



SOFIMUN
Sofia International Model United Nations

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Period: 18-25 July 2009
Location: Sofia, Bulgaria

Website: www.sofimun.org
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E-mail: info@sofimun.org

"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING
COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON:
MATIJA BLACE & PLAMENA MARKOVA

TOPIC: (B)
PEACE BUILDING TOWARDS THE
CONSTRUCTION OF CAPABLE STATES IN
AFRICA AND THE ROLE OF THE
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION (PBC)



The United Nations established the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 to improve the international community's support for countries just emerging from violent conflict. The Commission (or PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body with 31 member states. It provides short to medium-term engagement between the international community and vulnerable governments and serves as a forum for bringing together stakeholders to ensure better coordination in peacebuilding.

The Peacebuilding Commission was created by the Security Council and General Assembly in joint resolutions and began meeting in June 2006. Within the UN system, the Peacebuilding Commission is unprecedented in its organization and mandate, including providing advice to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council on critical peacebuilding issues. The PBC is also mandated to engage with the World Bank and IMF.

The Commission meets regularly at UN headquarters in New York to provide advice on peacebuilding in selected countries and to consider the development of best practices in peacebuilding. Countries can be referred to the PBC by the Security Council and the Secretary-General, as well as by the country itself, the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council in exceptional cases.

Most of the Commission's work takes place in country-specific meetings that address peacebuilding challenges specific to the country receiving advice from the PBC. All PBC members and relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the selected country, are invited to participate in country-specific meetings. Through such meetings and consultations held in the countries receiving advice, key priority areas for successful peacebuilding in that country are identified. Special attention is paid to identifying gaps in existing UN, World Bank and other strategies for peacebuilding or development.

The PBC supports the development of a peacebuilding framework document for the country and the development of a mechanism in-country to monitor progress in achieving key peacebuilding goals. The PBC at UN headquarters can use the peacebuilding framework document and consultations that take place in its meetings to sustain international interest in the selected country, marshal resources for peacebuilding there and bring attention to potential threats to peace. The PBC is able to provide advice to relevant bodies (mostly within the UN system) on peacebuilding in that country.

More at:

www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding



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Topic B: Peace building towards the construction of capable States in Africa and the role of developed countries - summary

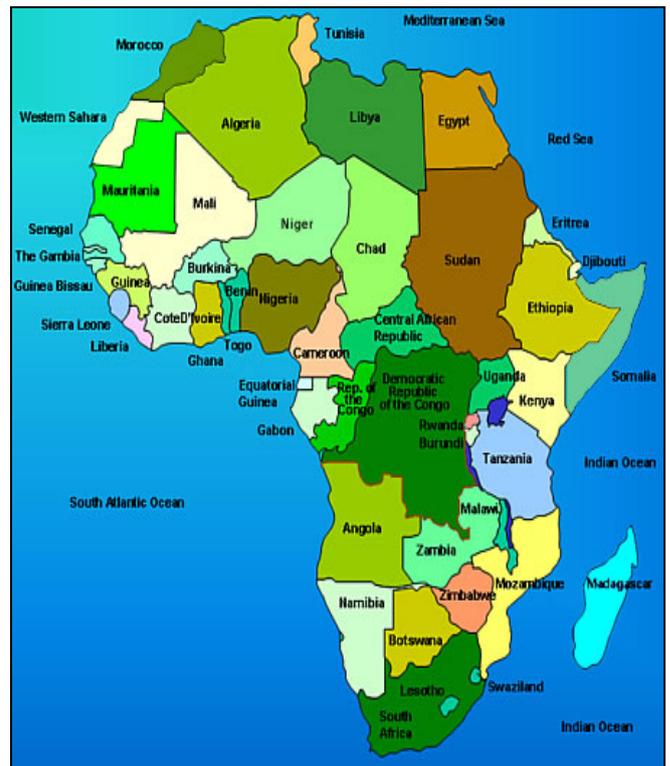
I. ANALYZING AFRICA

Peace building actions and operations as an engagement of the international community from its very beginning until present days are broadly focused with a variable result to the very specific region of the African continent where still countries, population and societies are facing the long term inherited problems of variety of internal and external challenges of peace and development. Currently, fifteen African countries are involved or are experiencing war or post war conflicts, among which probably the most substantial ones are Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Algeria, Angola and Zimbabwe.

It is commonly known that most of the conflicts the African states are facing are usually caused by economic and natural resources those countries obtain (such as oil or diamonds), compounded in many cases by the foreign extractive industries presence and their interaction with local governments. Tribal conflict is another serious issue, provoking severe crisis on the Black continent.

The abundant supply of small arms, ammunition, light weapons and explosives circulating in some African states have made easy the escalation of tensions between groups in disagreement. Massacres and massive human displacement become quick collateral consequences of the black market ammunitions conflict, making the damage run rampant.

Civil wars are one of the most ferocious forms of conflict in Africa. Statistically, the dominant factor for civil wars tends to be economic. If a country is poor, in economic decline, and is dependent upon natural resource exports, then it faces a substantial risk of a civil war. In addition, the ethnic differences tearing the continent apart, comes to underline the need for external assistance.





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Topic B: Peace building towards the construction of capable States in Africa and the role of developed countries - background guide

II. PEACEBUILDING METHODS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION IN POST-CONFLICT STATES



The governance of post-conflict territories by the United Nations embodies a central policy challenge- to help a population prepare for democratic governance and the rule of law by imposing a form of benevolent autocracy. In order for a state to be put on solid democratic grounds, two main issues should be taken into consideration First of them includes the participation of local actors and the continuous consultation with them. The second one is the responsibility to assist when and where needed, which should be undertaken by the international community.

Consultation with Local Actors and Responsibility

The collapse of state structures, whether through defeat by an external power or as result of internal chaos, leads to a vacuum of political power. Non-state actors in such situations may exercise varying degrees of political power over local populations, at times providing basic social services from education to medical care. The main issue is how to engage such non-state actors in a peace process. The form of transitional administrations is generally created to help a population achieve some political transformation – most currently from conflict to peace, but in a longer term from informal to formal political structures. The responsibility for the developed countries is precisely to undertake tasks and/or to contribute with resources and know-how in cases that are beyond existing local capacities. Nevertheless, power should generally be transferred first at the lower tiers of government, with careful attention paid to making clear what the relevant capacities of local and – in some cases- international institutions are, at each stage of the state-building process.

III. MAIN COMPONENTS OF STATE- BUILDING

1. Security

Stability and peace as the most essential basis of a nation building process is the component that could guarantee future economic growth and democratization. Apart from the military presence, which is in some cases inevitable, international civilian police are an increasingly important initial component of most UN state-building operations. Local police forces are being trained in order to provide security for local inhabitants.

2. Humanitarian

All conflicts generate refugees and displaced people within the country. A primary goal of every state-building operation has been the return of displaced people in their homelands in order to



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ensure the future development of the region and the preservation of its inhabitants' cultural heritage. Usually in this case the involvement of the U.N. and other international actors includes establishment of period programs for restoring basic services, carrying out a landmine education campaign, demining transportation routes, and giving assistance to the asylum countries.

3. Democratization

The establishment of a democratic political system is a core objective of most state-building operations. Central to this process is the planning and conduct of democratic elections. Although logic might suggest that local elections should precede national ones, this seldom occurs. Nevertheless, initial elections in most African countries were held to be free and fair. Elections are a prerequisite for democracy and they call for, at least in their earliest existence, a broad international backing.

4. Economic Reconstruction

War conflict results in a fall in output and living standards in the society concerned. Persistence violence and limited domestic capacity for good governance resulted in slower rates of growth. On the other hand, statistics show that high levels of external economic assistance result in rapid economic recovery. During the last few years, there has been a certain trend among European countries, which tend to be more generous with states that have relevantly small population and are situated in proximity to Europe. This often puts African states in the end of the line for economic support.



State-building can be viewed in terms of its inputs – which, broadly speaking, are manpower, money, and time, and its desired outputs – which are peace, economic growth and democratization. Needless to say, outputs depend on much more than the inputs. It is in the inputs, however, where the commitment to encourage development and the responsibility of the international society are most visible.

The Peacebuilding commission should focus on all issues that involve the African continent as a whole, and more importantly understand the roles of developed, developing and the needs from African states. Additionally, the PBC will focus on the needs of African states and how developed countries have contributed and/or failed in assisting appropriately. The PBC should focus on the mistakes of the past, current situations, and needs for the future.



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Suggested Reading and Additional Sources

Topic B: Peace building towards the construction of capable States in Africa and the role of developed countries

For a better understanding of the issue, the following sources should be consulted, but they are not exhaustive, therefore it is recommended that the delegates research the topic on their own, both through academic sources, as well as informal channels.

Mandatory

1. <http://www.un.org/en/peace/>
2. <http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/index.shtml>
3. <http://www.un.org/en/development/progareas/spneeds.shtml>
4. http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/regionscountriesa_en.cfm
5. <http://www.unpbpf.org/index.shtml>
6. http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/development_policy_management/
7. <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/index/index.htm>
8. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,menuPK:258649~pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:258644,00.html>

Suggested

9. http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm
10. http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/tif_e.htm
11. http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/devel_e.htm
12. <http://www.unep.org/>
13. <http://www.statebuilding.org/africa.html>
14. <http://www.migrationdrc.org/index.html>
15. http://www.un.org/News/ossg/sg/stories/articles_results.asp
16. "Beyond State Crisis: Postcolonial Africa and Post-Soviet Eurasia in Comparative Perspective" (article: Civil Wars and State-Building in Africa and Eurasia), Stephen J. Stedman & David Holloway, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2002