



PEACE BUILDING COMISSION

SITUATION IN LIBERIA

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MOVENU 2011, my name is Simonetta Spavieri and I will serve you as the Secretary General for this Ninth Edition that we have named “Voluntaries for Peace” convinced of the duty that youth has towards the achievement of a better world. I am honored to oversee the contents of MOVENU next to the Academic Coordinators, Maria Pinzón, Jacobo Cordido y Daniella Nacad. Together, we have committed to ensure the academic excellence of MOVENU, to which we believe necessary different conditions given by the delegates and the Dias. From you delegates, we hope to find commitment on being proactive speakers of your thoughts, smart creators of solutions and forgers of solid consensuses. From the Dias we shall offer efficient and non-obstructive moderation, dedication, knowledge of agenda topics and the following study guide which shall serve to you as a first immersion in the topic.

The study guide is set in different sections that can help to understand the committee’s agenda. Firstly, a section regarding the mandate and functions of the committee, then the topic issue explained with its background and different aspects. Finally, a section related to the different bloc positions can orientate you to understand your official position and role in the committee and the section “questions a resolution must answer” should allow you to understand the kind of solutions that are expected as a result of the discussion you will be part of. Another document that as a delegate you should refer to is the General Rules of Procedure of MOVENU 2011 and those specific rules for specialized committees, all of these available on our website.

We would like the result of this academic and social experience to be the renewal of commitment from us youngsters in serving as tools for change of our social realities. The invitation is to prepare to the debate in your committee of MOVENU 2011 with the awareness that to confront the problems of our generation it will be required the same level of preparation, as well as your interest and actions. You have demonstrated to be pre-occupied by entering this event, we wish to see us all occupied in finding solutions during the days of MOVENU and occupied afterwards in applying our strength in voluntary initiatives that can contribute to the development of our country and the world.

We are available to assist you during your preparation to MOVENU through the official e-mails for each committee, academic coordinator and the Secretary General, as well as other digital media set by each Dias for your committee.

Specifically for your committee: pbcmovenu2011@gmail.com, ca.jcordido.movenu2011@gmail.com and through Facebook: Peace Building Commission MOVENU 2011

Wishing to meet you all in October,

Simonetta Spavieri

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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE:

The United Nations has always been a main body regarding peace and security. The peacekeeping operations were getting bigger and more successful, but at the same time, the Member-States knew that countries in conflict needed more than to just stop the fire. Based on that consideration, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was created in 2005 (SC Res.1645 and GA Res.60/180): a body that would help these countries emerging from conflict to actually create a developing plan (economic, social and political) and adapt it to the reality of each society. Some of the goals of the PBC would be:

- “To bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on the proposed integrated strategies for post conflict peace building and recover;
- To help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained financial investment over the medium to long-term;
- To develop best practices on issues in collaboration with political, security, humanitarian and development actors”¹.

¹Un.org: UN Peacebuilding Commission - Mandate <http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mandate.shtml>

²Un.org: UN Peacebuilding Commission – Organizational Committee Members <http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

The Commission has a particular dynamic compared to other UN committees. It combines 31 countries from different regions, members of the country’s government emerging from conflict, representatives from regional bodies and even the country’s civil society.

The 31 countries compose the Organizational Committee for a renewable period of two years. Seven are elected by the Security Council (including the permanent members), seven by the General Assembly, seven by the Economic and Social Council, the top five providers to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the top five providers of military personnel and civilian police.

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Figure 1.1 Inaugural Session of Peacebuilding Commission Opens. UN Photo.

The Peacebuilding Fund was created under the petition of the Secretary General in order to ease the Peacebuilding initiatives³. It works as a global fund with the aim of aiding countries in need of

³Un.org: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/Mission <http://www.unpbf.org/mission.shtml>

support in several situations at the same time therefore it works with a larger scope, as it integrates a country-specific focus of a multi-donor trust fund. The Peacebuilding Fund addresses the immediate need of countries in post-conflict situations, which require support in order to overcome the gaps left by those conflicts.

The structure of the Fund is based upon a two-tier decision-making process, which involves a central allocation for the countries eligible to the Peacebuilding Fund support and a joint review by the Government and the ranking of the United Nations representative in the country to distribute funds in the agreed programs and projects.⁴ The Fund focuses in addressing the needs of countries, which are at a very early process of Peacebuilding, using resources to encourage long-term commitments within the countries and ensure a sustainable peace process.

Another branch of the PBC is the Country-specific Configurations. At the moment, this committee's agenda contains five main topics: Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau. The Country-specific Configuration "looks at issues particular to individual focus countries and bring together participants in New York linked via video-

telecommunications with partners in the field through a series of formal and informal meetings at Headquarters as well as through field missions"⁵. Besides the Organizational Committee, the Country-specific Configurations include the representatives from the country under consideration, the senior United Nations representative in the country and other relevant UN representatives, representatives from countries in the region related to the post-conflict process, regional organizations, relevant regional and international financial institutions and the civil society organizations⁶.

Also, the PBC established a Working Group on Lessons-Learned to recollect previous experiences on missions in order to improve the ongoing and the next ones. The meetings of this working group offer the opportunity to conclude lessons and strategies, not only to missions, but also to projects and their implementations.

For the PBC 's Agenda, the issues may be included by request from the Security Council, the ECOSOC, the General Assembly, the Member States and the Secretary-General. Most likely, the agenda would deal with countries emerging from conflict, once if a peace agreement has been

⁴ Un.org: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/Mission
<http://www.unpbf.org/mission.shtml>

⁵Un.org: UN Peacebuilding Commission – Country-Specific Configurations
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-countrymtgs.shtml>

⁶Un.org: UN Peacebuilding Commission – Country-Specific Configurations
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-countrymtgs.shtml>

concluded and a minimum degree of security exists. Also, it is necessary for the country to express its interest in appearing before the PBC, since the committee will not intervene unless the government agrees. At the moment, the agenda contains five topics: Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau⁷.

In this opportunity, we will be discussing the situation in Liberia. After a peace agreement in 2003 and the exceptional work of the UN Mission for Liberia, the government of this country requested to the Security Council to be included in the PBC Agenda. The topic was accepted in August 2010 and it has just begun to be discussed before the Commission, focusing on the rule of law, the security sector reform and the national reconciliation.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY:

1461 Portuguese explorers established the first contact with the lands currently known as Liberia. At that moment, it was named Costa da Pimena because of the abundance of grains of pepper⁸. Later on the Dutch established a trading post, approximately during the 17th century, and soon after the British installed trading posts with these

lands⁹. No other contact between the European settlements was known until 1821 when a group on freed slaves and mulattoes emigrated from the United States to the west coast of Africa and established the Republic of Liberia¹⁰.



Figure 1.2 Geographic map of Liberia showing frontiers. Cia.gov.

Between 1821 and 1847, this group continued to arrive to the territory, and it was not until 1847 when these citizens proclaimed themselves as an independent nation. At that time the nation counted with a population of 3000, and a constitution was written following the guidelines of the American Constitution. From that moment on, a minority of African-American colonist, which suppressed a large indigenous majority of the Liberian population, governed the state of

⁷ Un.org: UN Peacebuilding Commission – Agenda
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/pbcagenda.shtml>
⁸ Liberia's History: Time Line:
<http://www.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/index.htm>

⁹ Time Line:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/liberia.html>
¹⁰About.com: African History.
<http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

Liberia.¹¹ This originated a history of constant resistance, suppression and domination until 1980, when the Americo-Liberian government was overthrown¹².

On April 12, 1980 Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, a member of rural tribe in Liberia called Krahn, leaded a coup. This tribe was a minority group in Liberia that historically had had many confrontations with other tribes like the Gio and the Mano. Sergeant Samuel K. Doe ended with 133 years of Americo-Liberian political domination, but commenced a bloody rebellion, which later on led to his own assassination in 1990.

As he came into power, he established a military regime called the People's Redemption Council. He also established good relationships with the United States of America, by openly supporting them during the Cold War, and from then on received considerable financial aid from President Ronald Reagan. During his regime he overcame seven coups between 1981 and 1985¹³. Due to increasing pressure from the international donors and the international opinion, Doe was forced to introduce a new constitution that allowed multi-party elections. In 1985 he was elected president

with 51% of approval but the continuous threats of coup d'états led his government to be each time more repressive and corrupt, bringing down newspapers and banning political participation.¹⁴



Figure 1.3 Liberian women from the Mano tribe in 1910. Gossipliberia.blog.com

From 1986 on, Doe's repression became more radical, to the point where he initiated crackdowns against certain tribes in the north of Liberia, which led to new riots. These mistreatments were the cause of new opposition leaders and further division among tribes that could live in harmony before. The most important aggression was the one taken by Doe's tribe, the Krahn, against the Gio and Mano tribes in the Nimba County at the northern part of Liberia. Many citizens had to flee the country to the neighboring Côte d'Ivoire¹⁵.

¹¹ About.com: African History. <http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

¹² Liberia's History: Time Line:

<http://www.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/index.htm>

¹³ History of Nations. <http://www.historyofnations.net/africa/liberia.html>

¹⁴ Liberia's History: TimeLine: <http://www.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/index.htm>

¹⁵ History of Nations. <http://www.historyofnations.net/africa/liberia.html>

Eventually all this repression and radicalization, created a bigger opposition to Doe's government and in the late 1980s rebels from these tribes were assembled to create a rebellion against Doe. In December 1989 Charles Taylor leading the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, invaded the Nimba County. The Liberian army counter-attacked and soon enough a war had erupted between the Krahn tribe and the Gio and Mano tribes.

By mid-1990 Taylor controlled a large part of the country and in June he had seized Monrovia. During this period of rebellion Taylor's ally Yormie Johnson Split from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and formed a new Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL)¹⁶. Both fronts continued to control Monrovia and the situation worsened as now more division had been created. In August 1990 an organization called the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) created a military intervention force of 4,000 troops to restore order in Liberia. The intervention group was called the Economic Community Monitoring Group (ECOMoG) could not restore order but it was able to avoid Taylor from seizing Monrovia. In September 9th, 1990 Sergeant Doe had decided to visit the headquarters of then ECOWAS when the

INPFL attacked the facilities and captured him. During this attack he was capture, tortured and killed.¹⁷

After the death of Doe, ECOWAS instituted an interim government in Gambia, and it was led by Dr. Amos C. Sawyer. Even though the intention was to create a government that could lead to democracy, Taylor's forces refused to accept this government and more confrontation occurred, this led to the first civil war in Liberia. Many peace accords were reached, but none of them were honored, and confrontation worsened and Taylor's factions continue to separate and create new guerrillas.¹⁸



Figure 1.4 Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and Samuel K. Doe. Wikipedia.org

In august 1996, Nigeria and other West African counties decided to intervene and enhance a

¹⁶ About.com: African History. <http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

¹⁷ About.com: African History. <http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

¹⁸ Global Security. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/liberia-1980.htm>

ceasefire between all warring factions. Later on, in July 1997 elections were organized in order to elect a new democratic government.¹⁹ Charles Taylor won the elections with 75% of the votes and instituted a new government, which promised to bring peace.²⁰ But actually conflicts continued to arise and ethnic tensions intensified each passing day among groups loyal to Taylor and those who did not support him. Also Taylor's summoned support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone's civil war created new tensions among Liberians²¹.

In 1999 a group of Liberians, which were operating from Guinea, attacked the northwestern part of Liberia, beginning of the second civil war²². This group called the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) was active since the beginning of this war and its only purpose was to force Charles Taylor out of power. The conflict intensified as in December of that same year, rebels from the RUF were given refuge within Liberia, and even though Taylor

denied training these rebels he refused to expel them from the Liberian territories²³.

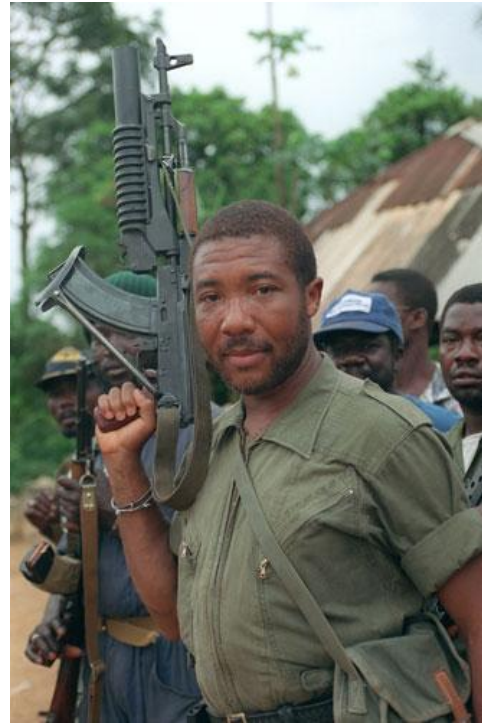


Figure 1.5 Rebel leader Charles Taylor (1990). Guardian.co.uk.

Later on, the United States imposed a travel ban to government officials because of their link to the RUF rebels, and also the Security Council of the United Nations applied some limited sanctions due to their continued support to this rebel group. It was not until 2003 when peace talks were initiated and ECOWAS facilitated the negotiation between the Government of Liberia, the rebel groups and the civil society²⁴. In July they signed a cease-fire,

¹⁹ Time Line:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/liberia.html>
²⁰ About.com: African History.
<http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

²¹ Global Security.
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/liberia-1980.htm>
²² About.com: African History.
<http://africanhistory.about.com/od/liberia/p/LiberiaHist2.htm>

²³ History of Nations.
<http://www.historyofnations.net/africa/liberia.html>
²⁴ Global Security.
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/liberia-1980.htm>

but the three combatants broke the agreement soon enough, which brought more confrontation. This time conflict had intensified so much that it had reached Monrovia.

Finally in August 2003, after a considerable amount of pressure from international and United States forces, President Taylor handed over power to Vice-President Moses Blah and, at the invitation of the President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, left Liberia for Nigeria. Consecutively Jacques Paul Klein negotiated the conclusion by the Liberian parties of an agreement on the distribution of humanitarian aid and assistance in Liberia. Under the agreement, the parties undertook to provide free and unimpeded access for humanitarian actors and to guarantee the security and safety of all humanitarian actors in Liberia.

UNMIL:

Finally a process of reconciliation and restitution was commenced in Liberia under the auspices of the UN. Before 2003, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) was in charge (as it was appointed by the Security Council) of the promotion for national reconciliation and good governance, assisting the government of Liberia in addressing the needs in the areas of human rights, the development of free and fair elections, the development of a peace-

building strategy integrating political objectives. But despite the efforts made by UNOL, the improvement of the political situation in Liberia was compromised due to the inability of the government and the opposition to solve their differences over the most relevant aspects of governance²⁵²⁶.

By August of 2003, the Security Council adopted resolution 1497 authorizing the establishment of a multinational force in Liberia, and declaring its disposal to establish a follow-on United Nations stabilization force to be deployed²⁷. Concurrently the ECOWAS Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) started that same month. In addition to the military staff provided by ECOWAS, resolution 1497 of the Security Council, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) provided support for the initial deployment of ECOMIL, and the United States of America provided more than 2000 marines for the coast of Liberia.

²⁵ United Nations Mission on Liberia: History
<http://unmil.org/2content.asp?sub=22&main=19&pgt=2>

²⁶ UNOL activities and history
<http://www.un.org/peace/africa/pdf/Liberia.pdf>

²⁷ Resolution 1497 (2003) adopted by the Security Council at its 4803rd meeting, on 1 August 2003 (S/RES/1497 (2003))
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/449/48/PDF/N0344948.pdf?OpenElement>



Figure 1.6 UNMIL after patrolling the city of Buchanan (2009). UN Photo.

On 18 August, at the peace talks in Accra, Ghana, the parties signed an agreement. The agreement declared an immediate end to the war and provided for the establishment of a National Transitional Government of Liberia that would take over from the interim government headed by President Blah by 14 October 2003. Under the peace agreement, the parties had to immediately disengage and comply with the ceasefire agreement. ECOWAS was called upon to establish a multinational force that would secure the ceasefire, assist the transitional government in the implementation of the agreement, create a zone of separation between the belligerent forces and provide a safe corridor for the delivery of humanitarian assistance²⁸. The parties to the agreement also committed themselves to ensuring

²⁸ Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Liberia (S/2003/875)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/491/10/PDF/N0349110.pdf?OpenElement>

the presence of security guarantees for the safe return and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons. By the Agreement, the parties also requested the United Nations to deploy a force to Liberia under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to support the National Transitional Government and assist in the implementation of the Peace Agreement²⁹.



Figure 1.7 Signing of the peace agreement in Accra (2003). Maixmsnews.com

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was a multidimensional operation of political, military, civilian police, criminal justice, civil affairs, human rights, gender, child protection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, public information and support components, as well as an electoral component in due course. In 2004 the UN deployed 15,000 blue helmets over the territory as part of UNMIL. Also, that same year, programs were developed to reintegrate those

²⁹ Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Liberia (S/2003/875)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/491/10/PDF/N0349110.pdf?OpenElement>

rebel fighters into society. As part of its mandate, the UNMIL also had to restructure the Liberian National Police, with the collaboration of its international partners; this was one of the first security reforms made in the country³⁰. Liberia became soon enough one of the biggest beneficiaries of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), which have invested millions of dollars in developing social programs in order to support the peace-building process.

One of the major aspects of the entire peace process was ensuring a democratic transition. UNMIL played a critical role in conducting a credible, transparent, free and fair national election by offering logistical support to the National Elections Commission (NEC). In addition to providing maximum security, UNMIL played an advisory role in matters ranging from operational issues, legal concerns and external relations. A new electoral law came into effect in December 2004 and on 31 January 2005; NEC began its civic education campaign to educate the voters³¹.

³⁰ Resolution 1509 (2003) Adopted by the Security Council at its 4830th meeting, on 19 September 2003 (S/RES/1509)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/525/70/PDF/N0352570.pdf?OpenElement>

³¹ Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2011/72)

Since no candidate receive the necessary 50% plus one vote, a run-off as made between George Manneh Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change with 28.3 per cent of votes and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party with 19.8 per cent of votes. The election process was characterized as peaceful, orderly, free, fair transparent and well-administered. On November 8th of 2005 the final elections took place, with Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf resulting as the winner, becoming the first woman ever elected for Head of State in Africa. She took charge on the 16th of January, 2006. Also, in 2006 a truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in order to help the country move past its history. During this year Taylor was arrested in Nigeria and was handed over to the United Nations in Sierra Leone. Immediately The International Criminal Court agreed to trial Taylor for security purposes³².

By 2010 the Security Council in its resolution 1938 of September 15th 2010, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2011. In addition to providing maximum security, UNMIL played an advisory

<http://unmil.org/documents/Twenty-second%20progress%20report%20of%20SG%20on%20UNMIL.pdf>

³² Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2011/72)
<http://unmil.org/documents/Twenty-second%20progress%20report%20of%20SG%20on%20UNMIL.pdf>

role in matters ranging from operational issues, legal concerns and external relations³³.

THE ISSUE

Bearing in mind the special needs of Liberia, the Peacebuilding Commission set its agenda to give a main focus on Rule of Law, Security Sector Reform and National Reconciliation. For the last seven years, the efforts of the UNMIL and the Peacebuilding Fund have been focused on these sectors and it had played and instrumental role in maintaining security.

RULE OF LAW:

As said in the Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia, “advancing the rule of law in Liberia is fundamental to the country’s peace consolidation efforts”. It’s a rather broad issue since it involves the judicial system and its lack of providing an impartial service, the Liberia National Police and its functioning, the education (or lack of education) of the population regarding the know-how of the judicial system and also the land tenure disputes³⁴.

Most recently, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) developed the UN Rule of Law Indicators. The document consists of 135 indicators for the police, the judiciary and the correctional facilities, which will be implemented in Haiti and Liberia at first. The idea is to provide some sort of help regarding ways to apply the rule of law in countries emerging from conflict and to be effective too³⁵.

Another effort made in relation to the rule of law is the four projects developed by the Peacebuilding Fund with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees as allies. Basically, the projects are focused on rule of law assistance in specific counties in order to tackle very punctual matters³⁶. Unfortunately, the completion date of all the projects already passed and there is still no real statement regarding the effectiveness of these efforts.

Another main topic regarding rule of law is the issue of disputes for land. On August 2009, the National Legislature of Liberia established the Land Commission in order to advocate and coordinate reforms of land policy, laws and programs in the country. Each of the seven

³³ Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2011/72)

<http://unmil.org/documents/Twenty-second%20progress%20report%20of%20SG%20on%20UNMIL.pdf>

³⁴ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁵ UN Rule of Law Indicators

<http://ar.unrol.org/doc.aspx?n=Newsletter+for+United+Nations+Rule+of+Law+Indicators+Project+June+2009.pdf>

³⁶ Liberia PBF Joint Steering Committee Approved Projects and Progress Updates <http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia-projects.shtml>

members represents a different county and have specific responsibilities³⁷.

According to Liberia Webs, “the Land Commission has made tremendous progress in the various program areas including leading the process of developing interim policy guidelines and procedures as a condition precedent to the lifting of the moratorium on the sale of public land by the government”³⁸. Nonetheless, a lot of work still needs to be done and the issue hasn’t been completely solved. This problem is especially important, bearing in mind that agriculture is critical to economic development and is the source of income for 70 percent of Liberia’s people³⁹.

The Commission provides both financial and technical assistance to resolve land issues. One example was the resolution of one of the ten contentious county border disputes, which was between Sinoe and Rivercess Counties⁴⁰. This is one of the few problems the Commission was able to solve in relatively short time.



Figure 1.8 Map of the counties of Liberia. Mapsoftheworld.com

Even though a lot of the subjects have been tackled and actions are already being taken on several matters, others remain untouched. One of them is the issue of administering justice. It’s clear that in order to have a better judicial system, there must be more infrastructures around the country to do so. With the construction also come the qualified human resources, meaning people that could take over the job and be good at it. Also, it is necessary to upgrade and prepare this legal staff and even though the Committee is aware of all these problems, there are still no concrete projects or plans to solve it.

³⁷ Liberia Configuration – Report of the Chair’s visit to Liberia, 7-15 November 2010 http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Liberia/LBR_CSC_Chair's_Mission11_2010_Report.pdf

³⁸ Liberiawebs.com: Land Commission anniversary http://www.liberiawebs.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1132:liberias-land-commission-marks-first-anniversary&catid=81:liberia&Itemid=526

³⁹ Usaid.gov: Sub-saharan Africa – Liberia http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/liberia/index.html

⁴⁰ Liberia Configuration – Report of the Chair’s visit to Liberia, 7-15 November 2010 http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Liberia/LBR_CSC_Chair's_Mission11_2010_Report.pdf

Another issue the PBC has to face regarding the rule of law is the fact that the population of Liberia doesn't know how the judicial system works. Even though the Government of Liberia committed itself to this matter⁴¹, there must be a way to measure this impact of information. One of the projects the Peacebuilding Fund has developed is the Project for Strengthening the Rule of Law in post-Conflict Liberia. Basically, the project focuses on "underserved rural areas to develop capacity by establishing a transitional mechanism of Community Legal Advisors and by educating all citizens about their rights and obligations under the law"⁴². Regardless of execution of this project, there must be a proposal to show with hard data if the Liberian population is actually learning how the system works and how it can benefit them.

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM:

It has progressed from disarming and demobilizing combatants to building a national security strategy and key security institutions, including the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the Armed Forces of Liberia⁴³.

Numerous activities are ongoing in this direction, in particular the Justice and Security Trust Fund, which supports reform of the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and corrections over the medium term⁴⁴.

Regarding the Liberia National Police, even though the National Police Training Academy has already graduated more than 4000 officers, it requires funding and technical support to enable adequate responses. This is why the plan to develop five regional hubs is already in action. The Representative Secretary-General noted on his last report, that he managed to visit the Hub located in Gbarnga in Bong County with coverage extending throughout three counties: Bong, Lofa and Nimba. He also established that he was concerned about the sustainability of the hubs in general since until now, the Government is fully supporting them but we don't know for how long⁴⁵.

⁴¹ Liberia Configuration – Report of the Chair's visit to Liberia, 7-15 November 2010 http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Liberia/LBR_CSC_Chair's_Mission11_2010_Report.pdf

⁴² Liberia Peacebuilding Fund Strengthening the Rule of Law in post-Conflict Liberia – Project Summary <http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia-projects.shtml>

⁴³ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement)

⁴⁴ Liberia Configuration – Report of the Chair's visit to Liberia, 7-15 November 2010 http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Liberia/LBR_CSC_Chair's_Mission11_2010_Report.pdf

⁴⁵ Liberia Configuration – Report of the Chair's visit to Liberia, 7-15 November 2010 http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Liberia/LBR_CSC_Chair's_Mission11_2010_Report.pdf



Figure 1.9 Liberia National Police Graduation Ceremony in Monrovia (2009). Unmultimedia.org

Another important issue on this matter is the Armed Forces of Liberia. It is expected to be fully operating by 2012, however it is not sure if the Government of Liberia will be able to maintain an Army financially for much longer; and also its role under the Constitution is still to be defined⁴⁶. Regarding the population's acceptance since throughout Liberia's history, a lot of militaries have been politicized and this might bring resistance to this idea as well as conflicts between parties.

The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization is a topic that hasn't been fully discussed. The general opinion is that this organ will be of great help to the national security and it could be a main ally to the Liberia National Police. That is why a

⁴⁶ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement>

Strategic Plan and a fundamental institutional reform needs to be developed so this organ could finally start working towards the security reform of Liberia.

Finally, we must focus also on the international and regional security. The borders affect the national status quo deeply and that is why the PBC recommended to keep developing regional collaboration. Relationships the Government of Liberia already has like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are the ones that need to be enhanced in order to increase the security of the country⁴⁷. The Peacebuilding Fund could be of great help in this matter since there are already successful projects with other African countries regarding regional collaboration for national security.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION:

Taking into consideration the history Liberia, it is logical to say that this subject is at an early phase. Civil conflict in Liberia is rooted in the historic rift between the American Liberians and the indigenous populations. Liberians currently view the issue from a multitude of angles: national identity; ethnic tensions; the divide between American Liberians and indigenous populations; and equal access to

⁴⁷ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement>

justice, Government services and economic opportunity⁴⁸.

The Peacebuilding Fund has developed several projects to tackle this issue like the Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation Project in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. This project “is aimed at improving inter-ethnic relations between the Krahn people of Grand Gedeh County and the Gio/Mano people of Nimba County, through structured dialogue amongst leadership from both counties and ethnic groups”⁴⁹. Another ongoing idea is the Land Commission⁵⁰ since a lot of these land tenure problems generate disagreement and conflict between citizens. Reports like the one published in December 2009 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, even though its content has been highly controversial, could be of great help when it comes to actually establishing actions to be taken on this matter⁵¹.

Also, the PBC brings to the international community and to the Government of Liberia the opportunity to establish direct relations with the different organizations representing the civil society. These organizations manage a lot of

knowledge regarding the Liberian population and they, out of all the other institutions, have a better understanding of what is the status quo regarding, not only national reconciliation, but also respect for Human Rights.

PRIORITY PLAN:

Liberia’s reconciliation process is at a crucial moment in order to ensure sustainable peace. Therefore, the United Nations in accordance with the National Government of Liberia, have recognized the need of driving attention to specific challenges to ensure conflict does not arise again. Moreover, the United Nations declared Liberia eligible as the first country to receive funding under the second window of the Peacebuilding Fund in 2007⁵². This Fund works in alliance with the analysis that the United Nations, the Liberian Government and the civil society have been doing in order to identify the future challenges to address them properly and achieve stability within the country.

Through the joint work of the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations, the Liberian Government and the civil society, the Priority Plan for Liberia was developed identifying three specific areas of work and receiving special funding with the approval of

⁴⁸ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴⁹ Liberia PBF Joint Steering Committee Approved Projects and Progress Updates <http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia-projects.shtml>

⁵⁰ Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N10/612/26/PDF/N1061226.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵¹ Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2009 Report <http://trcofliberia.org/>

⁵² United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/ Priority Plan
<<http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia.shtml>>

the Joint Steering Committee⁵³. Those three important areas are: Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management, Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict, and Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation. Through these areas, the Fund allocates resources to specific projects, developed to reach these important goals and to finally bring sustainable peace in Liberia⁵⁴.

In addition to the three main issues already established, seven areas have been identified as “conflict factors”⁵⁵. These are: Poor leadership and misuse of power, weak justice systems, lack of shared vision, poverty and food insecurity, mismanagement of natural resources, pressure on reintegration/lack of absorption capacity in areas of return, and the regional dimension⁵⁶. These aspects are considered by the United Nations and the National Government, along with the civil society as key towards achieving peace and sustainability. In the meantime, while confronting these issues, a special emphasis is made on the importance of recovering gender equality, which

was so negatively exacerbated during the civil war⁵⁷.

The Priority Plan recognizes key aspects for Liberia to achieve sustainable peace as it goes through its most important transitional process. The Plan also summarizes the economic support that has been given to each area, in order to confront the “conflict factors”. The purpose of this Plan is to achieve sustainability, as it helps Liberians develop skills in order to create their own peace process⁵⁸.

CASE STUDIES

SIERRA LEONE:

Besides the tense climate imposed by the conflict in Liberia, these types of issues could be found not very far from the country.

⁵³ United Nations Priority Plan 2008 Liberia <<http://www.unpbf.org/docs/Liberia%20PBF%20Priority%20Plan%20-%20February%202008%20-%20Final.pdf>>

⁵⁴ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/ Priority Plan <<http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia.shtml>>

⁵⁵ United Nations Priority Plan 2008 Liberia <<http://www.unpbf.org/docs/Liberia%20PBF%20Priority%20Plan%20-%20February%202008%20-%20Final.pdf>>

⁵⁶ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/ Priority Plan <<http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia.shtml>>

⁵⁷ United Nations Priority Plan 2008 Liberia <<http://www.unpbf.org/docs/Liberia%20PBF%20Priority%20Plan%20-%20February%202008%20-%20Final.pdf>>

⁵⁸ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund/ Priority Plan <<http://www.unpbf.org/liberia/liberia.shtml>>



Figure 1.10 Geographic map of Sierra Leone showing frontiers. Cia.gov

The civil war in Sierra Leone was one of the most notorious in the African continent, due to its devastating nature and well-known fights over the control of their famous production of diamonds. Since 1998 the United Nations started to have a presence in the conflicted nation, with an observer mission, later a peacekeeping mission was sent to the country, then the mandate switch from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in 2005⁵⁹, at the same time the United Nations Security Council requested the PBC advice on the situation of Sierra Leone and was one of the first countries ever to be considered by the Commission⁶⁰.

The main factors that represented a threat to the ongoing recovery of Sierra Leone were youth empowerment and employment, consolidating democracy and good governance, justice and security reform and capacity building⁶¹. By 2008 the Security Council approved by Resolution 1829, establishing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and Peacebuilding Support Office from the PBC.

In 2007 the PBF destined 35 million dollars to tackle the priority areas mention above, most of the money was spend in justice and security projects, youth empowerment and employment projects and projects for a democratic governance⁶². Twenty three projects were approved by the fund. The peacebuilding efforts made in the country, including the ones made by the commission, were highly successful and significant advances were made in Sierra Leone.

⁵⁹ United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
<<http://unipsil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4413>>

⁶⁰ Peacebuilding Commission PBC/OC/1/2
<<http://unipsil.unmissions.org/portals/unipsil/media/documents/pbc/PBCSL E11.pdf>>

⁶¹ Peacebuilding Commission PBC/OC/1/2
<<http://unipsil.unmissions.org/portals/unipsil/media/documents/pbc/PBCSL E11.pdf>>

⁶²Peacebuilding Fund < <http://www.unpbf.org/docs/PBF-Sierra-Leone-Priority-Plan.pdf>>



Figure 1.11 Child soldier from Sierra Leone. Wikispaces.com

First all there was an important change in the approach of governance, with a reduction in the corruption level within the government, which can be evidenced with the rise of Transparency International Index⁶³. Either way, the country still has high levels of corruption but new measures are being taken into action by the national government.

Besides, this the government has also made important actions towards integration of the society with the establishment of a more multi-party government; on this matter it is important to mention the signing of the Lomé Agreement which was made after political conflicts were arising in

⁶³ Statement by the Chair of the Country-Specific Configuration on Sierra Leone H.E. Ambassador John McNee http://unipsil.unmissions.org/portals/unipsil/media/documents/pbc/pbc_statement_220310.pdf

the country in 2009, and set a barrier for negotiations and understanding between parties and provided political stability to Sierra Leone.

On security issues the country had a very successful and important development, with the help of foreign forces, mostly from the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the training of the local security entities, the nation managed to achieve a stable security situation that is still maintained⁶⁴.

Despite the achievements made by the country in these areas of high importance, the youth empowerment and employment has seen a slow progress, even though there has been a 200 percent increase in the income of youths, with the joint programmes of the fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), however this is still not enough and the youth marginalization and disempowerment is deeply widespread, which represents a risk for political instability⁶⁵.



Figure 1.12 A double amputee mother holds her one-month child Life.com (GRANDE, en ambas columnas)

⁶⁴ Security Council Resolution S/2011/119

⁶⁵ Security Council Resolution S/2011/119

It is clear that Sierra Leone is still a nation affected by many disadvantages. However, it is also clear that the peacebuilding efforts in the nation represent a significant change in the course of the stability of the country. According to the statements made by the Chair of the Country Specific Configuration on Sierra Leone H.E. Ambassador John McNee on the Security Council: “Sierra Leone is a multilateral success story.” Sierra Leoneans have made remarkable progress on all fronts. A major peacekeeping operation has transitioned into the current integrated peacebuilding office. The remaining peacebuilding priorities represent the final obstacles before the country proceeds to long-term development”. These impressive advances that have been made with the action of the peacebuilding initiatives should be taken as example for other nations, specially African nations, that have passed through conflicts and destruction and are known on the seek of peace as a source of stability for their nations, such as the case of Liberia.

BURUNDI:

Besides Liberia and Sierra Leone, it is well known that many African nations have been hit national conflict and civil war in the last century.



Figure 1.13 Geographic map of Burundi showing frontiers. Cia.gov

Burundi was found among those nations, and together with Sierra Leone, was one of the two first nations to ever be considered by the PBC⁶⁶. Ethnic confrontations were one of the main factors that caused a large number of conflicts throughout the continent, including Burundi with the confrontations between the Hutus and the Tutsis that caused almost ten years of civil war. In 1993 Melchior Ndadaye was elected president, been the first Hutu Head of State in history. A few months after he was assassinated starting a war that took 300.000 lives, mostly from civilians. In 1994

⁶⁶ Peacebuilding Commission PBC/OC/1/2
<<http://unipsil.unmissions.org/portals/unipsil/media/documents/pbc/PBCSL E11.pdf>>

Cyprin Ntaryamira, also of Hutu ethnicity, was selected president; however he was killed in April alongside the president of neighboring Rwanda when the plane they were travelling in was shot down over Kigali⁶⁷.

After years of confrontation and a tremendous political instability the United Nations Security Council authorized the deployment of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) under resolution 1545⁶⁸. The presence of the United Nations along with the political changes that occurred in the country and in 2005 a change of path happened in the country and a settlement between both parties was settled ending the highly violent nature of the conflict. In that same year, Pierre Nkurunziza was elected president in free elections consolidating the initiation of the peace process⁶⁹.

However, help was still needed due to the critical economic situation that the country was facing and keeps on going until these days, and also by the tension that remained between both ethnic groups. For this reason the country and the Security Council requested to the PBC to help Burundi to get back the peace that it was trying to recover. In

June 23rd, 2006 the commission took its scope the situation in Burundi.

There were three fundamental aspects that the PBC, the nation and any international body involved with the recovery of Burundi had to tackle in order to provide to correct context for peacebuilding, these were: (a) promoting good governance; (b) enhancing the rule of law and the security sector; and (c) ensuring the community recovery⁷⁰.

Sadly the advances in Burundi haven't been as significant as the ones in Sierra Leone, and the nation is still facing some critical challenges for the consolidation of peace. On one hand there has been a positive change on the way of governance, with a more transparent government from Pierre Nkurunziza, who was re-elected in 2010, in free elections that were considered fair by the Independent National Electoral Commission to which Pierre Nkurunziza was very open⁷¹.

Despite of this the country is still having serious problem in the security sector, even though the security situation was stable for a while, particularly in the northwestern provinces owing to the gradual withdrawal of the National Forces of Liberation (FNL) and the significant progress in the disarmament and demobilization process,

⁶⁷ British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1068873.stm>

⁶⁸ Security Council Resolution 1545 (2004) <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/359/89/PDF/N0435989.pdf?OpenElement>

⁶⁹ British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1068873.stm>

⁷⁰ Chairman's Summary Burundi Country-Specific Meeting Peacebuilding Commission, made on October 13th, 2006.

⁷¹ Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi <S/2009/611>

nevertheless overall criminality across the country started to increase, specially armed attacks, residential attacks, ambushes and sexual violence; the issues were attributed to several factors such as the prevalence of small arms and light weapons, conflicts over land, and the limited socio-economic reintegration opportunities for demobilized soldiers and ex-combatants, returning refugees, the displaced and other vulnerable groups.



Figure 1.14 Current President of Burundi, Pierre Nkuruziza Kiwix.org

And by last the economic situation in the country it is still seriously hampered in the country despite of the efforts made. This factor is causing the impossibility of ensuring the community recovery, since there are not enough resources for the reaching of this goal and the Burundians are unable to sustained themselves. The unstable situation it's also causing discomfort among the citizens, which has led to protests.

It is clear that Burundi imposes a challenge for the Peacebuilding Commission to achieve its purpose within the nation, however the commission and the United Nations in general, is still focusing in the improvement of Burundi, and if significant changes are made in the country, then the work of the commission will become in a strong guideline on how to obtained peace in a country that have been seriously affected by war and conflict.

BLOCK POSITIONS:

The United Nation Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has a different structure from other Committees, and therefore, the block positions are expected to be different. Countries participating within the Commission are elected either by the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly. A different way to be part of the Commission is by having a strong participation of military assistance in any of the PBC missions or by being the largest contributors to the UN programs, funds and agencies. Beneath a possible structure is described for you to consider as you prepare for the debate.

The United States of America:

Throughout all Liberian history, the United States has been an important part of the most relevant developments. Their relationship has gone from a parental one to one of increasing disengagement,

many would say; but even so, the United States have played a very important role in Liberia's history.⁷² Some feel that the engagement of the United States during the civil war period in Liberia should have been stronger. Others feel that U.S. interests in Liberia are peripheral, and that Liberia's destiny is best left in its own citizens' hands, whatever the cultural ties and affinities between the two nations⁷³. The truth remains to be that the proper role of the United States in Liberia's past, present and future is an increasingly complex one, but even so the diplomatic ties have improved since the resignation and exile of Charles Taylor. The United States proposed a UNSC draft resolution that would authorize the deployment of a multinational stabilization force to support the peacekeeping effort⁷⁴. It has committed more than 20 million dollars since 2004 for the reconstruction process of Liberia.⁷⁵ The United States has divided their aid in Liberia in different programs, such as: peace and security, governing justly and democratically, investing in people: health and education, and economic growth.

⁷² History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>
⁷³ United States Foreign Relationships
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm>
⁷⁴ United States Foreign Relationships
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm>
⁷⁵ History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>

The European Union:

Not all members of the European Union have a full participation within the Liberian Peacebuilding Mission. For this period the members of Europe present in the Commission will be: Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Islands, France, Spain, and the Czech Republic⁷⁶. Their aid appears in different forms, as they have been elected by different bodies of the UN⁷⁷. Nonetheless, it is important to note that the European Union has provided large assistance to Liberia through the European Commission⁷⁸.

The African Union:

Regarding members of the African Union, as well as the Europe bloc, their participation is dictated by several bodies of the UN and, therefore, their participation is diverse within each mission. Currently, within the commission the countries participating are: Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia, Gabon, Egypt, Benin, and Tunisia. From all of them one the most relevant aids come from Nigeria, as their aid comes in the form of military assistance. The other members of course share a

⁷⁶ European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/country-cooperation/liberia/liberia_en.htm
⁷⁷ History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>
⁷⁸ European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/country-cooperation/liberia/liberia_en.htm

very important tie in economic and political support.

In general, the African Union is one the most relevant foreign relationships the state of Liberia holds. But during the administration of Charles Taylor, relations between Liberia and its West African neighbors became tense. West African countries backed by the African Union and the United Nations negotiated a peace agreement in Accra, Ghana that subsequently led to the exile of Charles Taylor to Nigeria in August 2003. Now with the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia has seen significant improvements in relations with its West African neighbors. Recently, Liberia signed a non-aggression pact with Sierra Leone when newly elected President Ernest Bai Koroma visited in September 2007. Currently Liberia has changed its role within the African Union to one of larger participation and enhancement of democratic governments all through Africa⁷⁹.

Other Important Relationships:

China, Russia, India and Libya have been one the most important relationships that Liberia has had since the reconstruction process started. Been one of the most important actors, China and Liberia have signed several cooperation agreements since 2007⁸⁰. On the other hand,

Russia has represented potential economic agreements for the future, while India's economic investment has already increased in Liberia in the past three years. On the other hand, Libya has represented always a cordial relationship with Liberia but recent developments have led to the end of diplomatic relationships with Libya.

Among this it is important also to highlight the voluntary aid given by countries like Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, and Sweden. These States became members of the Peacebuilding Commission as they are in the top of the list of contributors with the United Nations funds, programs and agencies. As members of the Commission, these countries give aid to all of the Peacebuilding missions, and the aid is authorized and monitored by the Commission⁸¹.

Military Assistance:

In accordance with the configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, among the 31 members of the Commission five are selected for their special aid regarding military assistance.⁸² The Commission works with the five countries among all of its missions and redirects aid to where it is needed.⁸³ In the case of Liberia, currently military assistance is given with troops

⁷⁹History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>

⁸⁰ History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>

⁸¹ United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

⁸²United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

⁸³United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan. These troops are not continuously in only one mission, they actually change as needed and as authorized by the Commission⁸⁴.

International Organizations and NGO's:

Liberia has received support of many International Organizations since conflict arise in the country. Among the most important organizations it is possible to identify the European Union, The African Union, and the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS). Their aid has reached the Liberian state in the form of programs, humanitarian assistance, and economic support, among others.⁸⁵ And finally, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has been an important actor that has helped build the path to sustainability in Liberia.⁸⁶

Among the NGO's, the most relevant participation lately has come from the Foundation for International Dignity, The Justice and peace Commission, and the Carter Center. These three foundations are present in the commission and have direct participation in all of the decision made by the body.

Special Figures:

The Peacebuilding Commission in discussing the situation in Liberia will allow the presence of two important representatives. The first will be Mr. Moustapha Sourmaré who is the Deputy Special representative for Recovery and Governance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Mr. Soumaré has been recently appointed by the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his position and he also serves as the United Nations resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia⁸⁷.

Secondly, the Commission will be receiving the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Justice in order to have the representation of the different branches of the Liberian government during the meeting.⁸⁸ The Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Harrison Karnwea has been recently appointed to the office but he does so with a great support as he is manager of the two most important rubber plantations in Liberia, which are located in the Nimba County, one very influential politically.

On the other hand, Christiana Tah officially assumed office of Minister of Justice and Attorney General on 13 July 2009; she is a member of the Supreme Court Bar of the Republic of Liberia

⁸⁴ United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

⁸⁵ History: Liberia:
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>

⁸⁶ United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

⁸⁷ United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

⁸⁸ United Nations Peace Building Commission
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/mem-orgcomembers.shtml>

since 1987 and of the American Bar Association since 1994⁸⁹.

KNOW-HOW OF THE COMMITTEE:

As said before, the PBC has a very particular way of functioning. Even though the rules of procedure will be the same as the normal committees, it is important for the delegates to be clear on the kind of document we will be drafting during Movenu 2011. The official name of the document is a “Draft statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia”. This document will be divided in three parts.

The first part consists of the Background of the issue. Meaning, the past actions the Commission has achieved and done in order to take the next steps that will be drafted in the document as well as new proposals and projects.

The second part will focus on the Peacebuilding Priorities, which will be divided in the three main areas stated through the study guide: Rule of Law, Security Sector Reform and National Reconciliation. Each section will have the subdivisions that the committee considers necessary. Some subdivisions from past documents may remain, and some will not be needed anymore.

Last but not least, the third part will contain the Mutual Commitments from both the PBC and the Government. This section will focus on the realistic goals both parties must state in order to be able to achieve the proposals and projects developed on the Peacebuilding Priorities.

QUESTIONS THE DOCUMENT MUST

RESOLVE:

- Is the Commission developing all the projects proposed on the last Draft of Mutual Commitments?
- Regarding the ones that did start, are they functioning correctly towards their goals?
- What has happened with the problems stated on the Draft of Mutual Commitments that are not being tackled?
- Which actions could the PBC take in order to manage the resources better?
- Which area needs most of the attention at the moment: Rule of Law, Security Sector Reform or National Reconciliation?

⁸⁹ History: Liberia: <http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/africa/liberia.html>

| | JSC Approval Date | Project Start Date | Liberia PBF Priority Area | Recipient UN Organization | Implementing Partner(s) | Project Number | Project Title | Approved Budget | Progress Update |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | 13.june.08 | 26.june.08 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNDP | Ministry of Justice | PBF/LBR/D-1 | Rapid Rule of Law Assistance in Grand Bassa County | \$48,150 | - |
| | 13.june.08 | 26.june.08 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNDP | Ministry of Justice | PBF/LBR/D-2 | Rapid Rule of Law Assistance in Maryland County | \$48,150 | - |
| | 25.sept.08 | 08.oct.08 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNDP | Landmine Action | PBF/LBR/D-3 | Tumutu Agricultural Training Programme | \$1,123,500 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.janu.09 | 27.mar.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNFPA | Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, American Refugee Committee | PBF/LBR/D-4 | Psychosocial and Community Support Project | \$889,902 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 13.may.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNDP | YMCA of Liberia | PBF/LBR/D-5 | Supporting Peaceful Reintegration of High Risk Youths into their Communities through Facilitating Rural Transport Livelihood Opportunities | \$250,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 03.july.09 | 11.aug.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNHCR | Judiciary, Washington & Lee University School of Law | PBF/LBR/D-7 | Rapid Rule of Law Assistance to Reduce Overcrowding in Monrovia Central Prison | \$50,000 | - |
| | 03.july.09 | 11.aug.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNHCR | Ministry of Internal Affairs, PBRC, Inter-Peace, UNOPS, Flomo Theatre Production | PBF/LBR/D-8 | Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation Project in Nimba County | \$50,000 | - |
| | 03.july.09 | 11.aug.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote | UNHCR | Ministry of Internal | PBF/LBR/D-9 | Inter-County Reconciliation Project in | \$50,000 | - |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|--|------------|--|--------------|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | | | Peace and Resolve Conflict | | Affairs, PBRC, WANEP and SEWORDA | | Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties | | |
| | 09.sept.09 | 11.déc.09 | Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict | UNHCR | Various Civil Society Organizations | PBF/LBR/D-10 | Small grants to support initiatives for peace consolidation in Liberia | \$462,606 | - |
| | 25.sept.08 | 09.oct.08 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNHCR | The Carter Center | PBF/LBR/E-1 | Strengthening the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict Liberia | \$1,167,610 | 30.juin.09 |
| | 29.sept.08 | 07.oct.08 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | Ministry of Internal Affairs | PBF/LBR/E-2 | Government of Liberia Peacebuilding Office | \$902,759 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.janu.09 | 27.mar.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | Ministry of Justice | PBF/LBR/E-3 | Supporting the Ministry of Justice in Improving Prosecution Services | \$1,082,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.janu.09 | 27.mar.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | The Supreme Court of Liberia, James A.A. Pierre Judicial Institute, UNMIL Legal and Judicial Systems Support Division, The Carter Center | PBF/LBR/E-4 | Strengthened Public Defence | \$750,066 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.janu.09 | 27.mar.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UN Habitat | Governance Commission, Land Commission | PBF/LBR/E-5 | Support to Establishment and Initial Functioning of the Land Commission | \$750,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|---|--------|---|-------------|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | 22.janu.09 | 27.mar.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNFPA | Ministry of Justice, The Carter Center | PBF/LBR/E-6 | Strengthening Prosecution of SGBV Offenses | \$792,857 | 30.sept.09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 24.apr.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission | PBF/LBR/E-8 | Supporting the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission | \$500,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 11.may.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | Ministry of Justice / Liberia National Police | PBF/LBR/E-7 | Enhancing the Relationship Between the Police and Civilians in Communities | \$750,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 16.sept.09 | 05.oct.09 | Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | UNDP | Liberia Peacebuilding Office / Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat | PBF/LBR/E-9 | Facilitating the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Liberia Peacebuilding Fund | \$100,000 | - |
| Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | 25.sept.08 | 09.oct.08 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNHCR | Justice and Peace Commission | PBF/LBR/A-1 | Community Empowerment: Peace, Human Rights and Civic Partnerships | \$932,400 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 |
| | 17.oct.08 | 26.nov.08 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNESCO | Ministry of Education | PBF/LBR/A-2 | Implementation of Peace, Human Rights and Citizenship Education in the Liberian School System | \$900,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 |
| | 22.janu.09 | 27.mars.09 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNDP | Ministry of Youth and Sports | PBF/LBR/A-3 | Volunteers for Peace Programme | \$450,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |

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| | 22.mar.09 | 23.apr.09 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNOPS | Interpeace | PBF/LBR/A-4 | Platform for Dialogue and Peace in Liberia | \$1,000,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 24.apr.09 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNDP | Truth and Reconciliation Commission | PBF/LBR/A-5 | Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Reconciliation Initiative: Country Consultations and National Reconciliation Conference | \$350,000 | 30-Jun-09 31-Jul-09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 24.apr.09 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNDP | Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars | PBF/LBR/A-6 | Strengthening Liberian Government Capacity to Consolidate Peace | \$600,000 | 30-Jun-09 30-Sep-09 31-Dec-09 |
| | 22.mar.09 | 24.apr.09 | Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management | UNICEF | Ministry of Youth and Sports | PBF/LBR/A-7 | Youth Empowerment Services and Peace Promotion (YES PEACE) | \$1,000,000 | - |