

## Topic A: Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery

Topic A: Post-Conflict Recovery and Peacebuilding

### Introduction to Definition and History

Wars are the most common type of violent conflict worldwide. Wars usually last up long times and as a result destroy many homes and end in brutal ways. However, they still continue to harm societies long ever after the conflict has ended. As well as wars, natrual disasters are also unforeseeable conflicts and have a strong effect on the economy, environment and society. Post-conflict countries face many serious encompassing problems and immediate concerns. During our conference, ECOSOC is going to analyse how countries can recover economically from the destructive conflicts and how members of the United Nations can aid to enhance peace and prove stability. Countries with post-conflict war have the primary need of stabilizing their health care conditions for their society and after that they need the aid to rebuilt their cities, recuperate the destroyed sources. Post-conflict recovery and peace building includes activities seeking to strengthen capacities for peace, decrease the potential for violent conflict, and enhance local capacities to manage conflict without violence.

This may also mean strengthening governance and the rule of law, training local leaders in conflict resolution methodologies, demobilizing and reintegrating soldiers, developing local economies or establishing an effective and functional conflict early warning system. As an operating concept, peace building encompasses a wide range of activities, functions and roles for many sectors and levels:

- Security and public order;<sup>3</sup>
- The political and institutional framework of long-term peace;
- Justice and rule of law;
- The psycho-social recovery and the healing of the wounds of war;
- The socio-economic foundations of long-term peace.

Institutional use of terminology

There are many different concepts of economic recovery. The understanding of this concept by post-conflict actors sheds light on the orientation of the economic recovery strategies they utilize.

The following chart provides a comparison of some of the key international actors and their use of recoveryrelated terminology.

- ⤴ Institutional Use of Terminology
- ⤴ The European Commission (EC)
- ⤴ The EC conceives of reconstruction and rehabilitation as the reestablishment of a working economy and the institutional capacities needed to restore social and political stability in developing countries that have suffered serious damage through war, civil disorder, or natural disaster.
- ⤴ International financial institutions (IFIs)
- ⤴ The World Bank tends to avoid the concept of peace building and its connotations of active interference in favor of post-conflict reconstruction and post-conflict recovery.
- ⤴ The International Monetary Fund prefers the concept of economic recovery, which it uses to mean activities to restore assets and production levels in the disrupted economy.
- ⤴ The United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth Office Post-conflict reconstruction is used, defined as an umbrella term covering

a range of activities required in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

▲ The United States Agency for International Development(USAID)

## **Role of Civil Society**

Civil society plays critical roles in restoring peace and economic recovery in both local and international areas. Following war process, confidence in the government may be especially low thus, while the government is working to restore legitimacy and function, other actors may take a role prominently in economic recovery efforts. Civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), can support economic recovery efforts in numerous ways. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is an example by a statement, "Through direct contact with the population, creative ideas, flexibility, the possibility of reaching places with difficult access to public policy, and a great commitment to service, NGOs may contribute to public policy". A system like checks and balances can be provided by civil society in order to hold governments accountable for their policies, activities and expenditures.

## **Post-Conflict Recovery and Peace building via UN**

The experience of recent years has also led the United Nations to focus as never before on peace building – efforts to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

To build a lasting peace in war-torn societies not only necessary for them; what is more necessary for

global peace and security and beyond all question, it is one of the most daunting challenges. Peace building requires sustained international support for national efforts across the broadest range of activities, for instance;

monitoring ceasefires, demobilizing and reintegrating combatants, assisting the return of refugees and displaced persons, helping organize and monitor elections of a new government, supporting justice and security sector reform, or enhancing human rights protections and fostering reconciliation after past atrocities.

The United Nations is playing a vital role in helping to reduce the level of conflict in various regions of the world by mediating peace agreements and assisting in their implementation. The United

Nations is the center of expanding international peace building operations. The peace building operations

by United Nations spread the world widely from the Southern Africa, Central America and Cambodia

with the verification of peace agreements in 1990s, to the Balkans, Timor-Leste and West Africa, to Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan with contemporary operations.<sup>8</sup>

### **a. The Role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UNDP identifies its role as being particularly well suited to addressing post-conflict recovery work. The executive board of UNDP "recognizes that crisis prevention and disaster mitigation should be

integral parts of sustainable human development strategies and also recognizes that the United Nations

Development Programme has some relevant operational experience in crisis and post-conflict situations.

"The substance of its work in crisis and post-conflict environments has a strong emphasis on local capacity building and on needs identification and management--a focus not intrinsically different to its

work in other circumstances. UNDP is particularly prevalent in assisting, through collaboration with the World Bank and national government, in the preparation of post-conflict needs assessments (PCNAs)

and developing participatory methodologies for prioritizing post-conflict activities.

#### b. The Role of the United Nations Peace building Commission (PBC)

The existence of a new step, Peace building Commission, to better anticipate and respond to the challenges of peace building was approved by 2005 World Summit. After the establishment of the Peace building Commission, the Peace building Fund and Peace building Support Office followed.

The Peace building Commission's purpose has been explained as follows: "In other words, the Peace

building Commission is designed to develop integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building, which

entails better coordination and collaboration among various UN agencies, international donors, national

governments and civil society organizations. A central goal of the Peace building Commission is to ensure donor mobilization in support of sustained engagements in post-conflict countries.

Established in 2005, the PBC is mandated to "propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building and recovery; help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained

financial investment over the medium- to longer-term; extend the period of attention the international

community gives to post-conflict recovery; develop best practices on issues that require extensive collaboration among political, security, humanitarian and development actors." The PBC's formation is recognized as a strong move toward closing the relief to development gap by aiming to link post-conflict governments with international and national actors to coordinate and develop unified long-term recovery and development efforts at an early stage. However, the PBC is an advisory body and, as such, it cannot actually impose or implement its recommendations.

#### **The Role of the UN Peace building Fund**

The UN Peace building Fund is a multi-year standing trust fund for post-conflict peace building set up in 2006 by the United Nations Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly. It provides a funding bridge between conflict and recovery for post-conflict countries, focusing on funding

for implementation of peace agreements; conflict resolution capacity building; strengthening government

institutions and governance; and emergency situations. With an initial funding target of US \$250 million,

it supports countries before the Peace building Commission (PBC) and countries in similar circumstances as designated by the Secretary-General.

#### **The Role of ECOSOC in peace building and post-recovery process**

ECOSOC has played an "avant-garde" role in developing mechanisms to respond to the problems facing by countries emerging from conflict and thus helping to prevent the deterioration of human security. In 2002, ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups was established by the Council in order to explain long-term programmes of support for countries emerging from conflict and created two groups on Guinea-Bissau (in 2002) and on Burundi (in 2003). The next step by the Council was the establishment of Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in order to provide advice to Haiti on a long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability. The first Advisory Group

on Haiti was created in response to a request by the Security Council, with regard to Article 65 of the United Nations Charter to request advice from ECOSOC.

In the resolution 2011/43, which was, discussed the role of the United Nations and the international community in supporting capacity of Sudan, address at the Council request funding and programming to pay particular attention to the situation in South Sudan and to coordination of the activities in the country by the governing of the United Nations. In this context, ECOSOC requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council, at its substantive session of 2012, on how the United Nations development system is implementing integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan, consistent with national priorities. The General Assembly in its resolutions 60/180 and 61/16 affirmed the importance of interaction between the Economic and Social Council and the Peace building Commission and underlined the value of the experience of ECOSOC in the area of post-conflict peace building.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its resolution 2002/1, created a framework for advisory group(s) on African countries emerging from conflict with a view to assessing the humanitarian and economic needs of these countries and elaborating a long-term programme of support that begins with the integration of relief into development. The Council, at that time, responded to a request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/217 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and followed-up on its Ministerial Declaration of 2001, (see A/56/3/Rev.1) which focused on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development.

ECOSOC has set-up two Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, at the request of the countries concerned. Composed of a limited number of countries, both African and donor 11 countries, represented at the Ambassadorial level, the Groups have proved to be flexible and efficient mechanisms to bring synergies among development partners in support of countries searching for recovery and stability. Both Groups undertook missions in the field and held consultations with government authorities, major socio-economic interlocutors, representatives of the United Nations agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, civil society organizations, donors and other development partners.