

Peacebuilding Commission

A. Overview

The Peacebuilding Commission

It is often cited that roughly half of all countries that emerge from violent conflict relapse into violence within five years. On 20 December 2005, upon the recommendations of the Secretary-General and his high level panel, the Security Council and the General Assembly ended a long phase of intergovernmental negotiations by adopting joint resolutions (1645 and 60/180) establishing a new UN Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission will be responsible for addressing a critical gap within the UN and global system by providing a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and facilitating dialogue amongst key actors. The Commission, which will submit annual reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly, will be able to respond to requests for advice from the Security Council, ECOSOC, the GA only in specific situations, vulnerable countries, and the Secretary-General. The Commission will be composed of an intergovernmental Organizational Committee to address country-specific situations, a Peacebuilding Support Office within the Secretariat, and a multi-year standing Peacebuilding Fund to support initiatives on post-conflict stabilization and capacity building. [Click here for a more in-depth overview of the PBC.](#)

Functions:

The Commission's specific functions will be to:

- bring together relevant actors to marshal resources;
- advise on integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and sustainable development;
- focus attention on reconstruction and institution-building efforts;
- provide recommendations and information to improve coordination of all relevant actors
- identify best practices;
- help to ensure predictable financing;
- extend the period of attention of the international community to post-conflict recovery.

Structure:

The Organizational Committee will consist of 31 members as follows:

- 7 members of the Security Council, including the 5 permanent members;
- 7 members of ECOSOC, elected from regional groups;
- 5 top financial providers, selected by and among the ten top providers;
- 5 top providers of military personnel and civilian policy to UN missions, selected by and among the ten top providers;

- 7 additional members elected according to rules and procedures of the GA giving due consideration to regional representation and experience in post-conflict recovery.

In the Commission's country-specific meetings, where the bulk of its substantive work is expected to take place, the Organizational Committee will be able to invite representatives from:

- the country under consideration;
- countries within the region engaged in post-conflict work;
- relevant regional and sub-regional organizations;
- major financial, troop and civilian police contributors to the recovery effort;
- the senior UN representative in the field;
- relevant regional and international financial institutions.

Representatives of the Secretary-General, the World Bank, IMF and other institutional donors will be invited to participate in all meetings of the Commission.

Agenda and Reporting Lines: The Commission 's agenda will be established by the Organizational Committee on the basis of requests for advice from the Security Council, ECOSOC or the GA in specific situations, member states on the verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict in cases in which the Security Council is not already seized, and the Secretary-General. The Commission will be responsible for submitting an annual report to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

B. Background: the Creation of the Peacebuilding Commission

Pre-Summit: In his report *In Larger Freedom*, the Secretary General reaffirmed the need to create a Peacebuilding Commission as was suggested by the High Level Panel Report, noting that “at this very point there is a gaping hole in the United Nations institutional machinery: no part of the United Nations system effectively addresses the challenge of helping countries with the transition from war to lasting peace.”

Summit: At the 2005 UN World Summit, governments agreed to establish such a Peacebuilding Commission to be operational by December 31, 2005. The Summit Outcome Document designated the main functions of the Commission to include bringing together relevant actors to marshal resources; advising on integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and sustainable development; focusing attention on reconstruction and institution-building efforts; providing recommendations and information to improve coordination of all relevant actors, developing best practices; helping to ensure predictable financing, and extending the period of attention of the international community to post-conflict recovery. While the Summit Outcome Document agreed to create a Peacebuilding Commission, outlining its functions, Member

States failed to agree on the structure and composition of the Commission, which was left to a second round of post-Summit negotiations.

Post-Summit: Under the guidance of Ambassador Margrethe Loj of Denmark and Ambassador Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania, who co-chaired the post-Summit follow-up negotiations on the Peacebuilding Commission, Member States continued to negotiate the details of the Peacebuilding Commission during the GA's 60th session,. While the principal issues of contention were the composition of the Commission's Organizational Committee and its mechanisms for interaction with other bodies (who can request advice from the Commission and which bodies out of the Security Council, the GA and ECOSOC the Commission should report to), other areas of consideration included nature of the review mechanism of the Commission's work and whether the PBC should advise in situations where no national authority is in place. Finally on 20 December 2005, after months of negotiations, Member States adopted joint resolutions in the Security Council and the General Assembly establishing a new UN Peacebuilding Commission. The Security Council adopted an additional resolution (1646) ensuring P5 membership on the Organizational Committee.