



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Tel: +1-212-355 2100 Fax: +1-212-759 6156

Summary

Catalytic Action for Peacebuilding: Examples of the UN Peacebuilding Fund

Wednesday 5 March 2008

Conference room 6, UN Headquarter, New York

Seminar organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland organised a seminar on the UN Peacebuilding Fund in New York on 5 March 2008. The aim of the seminar was to provide an opportunity to share information and exchange of views on the early results of the PBF at the country level. The seminar was co-chaired by the chair of the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group, Ms Marjatta Rasi, Under-Secretary of State of Finland, and Vice-chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ms. Carmen María Gallardo Hernández, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations.

Ms Rasi highlighted that while the PBF is still a rather new form of funding it is already effectively beginning to play a key role in sustaining peacebuilding efforts in countries emerging from conflict. She specifically emphasised the role of the emergency window in providing an immediate, fast-track response capacity to address unforeseen challenges in an ongoing peace process. She also acknowledged that there have been some concerns regarding the pace of PBF disbursements and processes. One of the key challenges for the PBF is how to strengthen national capacities as well as simplify processes for swift delivery. Improved communication and outreach are also crucial and here the Advisory Group of the PBF could play an important role in providing support to PBF's advocacy efforts.

The Deputy-Minister for Internal Affairs of Liberia, Ms Estelle Liberty emphasised the importance of the PBF-funded projects for enhancing national reconciliation and dialogue. While the emergency window project in support of Nimba county is very ambitious and includes besides efforts to strengthen dialogue, also infrastructural and employment generation activities, its sustainability will be ensured through its strong link to the other national development priorities, such as the PRSP. The project will also be complemented by activities funded through the PBF second window, which will provide a total of 15 MUSD for peacebuilding efforts in Liberia. Ambassador Adolphe Nahayo from Burundi gave a detailed outline of the PBF processes at the country level, highlighting the role of national leadership and coordination. Ambassador Nahayo also distinguished between the PBF priority plan and the PBC integrated peacebuilding strategy by emphasising the implementation-focused nature of the PBF plan and the broader strategic guidance of the PBC plan. The following discussion emphasised that the PBF is as of now the only non-humanitarian global fund that concretely focuses on peacebuilding in the nexus between security and development. There is still, however, need for discussion on the longer-term sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. Participants found the seminar useful and encouraged further, similar information sharing activities, with the aim of strengthening awareness of the PBF and its activities.