impact on the ground by responding to country priorities. He further looked forward to close cooperation with regional organizations.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.