

# Peacebuilding Commission

## *Introduction*

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) concluded its 6<sup>th</sup> session in December 2013, and initiated its 7<sup>th</sup> session in January 2014. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) did not meet for a formal session in late 2013, it did conduct several informal organizational committee meetings.<sup>1</sup> These meetings were focused primarily on fostering the PBC's engagement with outside organizations as well as serving as a preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the PBC, to be held 29 January 2014.<sup>2</sup> The PBC's commitment to working with several outside organizations such as Dag Hammarskjold Foundation helps to further strengthen the PBC's peacebuilding architecture.<sup>3</sup> In meeting with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, the PBC and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) sought to discuss the foundation's report on the PBC's impact and engagement as well as to prepare for a 2015 review of the overall UN's peacebuilding architecture.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, in September 2013, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted recent outcomes of the PBC session on the strategic importance of economic empowerment for women in peacebuilding.<sup>5</sup>

## *Recent Activities*

As part of an effort to improve the PBC's capability in facilitating the peacebuilding process, the PBC conducted an informal meeting with the Dag Hammarskjold foundation to discuss the foundation's findings and report on the PBC's work in peacebuilding.<sup>6</sup> In tandem with others, this meeting deliberated over five key issues: the role of the PBC in emphasizing and clarifying the concept of peacebuilding, the importance of the PBC as an entity within the UN system, the need to further define and engage Member States and the Secretariat in the PBC's work, the need to ensure that there is adequate communication and a working partnership between the PBC and other UN entities necessary for peacebuilding, and development of formal steps that could be taken to help prepare the commission for the upcoming 2015 review.<sup>7</sup> On a broader level, these strategic meetings sought to appraise the full role of the PBC in the UN system in light of upcoming 2015 review of the UN's peacebuilding infrastructure.<sup>8</sup> The meetings also served as platforms through which the PBC can further assess its engagement with other entities as well as the Security Council, General Assembly, and Economic and Social Council.<sup>9</sup>

## *Recent Policy Outcomes*

Recent outcomes from the PBC have emphasized a variety of issues and principles that help in the peacebuilding process. These principles involve the role of women in the peacebuilding process, the need to further promote cross communication among UN entities to ensure that adequate resources are marshaled in the peacebuilding process, and the need to synthesize best practices for peacebuilding practitioners.<sup>10</sup> In several previous sessions, the PBC has reaffirmed the crucial role that women play in peacebuilding, and the Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted resolutions addressing the issue.<sup>11</sup> A recent resolution, PBC/7/OC/3, highlights the critical need for women to be actively included and involved in the peacebuilding process and in particular, "recognizing that the economic empowerment of women greatly contributes to the effectiveness of post-conflict economic activities and economic growth, and leads to improving the quality and social outcomes of economic recovery measures and policies as well as to sustainable development."<sup>12</sup> In addition, the PBC emphasized the need to ensure that adequate

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<sup>1</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Peacebuilding Commission Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee 6 November 2013*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Progress in the implementation of the PBC Forward Agenda in 2013: Chair's Mid-year Report*, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3)* [Resolution], 26 September 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

mechanisms are put in place during the peacebuilding process in order to prevent inequality and discrimination against women and girls, thereby limiting the post-conflict recovery process.<sup>13</sup>

The PBC is responsible for coordinating and ensuring that adequate steps are taken to help bring about sustainable peace and development especially in post-conflict regions.<sup>14</sup> In cooperation with the General Assembly, the PBC has further advocated for the need to orchestrate inclusive national processes in order to prevent marginalization.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, the PBC has stressed national ownership in the overall peacebuilding process in order to ensure an adequate transition to a stable national government that can continue to maintain peace in the post-conflict region.<sup>16</sup> Finally, the PBC has stressed the need to promote an inclusive and comprehensive peacebuilding process that ensures the restoration of stability to a post-conflict region.

### ***Policy Implementation***

The primary role of the PBC is to facilitate the post-conflict peacebuilding process. In order to accomplish its tasks, the PBC is charged with bringing together different actors and providing necessary resources in order to jump-start and ensure a successful peacebuilding process.<sup>17</sup> In order to accomplish this and as well implement its tasks, the PBC works with several organizations within and outside the UN system including the Security Council, the General Assembly as well as Member States. In particular, the PBC brings together several organizations with expertise in different areas in order ensure a comprehensive peacebuilding process.<sup>18</sup> These organizations include the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labor Organization, the UN Commission on Human Rights as well as others to implement its policies around socioeconomic, security, and rule of law during peacebuilding.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, the peacebuilding support office assists and support the PBC in its implementation through provision of strategic guidance and an administration of the peacebuilding fund.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

As the primary entity responsible for managing the peacebuilding process, the PBC is responsible for ensuring that conflict regions emerge with a reasonable path to sustainable peace. The PBC ensures that post-conflict regions gain access to adequate resources that ensure that a relapse into conflict is prevented. The commission continues to play an important the recovery process of conflict regions across the world.

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*This is a PBC resolution that has been adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The resolution reaffirms the PBC's focus on ensuring that women are included and empowered economically as part of the peacebuilding process in a post-conflict region. The resolution further reaffirms the commitment of the UN as a whole to ensuring that women are not marginalized during the peacebuilding process.*

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (2014). *Peacebuilding Commission Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee 5 June 2013*. Retrieved 5 January 2014 from:

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<sup>13</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *The Peacebuilding Commission: New York-based, Field-oriented: Workshop hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway*, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (A/RES/60/180)* [Resolution], 30 December 2005.

<sup>15</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3)* [Resolution], 26 September 2013.

<sup>16</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *The Peacebuilding Commission: New York-based, Field-oriented: Workshop hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway*, 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> UN Peacebuilding Support Office, *Partnerships*, 2010.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> UN Peacebuilding Support Office, *Policy*, 2010.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/oc/Chair's%20Summary-informal%20OC%20meeting%20-%205%20Jun%202013.pdf>

*This report presents the Chairperson's summary of the informal meeting of the organizational committee of the peacebuilding commission meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The report presents a briefing by the chair of the advisory group of the peacebuilding fund, discussions on consultation outcomes with other UN organs such as the Peacebuilding Fund, the Peacebuilding Support Office, and the Economic and Social Council. The report also presents several outcomes detailing the extent of the PBC's involvement with different Member States.*

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (2014). *Peacebuilding Commission Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee 6 November 2013* . Retrieved 5 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/oc/Chair's\\_Summary-informal\\_OC%20meeting\\_6\\_Nov\\_2013\\_FINAL%20.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/oc/Chair's_Summary-informal_OC%20meeting_6_Nov_2013_FINAL%20.pdf)

*This report presents the Chairperson's summary of the informal meeting of the organizational committee of the peacebuilding commission meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The report presents the agenda and outcomes of the discussion with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation on the Draft Outcome Report on the PBC as well as other procedural issues relating to the PBC. In particular, meeting serves as an opportunity to potentially review the PBC's engagement and role in peacebuilding within the UN.*

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (2014). *Peacebuilding Commission Informal meeting of the Organizational Committee 20 December 2013* . Retrieved 5 January 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/oc/Chair's%20Summary-informal%20OC%20meeting%20-%2020%20Dec%202013%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

*This report presents the Chairperson's summary of the informal meeting of the organizational committee of the peacebuilding commission meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The report presents the agenda and outcomes of the items discussed such as the informal adoption of the PBC report on its session, and updated on the peacebuilding fund, and issues regarding procedural issues of the PBC.*

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<http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/oc/Field-based%20interface-%20workshop%20summary-12Jul13-FINAL.pdf>

*This report presents key findings from the workshop on the PBC hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway. Key findings addressed during the workshop include fragmentation within the UN system, adequate transition to national governments during peacebuilding, and further work within the UN system to develop a holistic approach to peacebuilding. The report further details results from discussions regarding effective ways to further engage Member States and a variety of national actors in peacebuilding.*

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## I. Responding to the Situation in the Central African Republic

### *Introduction*

The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has grown progressively more violent and unstable in recent months, highlighting the forthcoming challenges in resolving the conflict and subsequently undertaking peacebuilding. The CAR has undergone repeated cycles of violence in the past decades, the most recent one beginning in early 2013 with the ousting of President Francois Bozize. A negotiated end to violence is being sought by many international actors through mediated talks and assistance in order to pursue important peacebuilding projects, particularly in the areas of justice, security sector reform (SSR), and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) to prevent future conflicts in the CAR.

In recent months, the Central African Republic has seen political upheaval with the resignation of the interim government leadership, which has led to the intensification of violence and incidence of atrocities committed against civilians. There has been new waves of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children, and worsening security conditions have also worsened the quality and access of health care. The international community has taken steps to respond to the situation; the Security Council adopted two resolutions to impose sanctions on the CAR and authorize a peacekeeping force to re-establish order in the country. There have also been efforts to restructure peacebuilding programs for the country, in order to best address challenges arising as a result of the conflict.<sup>21</sup>

### *Recent Developments*

In the past few months, the Central African Republic has experience political upheaval and increasing violence throughout the country. The international community has taken a more direct role in managing the situation in the CAR, and these new initiatives should be taken into account while considering peacebuilding approaches in the state. In October 2013, the Security Council adopted resolution 2121 (2013) demanding the implementation of the Libreville agreements of 2013, and strengthening the mandate of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA).<sup>22</sup> This endorsement not only reinforces the importance of peacebuilding in the CAR, but it also explicitly emphasizes the importance of free and fair elections, security and justice sector reform, and DDR in stabilizing and rebuilding the state.<sup>23</sup> In December 2013, the Security Council also adopted another resolution on the CAR, resolution 2127 (2013).<sup>24</sup> The resolution reinforces the importance of DDR and SSR, imposes an arms embargo on the CAR, and further urges all parties to cease hostilities and uphold peace agreements.<sup>25</sup> More decisively, this resolution authorizes the deployment of an “African-led International Support Mission in the CAR” (MISCA) responsible for protecting civilians; return the state to government control; and establish conditions for peacebuilding processes including SSR and DDR.<sup>26</sup> Though the mission is African-led, French national troops have been supporting the mission, and the Security Council recently authorize the deployment of EU troops within the CAR.<sup>27</sup> The resolution also states the possibility for the transfer of MISCA to a UN peacekeeping force in the future, particularly in later stages to better coordinate with the PBC in order to structure long-term peacebuilding.<sup>28</sup> The PBC also met to discuss its ongoing role in the CAR and plans to assist MISCA in mobilizing support for its operations and deployment.<sup>29</sup>

The CAR has not only witnessed an increase in violence but has also experienced political upheaval in the last month. On 10 January 2014, interim government leaders, President Michael Djotodia and Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye stepped down in response to calls for their resignation.<sup>30</sup> Though the installation of Djotodia in March 2013 was meant to stabilize the state under a central authority, the government has been largely unsuccessful in

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<sup>21</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Informal Meeting of the Central African Republic Country Configuration*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>22</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2121 (2013) [Central African Republic] (S/RES/2121)* 2013.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2127 (2013) [Central African Republic] (S/RES/2127)* 2013.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> The Guardian, *Central African Republic: UN Security Council approves EU force intervention*, 2014.

<sup>28</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2127 (2013) [Central African Republic] (S/RES/2127)* 2013.

<sup>29</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Informal Meeting of the Central African Republic Country Configuration*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Al Jazeera, *Central African Republic interim president resigns*, [Website], 2014.

stemming the tide of violence.<sup>31</sup> Some militia groups also blame Djotodia for contributing to the continuation of violence through his alleged connections with mercenary groups, stating that his resignation will allow warring parties to negotiate peace.<sup>32</sup> The UN has called for expedient elections to form a new interim government to prevent a dangerous power vacuum from further escalating the conflict.<sup>33</sup> The way in which these new elections are held, and how the CAR civilians perceive the results will have a critical impact on the conflict, as well as the nature of civil society in the post-conflict environment in working with this interim government towards long-lasting peace.<sup>34</sup> As names have been put forth as candidates for election, new waves of violence have spread across the Central African Republic.

In the last few months, the situation in the Central African Republic has worsened, “characterized by a total breakdown of law and order” and systematic abuse of human rights.<sup>35</sup> This intensification of violence is expected to increase incidence of malnutrition in children, which is already a widespread problem.<sup>36</sup> Thousands of malnourished children are in need of continuing treatment, but the escalating violence has closed access to half of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) nutrition centers in the capital city of Bangui.<sup>37</sup> Children have also been direct targets of violence; there are reports of beheading and mutilation of children, a clear violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.<sup>38</sup> There are also concerns that the once-political conflict will develop into a religious war, particularly between Christian and Muslim factions.<sup>39</sup> This potential broadening of the basis for the conflict could draw intervention from actors in other states, further increasing the scope of the conflict and further destabilizing the already-fragile central African region.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Sexual and Gender-Based Violence***

The new wave of violence has been accompanied by an increase in rape sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), but particularly in rape.<sup>41</sup> Officials have called for greater protection of civilian populations, as well as for the prosecution of the perpetrators to earn justice for victims.<sup>42</sup> The widespread incidence of SGBV will require specific rehabilitation and reintegration as part of peacebuilding processes.<sup>43</sup> The high incidence of SGBV in post-conflict societies will necessitate the swift prosecution of these crimes in the immediate post-conflict environment in order to begin rebuilding trust within communities and between individuals to cooperate in peacebuilding programs.<sup>44</sup> Rehabilitation and reintegration will also need to take place on an individual basis, to ensure victims are not ostracized or abandoned after being reintegrated.<sup>45</sup> The many conferences of the Working Group on Lessons Learned will support these efforts in dealing with SGBV, drawing from other successes and failures in the field.<sup>46</sup>

It is of critical importance that women are included in these various peacekeeping and peacebuilding directives currently being undertaken in the CAR. While women’s participation in identifying and addressing gender-based crimes is important, women should also be given leadership roles in other sectors, including DDR, SSR justice reform, and rapid response.<sup>47</sup> Women’s involvement in these areas will be a key determinant in establishing a lasting

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<sup>31</sup> Al Jazeera, *Central African Republic interim president resigns*, [Website], 2014.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Central African Republic: UN envoy urges calm after transition leaders step down* [Article], 2014.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> UN DPI, *Central African Republic: Security Council approves new peacekeeping force* [Article], 2013.

<sup>36</sup> UN DPI, *UNICEF urges action to prevent child deaths from malnutrition in Central African Republic* [Article], 2013.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> UN DPI, *Central African Republic: UN warns children being mutilated amid ongoing turmoil* [Article], 2013.

<sup>39</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Strife in Central African Republic could turn into religious war and spill over borders, UN warns* [Article], 2014.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> UN DPI, *Rape, mutilations, atrocities mark Central African Republic conflict, UN experts warn* [Article], 2013.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> UN Security Council, *Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/466)*, 2010, p. 7.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>46</sup> UN PBC, *Gender and Peacebuilding: Enhancing Women’s Participation* [Report], 2008, p.

<sup>47</sup> NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security, *Statement by Ms. Brigitte Balipou at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security*, 18 October 2013.

peace that incorporates the needs and participation of all members of society.<sup>48</sup> While the PBC does incorporate and encourage women's participation in its country configurations, women's integration in these processes at the outset will ensure smoother transition to post-conflict peacebuilding.<sup>49</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The destabilization and increasing violence in the CAR has required the international community to act, both through the continued efforts of BINUCA and the authorization of the MISCA peacekeeping force. Continued intervention in the CAR by the international community in order to quickly halt the violence and resolve the conflict will be instrumental in curbing violence and in allowing full-scale peacebuilding efforts to begin.<sup>50</sup> The PBC has had a country configuration program within the CAR for several years, and is, therefore, uniquely poised to contribute to discussions of further action, both because of its history in the CAR, and its mandate to support transitions from conflict to peacebuilding. The quick changing nature of the conflict requires flexibility in order to best deal with emerging security and peacebuilding needs on the ground.<sup>51</sup>

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*This document outlines the challenges and possible solutions in transitioning from peacekeeping and peacemaking initiatives to post-conflict reconstruction and redevelopment. This document is especially relevant as it examines these challenges in an African peacekeeping and peacebuilding context. The report builds its peacebuilding recommendations and framework largely upon the Peacebuilding Commission's work, streamlining work between UN and non-UN actors.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, January 11). *Central African Republic: UN envoy urges calm after transition leaders step down* [Article]. Retrieved 13 January 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46911&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=#.UfTkP2RDsih>

*This news report provides critical information on the current situation in the Central African Republic and summarizes the statement issued on behalf of BINUCA. This news report also draws attention to the political fragility of the current situation, and underscores the necessity for free and fair elections, not only to prevent an escalation of violence but also to help transition into peacebuilding programs afterwards. This news report also provides some statistics about the breadth and scope of UN operations on the ground in the CAR.*

United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. (2013, November 13). *Informal Meeting of the Central African Republic Country Configuration*. Retrieved 12 January 2014 from:

[http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/cscs/car/informal/Chair's\\_Summary\\_13\\_Nov\\_13.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/cscs/car/informal/Chair's_Summary_13_Nov_13.pdf)

*This meeting summary is brief, but contains important information about the specific work the PBC is continuing in the Central African Republic. The summary identifies particular agreements and work plans that would best integrate the PBC mandate and priorities in the country. The summary also identifies flaws in the current strategies of the PBC, and urges for more realistic goal-setting and engagement plans to make the most significant impact. Delegates should consider these criticisms when addressing the situation in the Central African Republic in order to improve on the existing mechanism.*

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<sup>48</sup> UN-Women, *Statement of UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, 18 October 2013, in New York, 18 October 2013.*

<sup>49</sup> NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security, *Statement by Ms. Brigitte Balipou at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, 18 October 2013.*

<sup>50</sup> Murithi, *Towards a Symbiotic Partnership: The UN Peacebuilding Commission and the Evolving African Union/NEPAD Post-Conflict Reconstruction Framework*, p. 2

<sup>51</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Central African Republic: UN envoy urges calm after transition leaders step down*, [Article], 2014.

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*Resolution 2121 on the Central African Republic reinforces and restructures BINUCA's mandate to deal with the requirements and limitations of working within an active conflict zone. This resolution sets out several areas of focus for BINUCA, including: the provision of humanitarian assistance, stabilizing the security situation, protecting human rights, supporting the transition process and coordinating the work of various international actors. Changes to the BINUCA mandate should be assessed in light of this mandate to identify gaps and strengthen BINUCA's mandate on the ground.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7072<sup>nd</sup> Meeting. (2013, December 5). *Resolution 2127 (2013) [Central African Republic] (S/RES/2127)*. Retrieved 13 January 2014 from:  
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2127\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2127(2013))

*Resolution 2127 is important because it signals a commitment to meaningful engagement by the international community, undertaking two types of actions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The resolution details the terms of an arms embargo, and also outlines possible future sanctions should the situation necessitate them. More importantly, this resolution sets out the mandate for the African-led peacekeeping force, MISCA. Many mandate points of MISCA will need to be addressed and carried-over in transitioning to post-conflict peacebuilding projects.*

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## II. Increasing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding

### *Introduction*

It is a priority of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to foster the role of women and integrate them into the process of peacebuilding in order to improve gender equality and strengthen the success of peacebuilding programs.<sup>52</sup> Furthermore, incorporating a gender perspective can help to strengthen peace and security.<sup>53</sup> As a universal organization, the United Nations' goal is to ensure the security, improve living-conditions, and promoting participation in democratic processes of both men and women. Still, women often lack equal access to these processes and seldom have the power to improve their political status. Nevertheless, women's engagement in the realm of peace and security can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the causes of conflict, the corresponding solution of these, and support actions addressing sustaining peace.<sup>54</sup> In order to increase women's participation in peacebuilding it is necessary to focus on several approaches and fields. This update therefore deals with the main issues being discussed currently.

### *Rule of law*

In addition to Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), the members of the Security Council adopted resolution 2106 (2013), which aimed at the strengthening of monitoring and prevention of sexual violence in conflict.<sup>55</sup> Adopted on 18 October 2013, Resolution 2122 (2013) builds upon a report by the Secretary-General, which draws attention to the most important points achieved.<sup>56</sup> Therein, the Secretary-General emphasizes the improvements in various fields, such as the increased provision of technical resources, expertise and training.<sup>57</sup> Moreover, the Secretary-General addresses all forms of conflict-related sexual violence and their prevention as one of the major issues.<sup>58</sup> Additionally, he calls upon all senior officials to put a special emphasis on the situation of women and girls in reports and briefings.<sup>59</sup> The Secretary-General seizes that matter and recommends bridging the gap between the political, human rights and development arms of the United Nations to diminish root causes of conflict and threats to the security of women and girls.<sup>60</sup> One indicator for an increased representation is their participation of women in peace negotiations as mediators, negotiators, and technical experts. In 2012, every United Nations mediation support team involved women as members. This signifies an increase of 86% since 2011.<sup>61</sup>

In its 56<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted General Recommendation No. 30.<sup>62</sup> The corresponding *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) clarifies that states which ratified the convention are obliged to focus on the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence. The members of the Committee therefore develop several recommendations regarding key issues including gender-based violence, trafficking, participation, access to education, employment and health, and rural challenges.<sup>63</sup> This General Recommendation was adopted on 18 October (the same day as Security Council resolution 2122 (2013)) and stresses the central role of women in preventing conflict and in rebuilding devastated countries.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> OECD, *Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*, 2013, p. 9.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> UN-Women, *Conflict Prevention and Resolution [Website]*, 2014.

<sup>55</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2106 (2013) [Women, Peace and Security] (S/RES/2106)*, 2013.

<sup>56</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security. (S/2013/525)*, 2013.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., p. 9.

<sup>62</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situation (CEDAW/C/GC/30)*, 2013.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., pp. 9-11.

<sup>64</sup> UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *UN women's rights committee adopts landmark document on women and conflict [Website]*.

### *Participation of Women in economic recovery*

The economic empowerment and participation of women is positively correlated with the overall economic well-being of any state.<sup>65</sup> In this regard, securing the access to land and other productive resources as well as guaranteeing ownership rights for women is an approach in order to guarantee women's participation in the economic sphere. In late 2013, UN-Women and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report concerning women's participation in economic recovery. The participation of women will ensure their right to equality and an adequate standard of living. Moreover, this question even leads directly to broader, more global questions such as global food security or sustainable economic development.<sup>66</sup> Derived from the universal human rights, participation in and inclusion into the economic process of every person are mandatory.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, national laws, policies and programs need to focus on consistent and coherent legal and policy frameworks protecting women's rights to land and other productive resources.<sup>68</sup> An even more extensive approach would be the anchoring of these recommendations in the respective national constitutions, as these are the highest legal document of every state.<sup>69</sup> In order to guarantee ownership rights of women, national legislation needs to protect them against forced eviction in both rural and urban areas at the hand of both public and private actors.<sup>70</sup>

UN-Women supports the economic empowerment in several countries. In 2012, UN-Women partners with the Democratic Association of Moroccan Women and trains Soualalyates women, which are traditionally excluded from land rights. Eventually, these measures raised attention in the media and public and the government ruled that Soualalyates women should enjoy equal rights in land transfers.<sup>71</sup> In Tanzania, UN-Women together with the Ministry of Trade reviewed key trade and enterprise development policies from a gender perspective leading to new mechanisms protecting women from exploitation and allowing them to participate in trade.<sup>72</sup>

### *Gender, peacebuilding and natural resources*

Peacebuilding and natural resources is interconnected with the goal of increasing women's participation in peacebuilding. Natural resources management is a crucial part of the process of economic empowerment of women. In early November 2013, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) jointly published a report detailing the link between gender, peacebuilding and natural resources.<sup>73</sup> The authors argue that improving women's roles in natural resource management can help to minimize inequality and support recovery from conflict, as women have untapped potential as engines of economic revitalization.<sup>74</sup> Women are often wholly excluded from the management of natural resources or the yields of those resources, even though they are often the only ones responsible for meeting the water, food and energy needs of households and communities.<sup>75</sup> This in turn leads to peacebuilding processes and negotiation results which hardly address women's needs in matters of access to natural resources.<sup>76</sup> In accordance with the joint report of UNEP, UN-Women, UNDP, and the PBSO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) emphasizes the role of women as farmers and household providers with often unique knowledge about specific crops.<sup>77</sup> The question whether one has access to land makes gender inequality often highly visible. In many countries, convention and traditions lead to women being denied the right to own land and in turn only allowing them to use this land. Often, the allocation of land is mediated by men, making it even more difficult for women to

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<sup>65</sup> UN Peacebuilding Commission, *Women's Economic Empowerment for Peacebuilding* [Report], 2013, p. 2.

<sup>66</sup> UN-Women & UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resource*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 23.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 27.

<sup>71</sup> UN-Women, *Economic Empowerment of Women*, p. 2.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> UN Environment Programme, UN-Women, UN Development Programme, Peacebuilding Support Office, *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential*, [Report], 2013.

<sup>74</sup> UN Department for Public Information, *Empowering women to manage natural resources vital for conflict recovery – UN report* [Article], 2013.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, *Understanding gender dimensions of natural resources management is a starting point for reversing environmental degradation* [Website], 2014.

gain ownership rights of a piece of land.<sup>78</sup> Without assigned and guaranteed ownership rights, people lack incentives to invest in more sophisticated cultivation processes and the like.<sup>79</sup>

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2013). *Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*.

*In this book, the OECD describes key issues, challenges and opportunities for ensuring a more systematic approach towards gender issues in the context of statebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The authors make the case for integrating a gender perspective into peacebuilding and how to develop successful strategies to do so. Finally, the book provides key success factors and practical examples are discussed.*

United Nations, Security Council. (2013, September 4). *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security*. (S/2013/525). Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/s/2013/525>

*This report of the Secretary-General was published according to the provisions made in the presidential statement S/PRST/2010/22. It briefly discusses the progress since 2010 before pointing out high-attention parts of the broader issue of women, peace, and security. Moreover, it provides delegates with quantitative information about the topic at hand. This data is considered to be useful in order to back their arguments.*

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. (2013, November 1). *General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situation*. (CEDAW/C/GC/30). Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/GC/30>

*Pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, this general recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations was published. It covers various issues, e.g. the application of the Convention to conflict prevention, armed conflicts, situations of foreign occupation and other forms of occupation and the post-conflict phase as well as other situations of concern. Delegates will understand the necessity of an integrated approach to increase women's participation in peacebuilding after reading these recommendations.*

United Nations Environment Programme, UN-Women, United Nations Development Programme, & Peacebuilding Support Office. (2013). *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential* [Report]. Retrieved 13 January 2014 from:

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/11/UNEP\\_UN-Women\\_PBSO\\_UNDP\\_gender\\_NRM\\_peacebuilding\\_report%20pdf.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/11/UNEP_UN-Women_PBSO_UNDP_gender_NRM_peacebuilding_report%20pdf.pdf)

*After two years in development, this report was jointly published by these four entities in late 2013. It is divided into two parts with the first part discussing the relationship between women and natural resources in peacebuilding contexts thereby reviewing key issues across three categories of resources, including land, renewable and extractive resources. The second part deals with examples for practitioners in the field. Whereas the latter might be less interesting for delegates, the former is very helpful to understand the mechanisms and links between women and the access to land and other natural resources.*

UN-Women & UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resource* [Report]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from:

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*Based on results of an expert meeting in June 2012, this report will help delegates to develop strategies and ideas regarding women and natural resources, as it provides international and*

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<sup>78</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, *Understanding gender dimensions of natural resources management is a starting point for reversing environmental degradation* [Website], 2014.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

*national policy and legal examples. Furthermore, delegates will benefit from this report when drawing facts from it in order to substantiate their rationale.*

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### III. Strategies for Rebuilding Critical Institutions in Post-Conflict Societies

#### *Introduction*

Strong institutions are considered to be of high importance, not only for the smooth functioning of a state but also for the well-being of its inhabitants and their opportunities to pursuit of a self-determined life.<sup>80</sup> There are several bodies of the United Nations that put a special emphasis on this specific topic, such as the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), to name a few.

#### *Recent Developments*

Democratic institutions and their characteristics build the foundation of a peaceful state.<sup>81</sup> From 15 - 17 October 2013, the sixth Global Electoral Organization Conference was held in Seoul, Korea.<sup>82</sup> UNDP supported this conference as part of its efforts to support and facilitate democratic governance and enhance the human development agenda.<sup>83</sup> During the conference, participants debated for example about negative incidents that might take place in connection with electorates, such as electoral violence, fraud and manipulation of elections, and also exclusionary mechanisms which may delegitimize the electoral outcome.<sup>84</sup> Furthermore, the delegates discussed how to improve the training of electoral management bodies and how to support them in order to increase the acceptance of electoral and democratic processes.<sup>85</sup> Finally, the participants examined the possibilities of reducing costs of sustaining elections, in particular in democracies emerging from armed conflict.<sup>86</sup>

Two weeks later, the African Economic Conference took place in Johannesburg, South Africa.<sup>87</sup> From 28 October - 30 October 2013, over 500 decision-makers and development practitioners gathered at this conference jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the UNDP.<sup>88</sup> They discussed several issues like the facilitation of intra-African trade, in particular the mobility of people, goods, and service; but also the role of the private sector in Africa's regional integration process.<sup>89</sup>

On 9 December 2013, the UNDP administrator Helen Clark made the opening statement at the High Level Plenary Meeting on *The role of good governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.<sup>90</sup> She underlined the negative impact corruption has on the perception of democratic institutions and processes, resulting in mistrust of governance, the rule of law, and of human development.<sup>91</sup> In order to tackle these negative trends and have a voice in shaping future she encourages all persons involved in the post-2015 agenda discussions to address this issue.<sup>92</sup>

Most recently, the UNDP, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Germany and South Africa presented findings from a global thematic consultation on governance and the post-2015 agenda.<sup>93</sup> Mr. Olav Kjørven, Special Advisor to the UNDP Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda claimed that investment in institutions as well as in human resources and the according

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<sup>80</sup> Acemoglu & Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, 2012.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> UNDP, *Magdy Martinez-Soliman: The Sixth Global Electoral Organization (GEO) Conference 2013 – Sustainable Electoral Processes, Strengthened Democracy* [Website], 2013.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> UNDP, *Over 300 experts gather in Seoul to ensure transparency and build trust in elections* [Website], 2013.

<sup>87</sup> UN Economic Conference for Africa, *African Economic Conference - Regional Integration in Africa* [Website], 2013.

<sup>88</sup> UNDP, *African leaders vow to increase competitiveness and well-being* [Website], 2013.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid

<sup>90</sup> UNDP, *Opening statement at the High Level Plenary Meeting on The role of good governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website], 2013.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Permanent Mission to the UN of Germany, *Panel Discussion: Statement by Ambassador Thoms on "Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda"* [Website], 2014.

capacity to claim rights is of highest importance in order to guarantee good governance which in turn leads to freedom and giving people a voice.<sup>94</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Delegates are encouraged to monitor the PBC's progress on this topic until the time of their conference. The PBC meets twice in February, first on 19 February 2014 to discuss the status of Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic; followed by a meeting on Liberia on 24 February 2014.<sup>95</sup> It will be important to monitor these events and see where the Commission comes down regarding rebuilding institutions to help build a cohesive society that is fully functional. Furthermore, from the recent information coming from leaders, a critical aspect of rebuilding in assuring good governance plays a strong role.<sup>96</sup>

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*Good governance is a pivotal point in rebuilding institutions. While an institution can be rebuilt relatively easily, without proper oversight looking over said institution, it is bound to fail. According to Ms. Clark, the question of good governance must be addressed in order to fully tackle this issue at hand. Not only does it matter for Peacebuilding in states, but also is important for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.*

Permanent Mission to the UN of Germany, "Panel Discussion: Statement by Ambassador Thoms on "Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda." *Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN Website*. Retrieved from: <http://www.new-york-un.diplo.de/Vertretung/newyorkvn/en/pr/speeches-statements/2014/20140205-thoms-on-governance-and-sustainable-development.html?archive=2984656>

*Ambassador Thoms also reiterates the importance of good governance. This source not only stresses this, however, but also shows interesting statistics on the level of poverty in the world, as well as calls upon civil society and the private sector to collaborate and see that good governance contributes to a thriving state.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Magdy Martinez-Soliman: The Sixth Global Electoral Organization (GEO) Conference 2013 - Sustainable Electoral Processes, Strengthened Democracy*. Retrieved 20 January 2014 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2013/10/17/magdy-martinez-soliman-the-sixth-global-elections-organization-geo-2013-sustainable-electoral-processes-strengthened-democracy.html>

*A key institution for rebuilding is elections. Without a strong and sincere election process, a democracy can be presented with problems moving forward. This document, similar to the others, outlines how important it is for a democracy to have a strong electoral system that is functionally run and able to inhibit its people to have a say in their state's governance.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). "People's message to the UN: Governance essential for sustainable development post-2015." *UNDP Website*. Retrieved 11 February 2014 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2014/02/05/people-s-message-to-the-un-governance-essential-for-sustainable-development-post-2015.html>

*In February 2014, the United Nations took part in a global thematic consultation on governance. In this document, it is noted that the one primary thing the people strive for is good governance. Not only do the people's voices speak to this for development purposes, but also for sustainable democracies.*

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<sup>94</sup> UNDP, *People's message to the UN: Governance essential for sustainable development post-2015* [Website], 2014.

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